

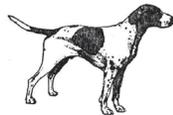
# D.O.G. TALK

from D.O.G. OBEDIENCE GROUP

\*

\*

## ✧ Highlights ✧



### LIVING WITH DOGS

.....

#### Tots & Tail-Waggers

To a dog, a baby is a very strange creature—tiny, roly-poly, emitting coos and gurgles, and kicking and grasping at everything. What's more, a baby is an attention magnet and a routine changer. Once baby arrives, life as Fido knew it is never again the same. Some dogs take this in their stride; others struggle with the new world order. But babies and dogs can live happily together. Some pointers:



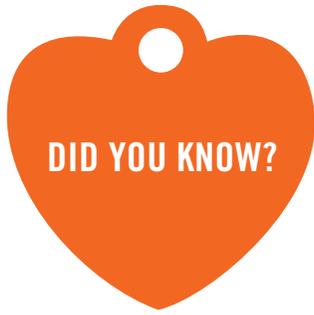
**Before baby.** Well before your baby arrives polish your dog's basic manners. Make sure he comes when called, sits when asked, and knows loose-leash walking. Practice walking your dog with the stroller and having him sit for people coming in the door while you hold a doll. Arrange for a dog walker to take your dog out regularly for at least the first couple of months—a well-exercised dog will have a much easier time adjusting to a changed routine at home. And introduce some of those changes in routine now. Put your dog in his confinement/safe area for 10–15 minutes regularly with a stuffed Kong or chew bone.

**After baby.** Dogs don't experience Othello-style jealousy, but they do notice when they get much less love and attention, so give your baby and your dog attention at the same time. Feed your dog before feeding the baby in the same room and praise your dog while carrying your baby. When baby is sleeping, have your dog practice downtime in his crate or on his bed. That way, Fido learns to associate good things with baby's presence.

The number one rule: Never leave your baby alone with your dog. However wonderful your dog is around your baby, it's not safe to leave them alone together. Dogs may inadvertently hurt babies when investigating or trying to play, whereas kids shriek and gesture suddenly, often startling dogs. And children in general, small children especially, have to learn to interact appropriately with dogs. Your best bet is to always supervise.

*continued on page 2*

**"Happiness is a warm puppy."  
—Charles M. Schulz**



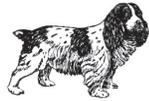
DID YOU KNOW?

### Why Dogs Lick Their Wounds?

**Common practice.** All dogs instinctively want to lick their wounds. The reflex was a sound one—once.

**Healing saliva.** The idea that canine saliva contains healing properties is widely held; it appeared in the myths of some ancient societies such as Mesopotamia. Is it fact or fiction? Well, it's somewhat factual. Dog saliva is slightly bactericidal against *E. coli* and *Streptococcus canis*, but modern medicine is far more effective.

**Bottom line.** In today's world of soap, surgical stitching, and antibacterial wound care, wound licking can cause more harm than good. It can lead to irritation and infection and may slow the healing process. So, don't put your dog at risk. Follow your veterinarian's advice, keep wound care products on hand, and encourage your dog to keep his tongue where it belongs—in his mouth.



## A WORLD OF DOGS

.....

### A Dog's World View

How often have you found yourself thinking your dog is sad because he gazes at you with mournful eyes? That a sigh signals boredom? We're prone to anthropomorphizing animals. It's hard not to, because our ability to imagine what a dog might want is limited by our knowledge of a dog's experience of the world. Not that dogs don't have feelings or thoughts; they surely do. We get into unfortunate territory when we interpret canine expressions and behavior by our own standards (an upturned mouth is a smile and indicates happiness, etc.) and then proceed to scold, comfort, discipline, outfit, or medicate our dogs based on our faulty assumptions. Despite the best of intentions, we might do more harm than good—or at least miss the mark by a mile.



How can we adopt a more canine perspective? A good first step would be to better understand what the world looks like to dogs. Take their sense of smell. It's not just that dogs pick up more with their two to three hundred million scent receptors than we with our measly six million, or that the very mechanics of their noses are so different from ours. Rather, a dog's whole world is a web of complex smells. Objects are first assessed not by handling but by sniffing. Time is a matter of smell—strong means new, weak means old, older, ancient. We humans each have our own signature odor, as distinct to a dog as a fingerprint to the police. Hence dogs' ability to track a person's route through a crowded street days, even weeks, later. They track a cloud of molecules.

A dog's world is fascinating, and you don't need a degree in ethology to explore it. Books by Temple Grandin, Alexandra Horowitz, or Jean Donaldson can serve as excellent initiations into the world of dogs. After all, as nature writer and essayist Edward Hoagland said, "In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog."

*(continued from page 1)*



## DOGS IN ACTION

### Rollerblading with Your Dog

Think blades and dogs don't mix? That depends. Certainly, just grabbing the leash and strapping on the blades is a bad idea—one sudden dog move and you're down. If you love to rollerblade and would like to share the open paths with your dog, train her until it's safe for both of you.

First, practice basic behavior cues until your dog's response to heel and wait is solid. To be safe, work on leave it too; you don't want an errant squirrel to derail your nice outing.



Second, find the right leash and harness. You want something that will keep your dog close and comfortable. And third, practice without blades. Walk or run by your dog and practice all the behaviors you'll need for rollerblading. Forward skating, braking, turning, going backwards, etc.

When the two of you are ready to try with blades, go slow (it might take several sessions before it's safe to speed up). Now the paths are yours. Remember to blade only in rollerblade or skating-friendly areas and, to ensure your dog's enthusiasm for the activity grows to match yours, take frequent breaks to water and treat her with something juicy and special.



## HEALTHY DOG

### Canine Hydrotherapy

We humans have been "taking the waters" for our health for thousands of years, and over the last decade, more dogs have been getting their paws wet for the same reason. Canine hydrotherapy (also called aqua or swim therapy) is essentially warm-water swimming and/or massage for curative purposes—and it's very effective. Many veterinarians recommend hydrotherapy for athletic conditioning, pre- and post-op care, reducing inflammation around an injury, and relieving arthritis and other chronic conditions. It's also ideal for exercising older or overweight dogs because water supports the body and takes the weight off sore joints.

Canine hydrotherapy facilities are popping up all over the country, so if your dog might benefit from this activity, just look up the term. Some facilities offer leisure swim time for dogs and owners together. Who needs to swim with dolphins when you can get in a heated pool and play ball with your pooch?

## DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### The Dachshund

Affectionately known as Wiener or sausage dogs, Dachshunds hail from Germany. The name means 'badger dog,' denoting the breed's original purpose of hunting burrow-dwelling animals. Dachsies are often playful, clever, devoted to treats and toys, and partial to long naps in warm spots. H. L. Mencken called a Dachshund, "A half-dog high and a dog-and-a-half long." Notoriously feisty, Dachsies either don't know how small they are or don't care. Icons of independence rarely seen in obedience trials, Dachsies excel at Earthdog trials and draw crowds in the thousands for races like the Wiener Nationals and the Dachshund Dash. Dachsies can be found on almost every page of history books, the favorite of Queens (Victoria) and Emperors (Wilhelm), literary greats (E.B. White) and painters (Andy Warhol), and of modern pop culture (movies *Wiener-Dog* and *The Secret Life of Pets*).

For a Dachsie to snuggle up with, search online for a rescue organization near you.



## OUR SERVICES

---



### Disaster Preparedness

**Plan for evacuation.** Health & safety regulations preclude bringing pets (except service animals) into disaster shelters, and many disaster victims have perished because they refused to leave their pets behind—so plan ahead!

**Microchip and ID tag your dog.** Compile a list of places that might board animals in an emergency, e.g. pet-friendly hotels and motels, boarding facilities, horse stables, or veterinarians. (Animal shelters should be a last resort as they are often overwhelmed with animals in a crisis.)

**Make a Disaster Kit.** Wherever you go, you'll need supplies. Gather the essentials in an easy-to-carry duffle bag.

**Bring: Medications and medical records.** Leashes, harnesses, and / or a carrier. Current photos, in case your dog gets lost. Food, water, bowls, and can opener. Notes about feeding schedules, medical conditions, and behavior problems in case your dog has to be boarded.

---

Info@dogwizard.com  
Dogwizard.com



816-228-4567  
3707 SW US HWY 40

---

Information and advice provided in this newsletter is general in nature and should not be relied upon to solve any particular situation. For all issues with your dog, please seek the services of a competent professional. The author and publisher shall have neither liability nor responsibility for any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused by the information in this newsletter.