

Country Life Times

from The Country Life Kennels

* Add a new service? Did a slot open in your daycare?
Clean-up event in the local dog park coming up? Put the info here. *

✦ Highlights ✦

Write here about:

- A client profile
- A 'day in the life' of a walking or daycare client
- The details of a new service
- Local upcoming dog events

Or anything else you want your clients to know about. You have 180-200 words.

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LIVING WITH DOGS

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5 Tips for Easier Walks

Spare Your Arms. Use a humane no-pull harness or head collar such as Easy Walk Harness, Sensation Harness, Halti, or Gentle Leader. All use natural counter-balance approaches to curb pulling without hurting the dog—unlike choke or prong collars that can slow pulling but have been shown to cause extensive tracheal damage and considerable pain. Walks should be enjoyable and pain-free, for you and your dog.

Develop Situational Awareness. Be on the lookout for cats, squirrels, other dogs who may not be comfortable greeting fellow canines on-leash, and toddlers



who could get knocked over by a high-energy pooch. Be ready to cross the street or wait out of sight behind a parked car.

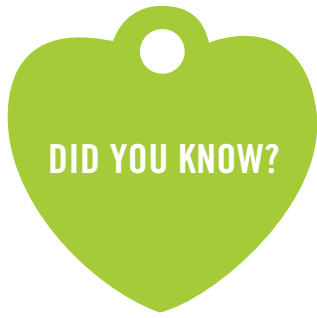
Come Prepared. Carry a handful of treats or a favorite toy to reward pleasing manners like sitting at curbs, not barking at other dogs, not chasing

birds, polite greetings of friendly humans, and loose-leash walking. Any behavior you reinforce is going to happen more often. In other words: If you like it, reward it.

Go Often. If your dog's workout regiment amounts to a stroll around the block twice a day, surplus energy and under-stimulation will make it tough for him to behave when you take him out and about. The remedy? Amp it up. Find ways to allow him off-leash runs or playtime with other dogs, throw balls or Frisbees, or take long hikes.

Get Help. Is your dog's energy level permanently stuck on 'superabundant'? Consider hiring a dog walker or enrolling him in a doggie daycare if he is social and enjoys the company of other dogs. Exercise is transformational—the more your dog gets, the more calm and attentive he'll be.

"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two."
- Phil Pastoret



The ACE Awards

- American Kennel Club's Award for Canine Excellence (ACE) was first presented in 2000. It is awarded annually at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship.
- The award spotlights 5 remarkable dogs, one in each of the following categories: Exemplary Companion, Search & Rescue, Therapy, Law Enforcement, and Service.
- Winners receive a \$1,000 cash prize and a silver collar medallion, and have their names engraved on plaques displayed at the AKC Library in New York.
- One 2008 winner was Zadok, an Akita, who won the Therapy category for bringing comfort to children in hospital and to prison inmates. Zadok consoled students after the Virginia Tech school shooting and often educed a response where human therapists failed. Zadok is certified with, among other organizations, the National Animal Assisted Crisis Response, and works tirelessly with her owner Julie to fundraise for Akita rescue.



A WORLD OF DOGS

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Dogs, Dogs Everywhere

Imagine a bedouin hunting in the desert. The temperature is close to 120 degrees, too hot for horses to move beyond a plod. The desert hare, or dinner, is out of shooting range. Enter the Saluki. Light-boned, sharp-eyed, with the lung capacity of a cheetah. An expert hunter, specialized for this harsh environment, the dog is a partner the bedouin depends on for his survival. Now consider a pack of huskies in the Arctic. They do more than pull the sled. They alert the Innuits to weaknesses in the ice surface. Locate air holes that give away the presence of seals. Warn of approaching polar bears. The huskies are born onto the ice and live their entire lives without seeing the inside of a house...



Such scenarios, common in our recent past, are moving onto the pages of history books. These days, a dog's job description is more likely to involve search & rescue or national security. And then there's the main occupation for the modern dog. Pet. Twenty years ago, 51 million pet dogs shared our homes; today, 74 million do.

Meanwhile, we have moved into cities and suburbs in unprecedented numbers. A dog's life now takes place in houses and apartments, in parks, in suburban backyards, and on sidewalks thronged with people and other dogs. Dogs have become family members. We buy them toys, we have their teeth cleaned, we take them to classes. They accompany us on vacation and to the office.

But amid this loving assimilation of dogs into the inner sanctum of the family universe, we tend to forget that dogs are, well, dogs. Our tolerance for natural canine behavior shrinks year by year. We frown on barking. We dislike scuffles among dogs. Biting, naturally, is abhorred.

The Saluki in the desert and the huskies on the ice, then, are reminders of a time when dogs had vast spaces around them, physically taxing jobs, and license to bark, jump, pull, dig, and bite if threatened. We radically changed the environment of dogs in what amounts to an evolutionary blink of an eye and it's up to us to help them be successful in our world by providing plenty of training, exercise, and stimulation. In return, they'll follow us wherever we go.

(continued from page 1)



DOGS IN ACTION

Musical Freestyle

Cha-cha with your Chihuahua. Shimmy with your Sheltie. Do the mambo with your mutt. Canine Musical Freestyle is, in essence, dancing with dogs. Together, a richly robed dog and her handler carry out a choreographed sequence of moves to music, mixing great motivational dog training with fun, exercise, and showmanship. Little wonder, then, that the popularity of Freestyle has exploded in recent years. In what other dog sport can you expect to see satin and sequins, tights and tutus? But don't be fooled by the theatricality of the costumes. Freestyle, especially at competition level, is much more than show—though its entertainment value is undeniable. Teaching a dog to bow, weave, prance, jump, and back up requires creativity, patience, and much practice. Of course, beyond a show-stopping routine, you might well end up with a more attentive dog that loves to train—and loves to rock and roll.

Freestyle classes are sprouting up all around the country. Any breed or mix of breeds is allowed; the only rule is that a dog be handled by its owner. Ask at your local training facility or check for classes in your area at www.worldcaninefreestyle.org or www.canine-freestyle.org.



HEALTHY DOG

Beyond Kibble And Cans

The past decade has seen what amounts to a revolution in commercial pet food. Not long ago there was kibble and canned wet food—now all good pet food stores or catalogs offer a choice of high-quality options like human-grade dehydrated diets, food rolls, and fresh-chilled raw or cooked food. Many dog owners are troubled by the prospect of mass-produced commercial food (who doesn't remember the 2007 pet food recall?), but find the new pet food selection perplexing.

The words to look for on the packaging are 'complete and balanced.' That guarantees nutritional content to AAFCO (American Feed Control Officials) standards. For thorough information about all types of dog food, subscribe to *The Whole Dog Journal*, a monthly newsletter, at www.whole-dog-journal.com. And for a fascinating examination of the subject, read *Pet Food Politics* by Marion Nestle, PhD.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Pug

One of the so-called smush nose dogs, the pug packs a big personality in a compact container. Clownish, fun-loving, wheezy, affectionate, and dignified, pugs can be traced back to pre-B.C. China. Marie Antoinette had a pug, so did Queen Victoria. Pug charm conquers high culture (William Hogarth's 1745 self-portrait *The Painter and his Pug*) and popular entertainment (memorably in *Men In Black*; less so in *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*) with equal ease. Some pug facts: Their puppies are called puglets; they make first-class couch companions; they're great with kids; they inspire fan festivals called Pug-O-Ramas, and they happen to be the number six hottest dog for attracting positive attention from the opposite sex while strolling in the dog park, according to *The Dog Lover's Guide to Dating*.

For a pug to call your own, find a rescue organization near you at www.pugrescue.com



OUR SERVICES

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Safety At Your Fingertips

- ✓ **Spotting illness.** Aside from things you can see, smell, or hear (rashes, discharge, wheezing, etc.) look out for loss of appetite, disorientation, lethargy, persistent scratching, coughing, or head shaking. All warrant a trip to the vet.

- ✓ **Doggie First-Aid kit necessities.** Antiseptic wipes, triple antibiotic ointment, eye wash, petroleum jelly, Pepto Bismol and anti-diarrhea tablets, buffered aspirin, pad bandages and bandage scissors, syringe, tweezers, vet wrap, pill splitter, rectal thermometer.

Plus a copy of Amy D. Shojai's *The First Aid Companion for Dogs & Cats*. (For all human meds, find out the right dosage based on your dog's weight!)

- ✓ **Safeguard your pooch with...** A reflective vest or lighted collar, a life jacket for any water sports, up-to-date ID tags, and a microchip implant with your contact information.



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OUR SERVICES

Write here about:

- A class schedule.
- Short descriptions of all your services.
- A longer description of your central service, with a call to action to phone or email you for more information.
- Offers, discounts, packages.

There's no word limit here; whatever fits into the available space.



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