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Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers

*HRH Maximilian
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Photographed by
Olivia Stirling.*



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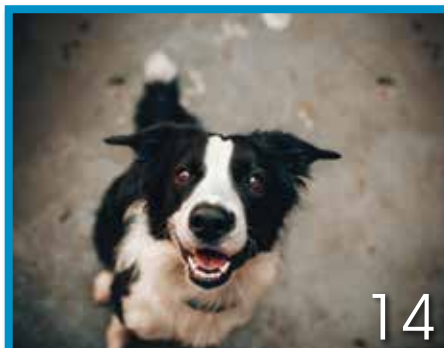
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Dog talk



Welcome to our spring issue! I hope that you and your dogs are enjoying the lovely warm weather. My Drake and Holly have loved spending more time outside with us in the early evenings, which is my favourite part of the day, and I know that when they start choosing to sleep on the floor instead of on their beds that summer is on the way.

I've spent a lot of time training my own dogs, reading about dog behaviour and talking to dog trainers and behaviourists, and what I've come to realise is that one of the most important secrets to successfully connecting with your dog is something that starts with you. To communicate successfully with your dog, you have to be able to project calm energy.

In stressful times it's sometimes very difficult to stay calm, but there are many ways for you to reach a calm state. Just spending quiet time with your dog will help, as dogs have been proven to reduce stress and anxiety.

Exercise is a great way to reduce stress, and Tai Chi, Yoga and a simple walk will clear your head and relax you. Meditation is something that really helps with

anxiety, and there are many guided meditation options on YouTube that will suit you perfectly – whether you want to visualise a walk along a beach or sit next to a river.

When dealing with your fur kids, it's easier to maintain calm energy if you understand your dog and what makes him or her anxious or overexcited so that you're not thrown off balance at exactly the wrong time. This is especially important when you're taking your dogs out for a walk or when guests arrive.

Another way to help create calm is to have a harmonious environment for your dog to live in – which is why a thorough spring-cleaning should be an important part of your life. A dog is much less likely to be calm in a messy home. A sense of order will help him relax. And because dogs' noses are such important tools, dirt and dust in the air will agitate them.

In this issue we're looking at how Feng Shui relates to dogs, and we also give you spring-cleaning tips. In addition, we get to meet a few social media celebrity dogs. I hope that with every issue of Canine Zone you get to understand dogs even more and that you enjoy reading our wonderful rescue stories and features.

Don't forget to send us your photos for the Your Photos page and your rescue stories if you adopted a puppy or dog. Also remember to support all our sponsors and advertisers who do so much for shelters. By supporting them, we enable them to do so much more.

Sharon

Canine Zone

The magazine for all dog lovers

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UPFRONT

TEARS SLEEPATHON 2020 IS OPEN FOR LIMITED BOOKINGS!



TEARS Animal Rescue, a non-profit animal welfare organisation serving the Western Cape's South Peninsula for the last 21 years, is excited to announce that its annual flagship fundraising event, the TEARS Sleepathon, will be taking place on Saturday the 14th, 21st and 28th of November 2020. For the sake of adhering to social distancing and COVID-19 health and safety regulations, ticket sales will be limited to 65 per event. Hosted at the TEARS Animal Rescue Shelters in Sunnysdale, the Sleepover invites animal lovers of all ages to wear their hearts on their sleeping bags and spend a night cuddling with shelter dogs and cats.

A critical fundraising event for TEARS, the event generates between R400,000 – R500,000 for the organisation, which enables TEARS to operate its mobile clinic and provide essential veterinary and healthcare services, including free vaccinations and sterilisations, for pets from low-income communities. Tickets cost R200 per person and can be bought online from Quicket. Participants are

encouraged to sign up as individuals, as corporate teams, or as a family or group of friends with the task of raising funds leading up to their sleepover.

Ideas on how to fundraise and what to expect at the event are included in the Sleepathon Welcome Pack, which is emailed to participants upon the purchase of their tickets. On arrival at the Sleepathon, participants will check in at the shelter at 6pm and enjoy "pawsome" hospitality, a gourmet plant-based dinner and plenty of bonding time with their shelter buddies until 7am the following morning. Everyone's encouraged to bring sleeping bags and camping gear, as well as snacks and treats, to make their sleepover as memorable as possible.

Marketing Coordinator at TEARS, Luke Kruij, says, "The TEARS Sleepathon is one of our favourite and most important fundraising events of the year. In addition to its role as a critical revenue generator for the organisation, it has a massive positive impact on the animals in our care. After all, a kind gesture can

reach a wound that only compassion can heal. We like to believe that our 'Sleepathoners' also enjoy the experience as much as our shelter animals do, and we've been fortunate in the past to facilitate some adoptions as a direct result of the Sleepathon."

There are numerous ways to fundraise for the Sleepathon, including a request for donations via social media and/or recruiting family and friends to pledge donations towards your participation in the TEARS Sleepathon. Last year, TEARS was fortunate to enjoy the support of TEARS Sleepathon "heroes" like 12-year-old Harry Chandler and mother-daughter duo Lindsay Edwards and Pauline Dwyer, to help us reach our fundraising targets for 2019. Harry raised R13,400 by asking his family and friends to sponsor his stay at the shelter, and estate agent Lindsay and teacher Pauline roped in their work colleagues and students to assist, raising R21,425.

The TEARS Sleepathon 2020 is taking place at the TEARS Animal Rescue Kennels (4 Lekkerwater Road, Sunnysdale, Cape Town, 7975) and Cattery (Wenga Farm, 21 Kommetjie Road, Sunnysdale, Cape Town, 7975). For more information, visit www.tears.org.za/sleepathon or email sleepathon@tears.org.za. To buy a ticket, visit <https://www.quicket.co.za/events/113464-tears-sleepathon-2020/#/>



BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF SHWESHWE TO OUR DOGGY PALS

BY KIM LAXTON



There's an open yard that borders a veterinary clinic in Randburg, Johannesburg. It's not difficult to find but is easily overlooked. However, despite its dusty-camouflaged exterior, it nurtures a beautiful secret – The Spirit of Shweshwe.

On a Saturday morning, if one chooses to visit this seemingly ordinary yard, one would be greeted by a frenetic flurry of fur: barks, yaps; laughter, chatter; “sits” and “stays”; excitement, anticipation; wagging tails. The dust settles, and one would be part of a puppy training class.

However, there's a visual quality to this cacophony of words and woofs, that being the splash of colour around puppy necks, on key-tags and COVID-19 facemasks.

This colour is the Benlu brand. Carmen Bekker, a powerful advocate and passionate protagonist for rescue animals, founded Benlu Collars in 2018.

“Benlu stands for more than just dogs. When you buy a collar, you not only spoil your dog, but you help an array of individuals. We believe in giving back. Benlu is a South African-based initiative that was created to empower underprivileged women in our community, as well as make our customers' fur babies feel like absolute royalty!” Bekker says. “We have shelter initiatives where we donate collars to shelters in need and support them regularly in any way we can.”

Carmen interacts constantly with puppies and their owners. Her

personality is captivating, her enthusiasm contagious, and her energy magnetic. As one comes to engage with her in conversation, the love she has for animals – dogs, horses, and cats – clearly underlies her passion for community upliftment and animal advocacy.

“Beauty, kindness and gratitude are the stitches and embroidery of our Benlu products. I learnt this from Josephine and Simone. We love to donate collars to shelters, creating awareness for rescue, adoption, and homing of animals. A collar, for me, is a symbol of belonging and individuality for that animal; a little ‘Lady-and-the-Tramp’ moment!” she adds.

As I step out the yard, with my purchased matching mask and collar, I'm deeply grateful. The Benlu family is not simply a small business rooted in love, but something greater in the grief of COVID-19. Benlu Collars epitomises zeal and the beauty of Hope. And this, perhaps, is the truest Spirit of Shweshwe.

More information about Benlu Collars can be found at www.carriebekker.wixsite.com/benlu-collars or on Instagram and Facebook (@benlucollars).

*Shweshwe: printed and dyed cotton fabric, geometric patterns of vibrant colours, used for traditional South African clothing.



ANIMAL WELFARE – DONATION DRIVE SUCCESS!



“As our national donation drive came to an end on 18 July, Mandela Day, we felt extremely proud of the result that we were able to achieve, with the help and support of our customers and members of the surrounding communities,” says Genevieve Baptie, Marketing Manager of Absolute Pets.

Considering the challenging times we’re all facing and the financial struggle being felt by so many, the team at Absolute Pets anticipated that their Mandela Day campaign this year might not go as well as previous years. Despite this, they were determined to push on and stay hopeful, as the need for support from animal welfare organisations was even greater than before.

The sad reality is that many families have had to give up their pets due to the impact of COVID-19. This, along with other changes that have had a negative impact on the industry, has put additional pressure on animal welfare organisations that were already overwhelmed with homeless

animals and desperate for support.

Absolute Pets are absolutely thrilled with the results of their campaign, as it was exceptionally positive and told a wonderful story about what’s possible when we all come together as a community to help and support those in need. It’s truly inspiring to hear how so many people made an effort to contribute in some way and is a real testament to the saying that “no matter how big or small, every little bit counts”. Since their campaign ended they’ve been overwhelmed with “thank you” letters and photos from various animal welfare organisations around the country expressing their thanks; and not just to Absolute Pets, but to all those people in the various communities that participated, making a real difference to the lives of animals in need.

The Absolute Pets Mandela Day Donation Drive was held in 82 stores across Cape Town, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. They managed to assist 42 animal welfare organisations in South Africa with

approximately 5,500 donations and an additional estimated 2,650kgs of pet food going to 27 of them.

Absolute Pets extends their sincere thanks to their team in store, their customers and members of the community for making this possible and showing us all how South Africans can come together and take care of one another, despite desperate times.



MONTEGO MAKES IMPRESSIVE STRIDES IN CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION

Montego Pet Nutrition has reported a 300-tonne reduction in CO2 emissions in 2020 to date after utilising solar energy as a renewable energy source at its Graaff-Reinet-based production facility.

According to Wilfred Cawood, Marketing Manager at Montego Pet Nutrition, this reduction is equivalent to planting approximately 9,000 trees to offset carbon emissions.

"As part of our mission of being South Africa's best pet food manufacturer, Montego is committed to becoming a low-carbon company and sustaining the environment," says Cawood. "We take our responsibility of establishing renewable energy sources in our business seriously, particularly as this relates to the local context and the challenging state of SA's utility infrastructure."

Montego's headway in energy efficiency follows a R22 million investment the company made towards a dedicated solar energy plant last year. The proudly local company completed work on the 843kWp solar panel system, spanning 4,580 square metres of rooftop space, in May 2019.

The nine-month project followed closely on the heels of a R70 million factory upgrade that was implemented in 2018 to meet local and international demand of its premium quality pet food, which boosted overall production by 30%.

"The boost in production and demand for Montego's pet food and treats meant that a move to renewable energy sources was crucial for us. Not only do we believe it to be our responsibility to sustaining the environment, but solar energy also presented attractive cost

efficiencies from a business standpoint," adds Cawood.

The move to clean energy sources is a growing priority in South Africa, particularly in the face of the country's costly dependency on coal. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the damaging impact this has had on South Africa's economy, a report released by the South African National Energy Association (SANEA) asserts that clean energy could also help drive the country economic recovery from the pandemic.

"Solar energy presents a viable solution to the growing energy demand and strain on South Africa's power grid," says Cawood. "South African businesses have a role to play in facilitating and innovating clean energy solutions and developing the necessary infrastructure within communities."



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Your Photos



JOCK says:
“There is a little
bit of superhero
in all of us. We
just need to find
the courage to
wear the cape.”
– **JOLEYNE LOVE**



COCO, practising for her
birthday with her little hat.
We call her Bek, because that
long nose is always in every-
thing. – **KAREN GRUIJTERS**



BULLET – Our boy
Bullet is a Bichon Frise.
He loves playing dress-
up (we think), and
this is him on his 10th
birthday photoshoot.
– **BRUCE FRANK**



BUFFY, our Staffie
puppy, has come into
our lives, and we’re
so excited to become
parents again after 13
years! She’s stolen our
hearts.
– **CRISSY LE ROUX**



BENJI saying thank
you for the rabbit
mommy bought him
for his 3rd birthday.
– **TERSIA VAN WYK**



FILO was adopted back in 2011. She’s always been a bit
feral and will run off if she gets the chance. Sadly, she’s
ageing fast now and must be about 12 or 13 years old.
Filo is very loving but is a bit of a whiner; if the indoor
water bowl is empty, she’ll whine until it’s filled, or if
someone is in the bed she wants, she whines until they
get the message! – **VANJA J. INGOLD**

WIN! If your photo is the winning photo, you will receive a fabulous prize from Complete Pet. To enter, e-mail your photo and a sentence or two about your dog/s to editorial@caninezonesa.co.za



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BAILEY is absolutely adorable.
— TYLER DEN HEYER



LYA says: "I am fat and fabulous, and I know it."
— ESTIE VAN ZYL



MOLLY is my cute little Jack Russell.
— PAULINE JAMES



SHIMMY — Our new baby has settled in nicely. He's already chasing the cats around like he owns the house.
— SHIMONE PRETORIUS



SCOOBY is a Pit Bull cross who says: "I suffer with floppy ear syndrome." Scooby was picked up by the SPCA as a supposed stray, although we think his owner abandoned him. He had a broken rear leg and dislocated hip and must have been in incredible pain. He was a gentle giant when I took him to my wonderful vet who treated him, put a metal rod in his leg, put the hip back, then

sterilised and kept him for a week on cage rest. He continued on cage rest at the SPCA for three months and we finally adopted him. He then had physio, which he loved, and now jumps about like a jack-in-the-box. He's a loving dog who adores his food as well as his best friend, Freckles.

— VANJA J. INGOLD



SPOT is approximately one year and four months old.
— DEBORAH WHITLOCK

Help!



GOT A QUESTION?

E-mail us at
editorial@caninezonesa.co.za
 and we will forward your mail to our
 behaviourists Julie Bezuidenhout
 and Celia Forsyth to answer



MY DOGS FIGHT WITH THE NEIGHBOUR'S DOG



I'm hoping you can advise us. We have two Huskies and a Jack Russell who are wonderful dogs and are never a problem except for the fact that they can't stand the neighbour's dog, which is

a very large cross breed. We have a 1.7 metre concrete wall between our two properties, but my two and the dog next door keep jumping against the wall and barking at each other. It's a major event that they all seem to enjoy immensely, but they're damaging the wall, and we're scared that one of these days the wall will come down and we'll have a fight that's been brewing for five years on our hands! We can't afford to extend the wall right now or bring in a behaviourist, so what's the best way to stop them from doing this? – **Joanne Vermeulen**

JULIE SAYS – *There are a couple of things you could do, but it's important that you try and do them in conjunction with each other. The first would be to manage the situation by keeping your dogs away from the wall for a while, in an attempt to break the habit.*

You could blow up ten balloons and string them along the area where they jump, and you could ask your neighbour

to do the same thing. This will result in a loud pop of a balloon (when they jump against the balloons on the wall), giving the dogs a negative stimulus that they should interpret as coming from the wall (not from you, your neighbour nor his dog). In other words, you're making the wall a big bad wolf, in terms of the dog's perception thereof.

Should you not be able to keep the dogs away from the wall, you could recall them to you (before they're in the jumping frenzy) and offer a yummy reward. You'd need to be very consistent with this so that, over time, the dogs lose interest in their jumping joy and choose the treat instead.

You could also enrich an environment away from the wall by providing food puzzles and interactive toys. This should assist with toning down their wall jumping, as it would no longer be the highlight of their day.

MY DOG KILLS BIRDS

I have five dogs, but recently I've been having problems with my Boxer, who's started stalking and killing the wild birds in our garden. We do feed the birds, and when he's outside he'll stalk them like a cat, pounce on them, kill them, and literally eat them entirely! It's obviously very traumatic for me when this happens, but my husband says it's natural and that I should let Azzy enjoy his bird hunting. I also worry about him choking on bird bones and feathers! Is this normal, or should I be worried? – **Jacquie Ferreira**

JULIE SAYS – *When Azzy stalks the birds, call him to you and reward him (with something more exciting than stalking), as a measure of DON'T do that, but rather do this. You'd need to be*

consistent in this application.

Perhaps move the bird feeder so that the birds are further away and hopefully out of his reach. You could also put a bell on his collar to warn the birds that he's stalking.

If your garden space and bird feeder allow, depending on their position, perhaps put the sprinkler on as a deterrent for Azzy.

Take him on structured walks, provide him with lasting yummy chews and



interactive food-dispensing toys. This should reduce some of the energy he's putting into bird killing.

WE STRUGGLE TO WALK OUR LARGE DOGS

We're the doting parents of a very large male Boerboel named Bobby and a Labrador cross female named Nala. As they're both rescues, we think they're around four or five years of age. We used to live on a big plot, but for safety reasons we've moved into a home in a suburb in Port Elizabeth. We'd like to start taking our dogs for walks now to give them the exercise they were used to on the plot, but Bobby pulls terribly and ends up dragging us down the road. My husband and I are in our late 60s, and although we're extremely fit, we're worried that Bobby could injure us. We saw a dog training show on YouTube recently that said that a head harness, apparently called a Halti, is the very best thing for pulling dogs. Is this true and will it work for our Bobby? We also need to take them individually, as if

we try and walk them together, there's total chaos. Would head harnesses also help with this? Any advice would be appreciated. – **Candice Sutherland**

JULIE SAYS – Bobby and Nala will need to get used to whatever equipment you decide to use. And then they'll need to be taught how to walk at an acceptable pace, without pulling.

I suggest you use a Halti and a half check (Rogz have them) – make sure it fits properly and correctly. Then put the leads in place and start only in your garden. Twenty steps this way, turn around, and 20 steps the opposite way. Then progress to, say, your driveway for 20 steps one way and 20 steps the other, covering the initial 20 steps you did in the garden. Use yummy treats to lure the dogs. If either dog pulls on the lead whilst doing your 20 steps, simply



stop walking – once the leash is loose, begin walking again. Do this slowly. Try and keep the dogs to the left-hand side of you so they don't learn to cross over in front of you.

Once you're doing 40 steps in either direction, progress to the pavement, and then one house up, one house down, until you're able to further your walks without lead-pulling. This is a process and could take some time. I'd highly recommend the services of an experienced, accredited dog trainer to assist you.

HOW CAN WE SOCIALISE OUR DOGS AND CATS?

We have three dogs – a one-year-old Staffie male, a five-year-old female Pug, and a five-year-old female Boston Terrier. Recently, a friend got into financial difficulties when he lost his job and he asked us to foster his two four-month-old kittens until he got back onto his feet. It seems like we'll now be keeping them permanently, and up until now we've kept the dogs and kittens separate by moving them into different rooms in our home. For example, at night the kittens sleep in the spare room with the door closed and the dogs in our bedroom. In the morning, the dogs go outside, and the kittens have the run of the house. The kittens are now part of the family, so we'd like the dogs to become social with them. Is this possible, and what's the best way to do it? Or will we always have to keep them separate? – **Katy Morris**

CELIA SAYS – It seems that you've already covered the first part, which is allowing both cats and dogs to become accustomed to the smell of each other.

Let the dogs and cats smell each other through a closed door, and try feeding them on either side of the door. Should the cats react to the dogs on the other side of the door, give it more time. If you have a glass door, this can be helpful in them seeing each other before they're introduced.

I'd recommend introducing the calmest dog to the cats first. Have the dog on a leash and bring it to look at the cat, but don't allow any contact at this stage. Do the same with the other dogs, one at a time. Show the pets the same amount of attention when you introduce them. Then continue to keep them separated while doing short introductions. Gradually increase the duration of these sessions.

When the cats and dogs are relaxed in each other's presence, then you can drop the leash. However, ensure that the cats have a ledge to jump to in case they need to get away. Basic obedience training for your dogs will help with this introduction too. Any unwanted behaviours from the dogs towards the

cats can be redirected to a sit or down exercise. Don't scold your dogs in these circumstances. Reward and praise your dogs for good behaviour around the cats.

Separate the dogs and cats while you're not home. If your dogs have never been introduced to cats before, they might not know how to deal with the situation. You'll only know once the dogs are let off leash if they'll react to the cat as prey, play or curiosity. Call in a behaviourist if you're unsure or need more guidance, as they'll be able to read the dogs and be able to further help the situation if you need it.





**UNLEASH
YOUR DOG'S
INNER
LEGEND**

ASK THE EXPERT: DOGS IN BED – GOOD OR BAD?

Whether or not to let your dog sleep in your bed is a much more common concern than most people think. The old 'a dog stays outside' approach seems to be making way for a more intimate bond between dogs and their owners. But are there any health risks involved with allowing your dogs in bed? Is it good for your dog? And are there any psychological benefits to you? JOCK's expert team did some research in order to get a look under the covers.

A US study found that 61% of small dogs, 41% of medium dogs and 47% of big dogs sleep in or on the beds of their human besties. A surprising number, considering the traditional wisdom that dogs are dirty and should sleep outside or in their own beds. Several studies have been done on the topic and the results might be somewhat unexpected.

Keeping it clean

Apart from people suffering from dog allergies or asthma, there seems to be very little evidence that a dog in your bed poses any health risk. It might seem like common sense, but let's state it anyway: a dog in your bed is only as dirty as you allow your dog to be.

If you allow your dog to rummage through the dustbin, then well, he's going to bring whatever he picks up into your bed.

Some bed-sharing dog owners won't allow their dogs into their beds unless they've been given a bath, wet wipe of strategic parts, brushing or tooth brushing. Others simply don't mind a bit of dust or mud on the covers. It really does come down to personal preference. Having your dog dewormed, take its flea medication regularly and keeping its teeth healthy will take care of basic health issues. Needless to say, the length of a dog's coat and amount of drooling will play its part in how clean your bed will be.

Puppies and potty-training

There's nothing more comforting than having the sweet breath of a puppy in bed. Yet it's important to know that young puppies may not be potty-trained yet, resulting in messy accidents in bed. A good guide is to let a puppy sleep in its own bed or crate until it's old enough to be able to control his bodily functions and let you know when he wants to go outside.

Sleep disturbance

Interestingly, studies found that dog owners who let their dogs sleep in bed tend to fall asleep with more ease, but might have their sleep disturbed more. Dogs sleep in cycles of 3 or 4 hours, so tend to wake up and move around more, while people naturally sleep in longer cycles.

Issues of dominance

Some dogs will see their sleeping in your bed as a sign that they're in control. If you experience any aggression or domination issues with a dog, especially around children, it's best to make the boundaries very clear and not let the dog into your bed. Also be aware that **having** your dog in bed might lead to more separation anxiety, depending on you and your dog's lifestyle.

Psychological benefits

A lot has been written about the positive influence that dogs can have on the mental well-being of their owners. Sleeping next to your dog can decrease stress levels

and make one feel safe — especially because dogs are much more alert to any threatening sounds than us. Not to mention the presence of a living, breathing warm-water bottle! In people going through a difficult break-up or battling with depression, having a dog close to you at night can also contribute to a feeling of belonging and peacefulness.

Sweet dreams!



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Beyond the Wag and the Bark

By Celia Forsyth ADIPCBM (UK), Canine Behaviour Specialist (Accredited Canine Behaviourist and Trainer – SABCAP), Pet Sense College/Happy Pack Dog Training and Behaviour Management



There's a fascinating silent world of communication that will open up to you if you just look at your dog. Dogs are communicating with us and other dogs more than we realise. Whilst we're obviously aware that barking, wagging tails and snarls are ways for dogs to communicate, they're saying much more using their bodies.

TALKING BODY LANGUAGE

What do we mean by body language? "Bodies" speak volumes, not just canine but everybody; we use body language all the time but are often not too good at reading it. For example, we may fold our arms when in the presence of someone we don't want to get too close to, creating a barrier. We do this subconsciously. There are a huge array of human body signals, but unless we're taught about them, most of us aren't good at knowing what they mean. Usually, dogs instinctively know when to back off or when to go nearer to another dog

because of the way the other dog reacts to them. If we understand dog body language it will help us to communicate better and understand what's going on emotionally with our dogs.

The language of the body includes the way the body is held, the way it moves, the expression of the face; sometimes it's accompanied by vocal sounds and sometimes not. All parts of the body are used – head, eyes, lips, eyebrows, legs and torso. The tail has a language of its own, and those with docked tails or those who've lost them to injury or disease are at a disadvantage when it comes to signalling intent. Wagging the entire back end is seen in these dogs, and it signals one that is "happy" and eager to say hello or play a game.

We need to understand that not every movement is body language. A dog going for a walk with its owner is moving its body but is not communicating anything. It's just moving. However, if the dog stopped

stock-still and stared at another dog, it would be saying something. We must keep in mind that some dogs are less adept at reading or using signals due to artificial selection. For example, a dog that has floppy ears cannot point his ears far forward as compared to a dog with pointed ears. I discussed the importance of socialisation in my previous article, and it's due to the various shapes and sizes that dogs come in that puppies need to learn how to communicate and understand signals from other types of dogs.

FACES AND THEIR EXPRESSIONS

Faces say so much, and it's the altering of the expression which gives us a better understanding of what dogs are saying and feeling.

Mouth – The mouth can convey relaxation/happiness, anger or fear, apprehension and attention to something happening; the way it reacts may be a result of underlying emotional responses. We've all seen our dogs in a relaxed or happy state. Their mouths are relaxed and possibly open, and there's no discernible tension in the muscles around the mouth. However, if the dog is paying attention to something, his mouth will be closed. Should a threat be perceived, his mouth will be closed tight, or he may curl up his lips to show his teeth. The more teeth that are shown, and especially if the gums are seen, the more chance the dog is signalling aggression. This could be followed by a low rumbling



Body language – the door to understanding how our dogs are feeling

growl that can escalate into a full-on snarl followed by a bite, if the dog's feeling threatened. Dogs also use their tongues as communication. When they're feeling uneasy about something and would prefer more space, they tend to lick their lips. They may also lick their lips to calm down a situation. They also yawn when they're experiencing a stressful situation. As an example of this, a dog might not understand what an owner is asking of him in a training situation and will yawn.

Eyes – Staring is a form of communication. Is it a form of confrontation? Other dogs will usually look away from a dog that's staring at it to diffuse the situation or to avoid conflict. If a dog feels uneasy about an approach by another dog or person, it will either stare, as a warning, or it'll look away, depending on the situation. This might include sniffing the ground as a way to avoid eye contact. The eyes can be relaxed, wide, dilatating, staring or showing the whites (otherwise known as "whale-eye"). They show relaxation, attention, uneasiness, fear or anger. A furrowed brow usually accompanies any feelings of uneasiness about a situation. I do need to point out that if you have a bond with your special dog at home, your dog may tend to make long eye contact with you. This is not to be confused with a confrontational stare. You'll notice that a loving gaze won't have any tension in the face muscles and that the look is "soft".

Ears – These too convey messages about how a dog is feeling. They can be relaxed or pointing in a direction of something that has its attention. They may prick far forward or pin down and backwards if they feel threatened.

BODY POSTURES

If a dog is relaxed or happy his body posture will be neutral. If he's feeling uneasy, his weight will be distributed to the back legs, sometimes accompanied with a lowering of the body. If the dog is annoyed and confident, his weight will be distributed to his front legs. Raised hackles (hair standing up on its back) indicate that the dog is aroused or excited.


THE TAIL

Artificial selection has interfered with the natural tail carriage. Some breeds' tails are curled up over the back, such as the Pug or Pomeranian; some are slunk to the ground, such as can be found on Golden Retrievers or German Shepherds.

The tail can be held straight horizontally, up and over the back, or tucked between the legs. The tail is communicating something whether it's moving or not. A tail held horizontally usually indicates that the dog is confident or neutral. If the tail is held lower, it could indicate nervousness, fear or submission. If it's held high, it could indicate arousal. The accompanying wag of the tail gives us more insight into what it means; however, we understand that when a dog

tucks his tail, he's afraid. We've all seen our dogs greet us when we get home – their tails are wagging frantically from side to side. Some recent research has indicated that a dog wags his tail more prominently to the right if he's greeting his owner or someone he likes (if the dog is facing you, it'll be wagging to your left) (Stillwell, 2016). However, if a tail is vertically straight or slightly down, accompanied by a slow, stiff wag, it could mean that the dog is feeling uneasy or trying to interpret what's going on. You may notice this when the dog is greeting another unknown dog. He's trying to figure out if the other dog will become a friend or foe. If he doesn't like the other dog, he may just walk away from it.

THE DOG AS A WHOLE...

In order to read our dog effectively, we need to look at the body as a whole. Relaxed faces and open mouths, accompanied by even weight distribution and horizontal tails, indicate a happy dog. Fearful dogs will have their mouths closed, eyes wide and avoiding contact, ears pinned down and backwards, with their weight distributed to the back legs and a tucked tail. An aroused and angry dog will have his mouth closed tight or showing teeth, ears pricked forward, intense eye contact, weight distributed forward, and a high-held tail. If you're interested in learning more, the book by Victoria Stillwell, *The Secret Language of Dogs*, comes highly recommended. 

FENG SHUI and your DOG

By Danielle Russell



There's a traditional Chinese saying that goes – "If a dog shows up at your doorstep (or in some other form of your life), don't shoo them away. Invite them inside your home and care for them and they will surely bring you good fortune."

Feng shui (pronounced "fung shway") is the Chinese art of enhancing the flow of energy, also known as "chi", through your home.

Feng Shui boosts elements believed to bring on good luck, wealth, health, marriage, and children whilst reducing and removing negative energies. It's believed to bring peace to your home using five elements – earth, fire, wood, water, and metal – to create an environmental balance. Feng Shui has become extremely popular in the Western world, with many celebrities becoming

converts and turning their homes into a Zen oasis. But can it work for pets too? Apparently so!

GET THE BASICS RIGHT

If you apply the principles of Feng Shui to your dog, this will include putting his or her bed against a wall with a full view of the door. Don't hang anything above it, including wall art. Also, make sure there's no mirror directly across from where your doggo sleeps, as that's classic bad Feng Shui. The mirror bounces energy around the room, causing restlessness and insomnia. Avoid the colour white, choosing earth tones to create a calming atmosphere. Wind chimes are good energy, as are living, indoor plants (make sure that they aren't poisonous to curious dogs).

Also, keep your dog's bed out of and away from the bathroom. The water energies of the

toilet are very bad Feng Shui, for the dog and for you. Feng Shui masters recommend you keep the door to the toilet shut and even put heavy items on top of the toilet to keep your luck from flushing away.

REMOVING BAD ENERGY

In Feng Shui, bad energy can be brought on by just about anything placed in the wrong spot. The first step you should take to removing bad energy around your dog is to declutter the garden by making it dog-safe and dog-proof. Keep the lawn mowed and the plants trimmed so that your dog has room to run and play. Set up barriers as needed and check any fencing for holes. Do your best to keep the garden free of dog poop. The same applies to the inside of your home. Remove clutter and make sure that your dog is safe.

Feng Shui can get quite complicated, and there are many books on the market and articles on the web, but we do know that dogs enjoy a calm environment, which has a wonderful effect on their behaviour. Nothing takes the place of training and exercise, but the correct flow of chi can bring a sense of calm to your home, and that sense of calm will be felt by your fur kids too.

ARE DOGS GOOD FENG SHUI?

We know that dogs definitely make our lives better, and in terms of Feng Shui, they undoubtedly enhance our lives and our homes. In doing my



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research on Feng Shui and pets, I found the following tips very interesting

- Don't lock your dog in a cage, because it will minimise the movement and flow of the energy that can create bad chi or energy in the house.
- Good Feng Shui is always talking about clutter-free, so you must get rid of your pets' waste and make sure that your house is clean and odour-free.
- Cats belong to the element of wood, so the suitable colours for their bedding should be blue, black or green. Avoid red. Dogs belong to the element earth, so keep them away from white baskets and beds, as it can make them ill. A more suitable basket colour will be brown or yellow.
- There's no love like that of an animal. It's the purest form of love and adoration anyone could experience. Love is an incredibly powerful and positive energy.
- Pets are known in Feng Shui to symbolise not only good energy, but cats are considered good for financial luck, and dogs help to boost and infuse energy in a home.
- Dogs spend much of the day sleeping, so the Feng Shui of their sleeping spot is essential. Dedicate a clean, safe spot in your home for your dog.
- Place your dog's bed against a solid wall away from any doors that could swing open and disturb them.
- Find bedding that has earth

tones like brown, grey, and yellow; this will help stabilise an energetic dog.

- Make their bed cave-like and cosy.
- Place area rugs and welcome mats if you have hardwood floors so your dog has a firm grip on the floor.
- Keep your floor space clear so your dog has enough room to roam comfortably.
- Incorporate subtle lavender and rosemary scents in your home to promote relaxation.
- Put your dog's bed away from their water bowl, the bathroom, or the kitchen – the water energy in these areas can disturb their sleep.
- Avoid placing any heavy objects above or behind your dog's sleeping area.

REMOVING STAGNANT OR NEGATIVE CHI

One indicator of negative chi energy, especially stagnant chi, is your pet. According to author and pet Feng Shui expert Paula Brown, "I always ask clients where their pets like to sleep and relax, and if there are areas in which they may be acting up, not travelling into or avoiding." She explains that many animals avoid areas of stagnant chi energy flow, adding, "In multi-animal homes, when the chi is not moving well, there is often tension between the animals, and this causes negative altercations."


A pet in the home normally generates auspicious yang energy. "An animal with balanced chi energy will move that balanced

fire chi all around one's environment, which is a great boost to both animals and the people," Paula says.

By the same token, if your pet is surrounded by negative chi due to a physical illness or stress in the home, it can generate a chi imbalance in your home. "An animal that has a physical or emotional ailment that goes untreated can result in many behavioural issues," says Paula. "Some pets chew on themselves due to emotional responses to energetic imbalances." If your pet seems unusually touchy or reacts to change, noises, and new visitors differently, these can indicate a chi imbalance in your home or the pet.

HELPING SHELTER DOGS TO FIND BALANCE

It's important for pet owners adopting from a shelter to keep in mind that the animals have both negative and positive experiences. Paula advises, "With a little observation, careful help with getting balance back into their life and some extra care, negative chi can be switched into loving and helpful chi."

Sometimes these dogs were abused by their previous owners, which causes a chi imbalance. "It's very important to understand that all animals are born with positive joyful energy; it is their experiences that bring any negative chi their way," Paula explains. 

Acknowledgements – Feng Shui for Beginners, Red Lotus Letter by Kathryn Weber, Nylabone.com, Dogington Post/Katie Marie, Sally Painter, Paula Brown – www.animal-hearttalk.com

13 FAMOUS DOGS ON THE INTERNET

The most famous dogs on the internet are true celebrities.

Some have, or have had, millions of followers and sponsorship from big brands. Some have even made their owners millionaires with endorsements and sponsorships. Unfortunately, South Africa has a long way to go to catch up, but we do have a few local internet celebrities like Mr Miyagee. Let's meet a few of the most famous, international internet dogs.



JEFF POM

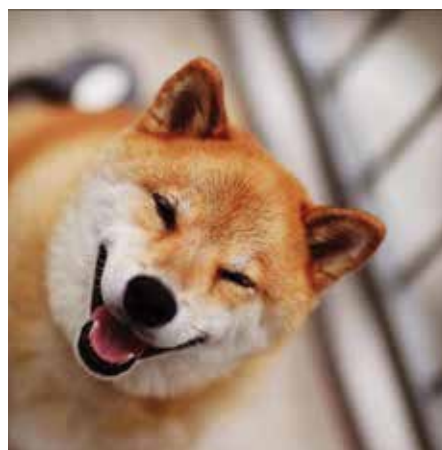
Jiff Pom is the most followed animal on social media. He's a small Pomeranian dog that holds two Guinness World Records for his speed and has made a number of appearances, including in Katy Perry's "Dark Horse" music video. He's popular on Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram, with even human celebrities trying to get selfies with him.

BOO THE POMERANIAN

Sadly, one of the most famous



social media dogs in the world crossed the Rainbow Bridge in January 2019. Boo was 12 years old and had 17 million followers on Facebook, made TV appearances, and even released a book called "Boo – the life of the world's cutest dog". Boo was one of the first dogs to really make it big on the internet after his owner set up a Facebook page in 2009 with photos of the adorable Pomeranian dressed up in different doggy outfits and showing him getting into mischief with his friend Buddy.



MARU THE SHIBA INU

Maru lives with his owners in Japan and is one of the most followed dogs on Instagram with over 2.6 million followers. Maru always looks like he just might be the happiest dog on Earth, which might be why his owners love to photograph and record videos of him.



MARNIE THE SENIOR RESCUE DOG

Marnie was one of the most unique-looking dogs online, characterised by her tongue, which almost always hung out, and the permanent slight lean of her head from a medical condition she had when she was younger. She was adopted as a senior and lived in New York City – dressing up in cute clothes, meeting celebrities, and posting photos on her Instagram page for her 2 million+ followers. Sadly, Marnie crossed the Rainbow Bridge in March this year at the incredible age of 18.

TUNA MELTS MY HEART

Tuna is a cross between a Chihuahua and a Dachshund.

There are so many Insta-famous and Facebook-famous dogs around. We find out more about a few of them.



He was rescued as a puppy, and his visible overbite makes his top teeth stick out. Tuna has a loyal fanbase on Instagram of over 1.9 million followers.



PUGS MINNIE AND MAX

This canine duo are famous on Facebook for their incredible talent to simultaneously tilt their heads to either side. They've been featured on some of television's biggest shows like "Ellen", "Good Morning America", "Animal Planet", and more. Their Facebook page has over 1.4 million likes.

MANNY THE FRENCHIE

French Bulldogs are adorable,



so it's no surprise that there are loads of famous ones on Instagram and Facebook. Mannie is the world's most followed French Bulldog, and he's known to do a lot for rescue organisations. With over 1.8 million Facebook likes and over one million Instagram followers, he's been sought after by several agencies to appear in print advertisements, television commercials, and even movies.



MISHKA THE TALKING HUSKY

What made Mishka unique is that she could say things like "I love you", "no" and "I'm hungry" out loud. When her owner uploaded videos of her talking a few years ago, she became a viral hit. She

had more than 909,000 subscribers on YouTube, and many of her best videos have millions of views. Sadly, beautiful Mishka died in April 2017. She was 14 years old.



NORBERT THE DOG

Norbert is a therapy dog who's also the star of his own children's book and has his very own plush toy available for purchase. You can often find him scurrying around in videos or hanging out with his "little" brother – a Golden Retriever named Fred. What makes Norbert unique is that he usually has his tongue hanging out.



SIR CHARLES BARKLEY

Another French Bulldog, Sir Charles has a large following on Instagram. When his owners set up an Instagram account for him when he was just a few weeks old, they didn't think he'd become famous all over the world.



CORNELIUS THE CORGI

This up-and-coming doggy celebrity may not have the millions of likes and followers yet, but he's fast on his way up the Instagram celebrity ladder. Cornelius also has a brother named Stumphrey, who often accompanies Cornelius on his Instagram account. Both of them look like they've got permanent smiles on their little faces.



MOONPIE STARBOX

If you've been on any social media, you'll have come across the adorable Moonpie Starbox videos that have taken the world by storm. Moonpie Starbox is a chocolate-coloured Dachshund from Texas in the USA. On his official website Moonpie says – "So I've been told some of my fans were wondering how my videos got started. Well, by accident, of course. My mum and dad thought it would be fun to play around with the new app called Tik Tok. They would post silly things I would do to music on there. One time they caught me banging my tail on the trashcan while I was waiting for them to kick the ball. Well, that silly video went viral on social media." You can visit Moonpie's website on www.moonpiestarbox.com

SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNET DOGS

South African dogs who do well on Instagram and who deserve our support include Golden Retriever Calibear, who's an advocate for a raw food. You can find her at diet@goldengirl-calibear (19.1k followers). Then there's Mr Jasper, the adorable Dachshund who you'll find at [@all_about_jasper_](https://www.instagram.com/all_about_jasper_), and of course Mr Miyagee, whom we've featured in Canine Zone many times.

Mr Miyagee is the ambassador of Pet Mall SA's pay-it-forward initiative, the Dare 2 Care Campaign. He's a certified emotional support pet to an eight-year-old boy and a trained

therapy dog. Mr Miyagee is also a well-known and loved public figure as an advocate against bullying in schools and animal abuse, and he visits schools, hospitals, special needs homes, old-age homes and children's homes to inspire those there. In his free time, he enjoys participating in dog shows, acting in front of cameras, posing as a model for various brands and campaigns, and doing reviews as a pet food, nutrition, wellness, toy and accessory blogger. You'll find this cute little Chihuahua at [@mrmiyageesa](https://www.instagram.com/mrmiyageesa). Not to be left out, Canine Zone's Chief Woof Officer (CWO), Drake, recently started his own Instagram page, and you can follow Drake's adventures on [@drakey_days](https://www.instagram.com/drakey_days). 🐾



Mr Miyagee Photographed by Shutter Mutts

My dog has swallowed something!

What do I do?

Dogs can be prone to swallowing strange things. Here's what to do...

If your dog has swallowed something, try and find out what it is, even if you have to make a reasonable guess. This information is really important. Should you need to take your dog to the vet, he will want to know this.

Some items appear visible on X-rays and some don't. For example, although bones and stones can be seen on X-rays, items like a mielie cob or seaweed won't show up.

There are places where a foreign body can get stuck, and this is also important as it really does determine the course of action. Some places like the back of the mouth can easily be accessed, whilst others, like inside the stomach, may be amenable to scoping. Still others, such as the intestines, will need surgery to remove the object.

WHAT TO DO...

In most cases, get your dog to the vet! There's very little you can do at home and time may be of the essence. Diagnostics such as X-rays, barium or possibly ultrasound need to be performed on your dog.

WHAT THE VET WILL DO...

- Diagnostics
- Often the vet can actually feel the foreign body and confirm the diagnosis in this manner
- If the object is soft, like material, then this can be a diagnostic challenge
- Surgery to remove the foreign body
- If the foreign body obstructs the bowel and isn't removed in time, this could be a very serious and possibly fatal situation

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The most common symptoms

that your dog has swallowed something are either vomiting or diarrhoea, or both. Usually the dog doesn't want to eat or drink, and should they attempt to do so, they usually vomit quite soon afterwards.

GO FOR PREVENTION!

Dogs have been known to swallow anything from toys to rocks and socks. If your dog is partial to something in particular, keep these items out of his reach at all times. You could also use a deterrent such as a bitter apple spray, but it doesn't always work on all dogs.

Some dogs develop a habit of swallowing strange things (also known as Pica in dogs) out of boredom; a dog looking for something to do often explores with his mouth, and for some, ingestion of the item is their next logical step. Adding stimulation to your dog's life can help with this, so add more activity to your dog's day. Go for walks, do obedience training, play together, swim with your dog, and give him or her other things to do, like making a sand pit for them to dig in.

Give your dog things to chew on that he or she can't swallow and stuff them with treats. In the summer months, fill a suitable and very sturdy toy, such as a Kong, with peanut butter or wet food and then freeze it. Your dog will spend hours trying to get the treat out and satisfy the need for chewing and swallowing. 🐾



Beautiful Becky

By Janine Sharon Benard

Photography by Chris Kritzinger



About a year ago, I was following a story on the Schnauzer Rescue South Africa site in which 24 dogs had been rescued from a puppy mill. Through SRSA and with the help of Woodrock Animal Rescue, these dogs were all rehomed – with the exception of the oldest three. My heart just sank at the thought of these old dogs not finding a loving home, so I contacted Chris Kritzinger from SRSA and asked if he'd consider us as a foster family for Becky.

A TRAGIC LIFE

When we first set eyes on Becks, I had no idea how we were going to make this old girl happy again – she was the saddest-looking dog I'd ever seen, and she was so frail that I didn't think she'd last the week. She was estimated to be 12/13 years old, and we just wanted to give her the best life and make up for all the years of neglect as a puppy mill mom. She'd been through so much: tumours in her uterus, ear infections, worms, and bad teeth

that had to be removed, leaving her with nine teeth and a crooked smile. Her legs were rickety and weak due to lack of good nutrition – she was a sight for sore eyes, to say the least.

There was an instant connection between Becky and my daughter Jayden. I think she sensed they needed each other, and for days after Becky's arrival she just lay on Jayden's chest and the healing began. I had no idea what it would be like to be a foster mom to a broken little dog, but within a few days she became a foster fail after we decided that there was no way we were ever going to give her up or give up on her. We realised that, with enough time and patience, she'd eventually blossom and adapt to family life.

A TRANSFORMATION

Today, a year later, she's transformed into a beautiful, confident character whom we affectionately call "Missy", as she rules the roost. We love her old lady snoring and the spunky dance she does when she wants you to follow her downstairs for treats. She's also stolen my husband's heart; he calls her his "princess", and she sleeps next to his bed every night. Thanks to organisations like Schnauzer Rescue South Africa and Woodrock Animal Rescue, we've learnt that there's a special kind of joy in being a part of a rescue dogs' life.



There's a special kind of joy in being a part of a rescue dog's life

SCHNAUZER RESCUE SOUTH AFRICA

*By Chris Kritzinger
(Founder of SRSA)*

Schnauzer Rescue South Africa was founded in 2019 after I noted that so many Schnauzers were in dire need of help. No rescue organisation existed specific to the Schnauzer breed that had the capability to sterilise and the infrastructure to house Schnauzers that needed rehabilitation after being discarded by backyard breeders and puppy mills as well as unscrupulous owners.

SRSA forms part of the incredible Woodrock Animal Rescue, which gives us access to everything a rescue Schnauzer can dream of, as Woodrock is a vibey and modern animal rescue centre with the highest morals and ethical values. All our Schnauzers are health-checked, sterilised, dewormed, inoculated and chipped before being rehomed.

The SRSA story is a modern fairy tale come true. This breed's popularity has skyrocketed in the last few years, and this, unfortunately, has led to backyard breeders and Schnauzer puppy mills popping up all

over South Africa. SRSA prides themselves in the fact that they've almost eradicated Schnauzer fraudsters from the major advertising platforms. They've made it their mission to inform the general public on how to spot puppy mills as well as backyard breeders.

We found it interesting, after gathering data for the last 14 months, that the impression that purebred dogs don't end up in shelters is completely unfounded. SRSA has rehomed just over 100 Schnauzers in this period – almost one Schnauzer every five days.

The organisation operates throughout South Africa and consists of the most amazing

rescue team members with a combined rescue experience of many, many years. We have rescue team members standing by all over the country to assist Schnauzers in need on a 24-hour basis. Please email us on Schnauzerrescuesouthafrica@gmail.com, or phone us on 0836581504 should you need assistance with any Schnauzer in need. You can also visit our website on www.schnauzerrescuesouthafrica.co.za

Super Schnauzer Percy, our SRSA mascot, doesn't play around and flies to the rescue at lightning speed. He truly believes in his hashtag #truerescue – it's all about the dog! We'll never, ever turn away any Schnauzer in need! 🐾





The Importance of Good Nutrition for Your Puppy



To better understand why the transition from puppy to adult food is of utmost importance, it's important to understand the different nutrient requirements of the life stages and how meeting those requirements can make for optimal development.

The growth period that dogs experience when they're puppies, especially following weaning, which is most pronounced, is the most critical period of a dog's life. During this period, several important changes occur, and the changing requirements (nutritional requirements, first vaccinations and behavioural development) must be met.

MOVING ONTO SOLID FOOD

At 6-8 weeks, most puppies are ready to be weaned, and it's necessary to remember that the nutritional requirements to support normal growth and development of puppies are

greater than those of an adult dog.

If you're feeding your puppy a balanced food such as Lionel's Choice Puppy, no additional supplements such as vitamins, minerals, meat, or other additives are necessary.

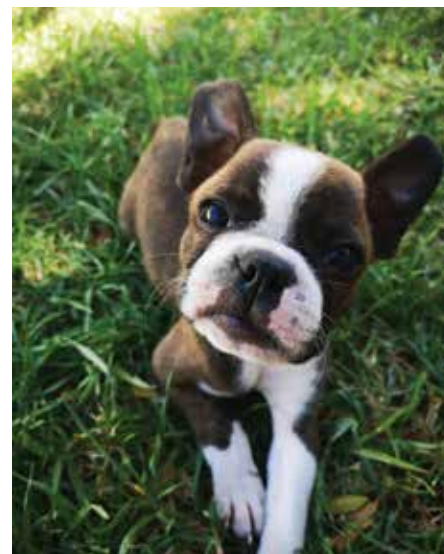
A puppy's stomach capacity isn't large enough to hold enough food in one feeding to provide its daily requirement of needed nutrients, so young puppies should be fed at least three times a day until their food requirements, per kilogram of weight, start to stabilise as they mature. The feeding schedule will go down to two times a day when puppies are four to five months old.

The amount of food given to a puppy will depend on their size, activity, metabolism, and environment. A puppy shouldn't be allowed to become overweight, as it can cause bone

abnormalities. If the puppy gains too much weight, the amount of food given should be reduced. Alternatively, if the puppy is underweight and there are no health problems, the food should be increased. Fresh water in a clean bowl should always be available.

MAKING THE TRANSITION

Slow and steady is the way when transitioning your dog from puppy to adult food. The transition to Lionel's Choice Adult should begin when your dog approaches adult height and weight, and the breed of dog you have will determine the right time to change. When you do change over to Lionel's Choice Adult, do so by mixing in the Adult food with the puppy food. Over the course of the next few days you'll gradually go from most of the food being puppy food to a 50/50 split and then Lionel's Choice Adult only. 🐾





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www.lionelschoice.com

To ADOPT or not to ADOPT?

Are you prepared?



The decision to adopt a dog should never be taken lightly. Whether it's your first, your second, or perhaps even your third dog, the questions you need to ask yourself and the preparations you should have in place remain the same. "There is a lot that needs to be considered before making the decision to adopt," explains David Roache, Managing Director of dotsure.co.za.

COMMITMENT

Puppies and kittens grow up to become dogs and cats, so if you're only looking to adopt for the cute factor, then stop right there. Adopting a dog is a big commitment, because a dog can live an average of 10 to 15 years. So, make sure everyone involved in the care of your new dog is on board for the long haul. Puppies and kittens will take up plenty of your time, especially in the early days, so if you're too stressed, or focused on a big project at work, then perhaps wait until you have more control over your schedule

before visiting the animal shelter. It's important to remember that a dog is for life.

PERSONALITY TRUMPS CUTE

Love at first sight may not always apply when it comes to choosing the right dog for your family. It's important to focus on the character traits that are going to make this adoption work. It's the difference between a very energetic dog who'll want to go on daily runs or one who'll be satisfied with shorter, slower walks, as long as he can sleep on your lap while you watch TV on the couch. Figuring out first how a dog will fit into your life will help you make the smart adoption choice. Shelter staff will know many of the dogs' personality traits and will be able to assist you with your decision, especially if the dog is older and has been at the shelter for a longer period.

TRAINING

If you're adopting a puppy or one of the shelter's older dogs, you're

in for some training, no matter what. Whether it's teaching your new dog which areas of the house are off-limits, getting used to a leash, or where the litter box is, it will take some time, so be ready to start training from day one. Patience and perseverance are important and will lead to a loving and rewarding relationship.

SPRING-CLEAN AND STOCK UP

Before any new paws touch your floor, make sure you've hidden any loose wires, put away small items that can be easily swallowed, and moved any house plants out of reach that may upset your new family member's stomach. Make sure you've got toys, food and water bowls, a collar, a leash and a bed ready for when your new dog arrives. A comfortable, warm, fully stocked environment with all your new dog's necessities will help make the transition an easy one for both of you.

NEUTERING AND SPAYING

Dogs and cats can be sterilised as early as eight weeks of age; however, most dogs are sterilised between four and six months. If your dog hasn't been sterilised upon adoption, the shelter will give you the correct paperwork for sterilisation to take place when the time comes, and you'll have to provide proof to the shelter upon completion of the procedure. The best thing you



can do for your dog's health is to have him or her sterilised. Some of the benefits include decreased aggression and a lower risk of mammary and ovarian cancer in females.

ID TAG AND MICROCHIP

Make sure your newly adopted dog is kitted with an ID tag so that should he ever get lost, you'll be contacted. Microchips are the best assurance for identification, especially when it comes to cats, who don't tend to wear collars. Remember to update your contact information with the microchip company if your details change.

PET INSURANCE

Our lives are so stressful as it is, so why let rising vet bills become a dog hate? Pet insurance gives you peace of mind should something happen to your dog. Pet insurance isn't just a "nice to have" but a necessity in today's tough times.

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW DOG TO OTHER FURRY FAMILY MEMBERS

If you already have dogs at home, you're going to need to pay careful attention when introducing someone new to the fold. If possible, even before bringing your new dog into the house, rather find a neutral spot to make introductions. An outdoor space with enough room or for dogs to be on a leash is a good

option. If both your established and new dogs' body language is good and there's no sign of aggression after a significant period of sussing each other out, then you can bring your new dog into the house. However, they'll still need to acclimatise to each other, so it's important to remember to provide each dog with their own bed, introduce toys slowly, separate your dogs when you're out, and most importantly, be patient.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING

Someone who knows all about the importance of dog adoptions is Carren Nickloes from the Animal Anti-Cruelty League (AACL). While Nickloes explains there's been a noticeable rise in the number of people looking to adopt, they're currently only open on an appointment basis to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. "At the beginning of lockdown, we were inundated with stray dogs, dog parents dropping their fur babies off with us as they couldn't afford to care for them, and emergency situations. While we do not see this slowing down anytime soon, we've started community feeding schemes specifically for those who can't afford to feed their dogs, but who don't want to give them up. Dogs make up an important part of the family unit, and we'll do whatever we can to

keep a family together."

Roache explains that shutting down shelter adoptions during the higher levels of lockdown had a profoundly devastating effect. "It's a desperate situation. We know that many animal shelters rely solely on public donations and on the money they receive from adoptions. Taking away shelters' ability to facilitate adoptions saw many around the country take a huge knock, some even having to close their doors."

DOTSURE GIVING BACK

As the well-being of all animals is top of mind for dotsure.co.za, they stepped up, with the utmost of urgency, and donated R300,000 to the AACL in April. With lockdown having gone on a lot longer than any of us expected, and shelter expenses piling up, they've now donated a further R150,000, with R100,000 going to AACL Johannesburg and R50,000 going to AACL Cape Town.

"This donation is huge for us and is going to dramatically assist us to continue to care for the health and welfare of animals, specifically for those in our hospitals. We encourage anyone looking to bring a little joy into their lives during these uncertain times to make an appointment with us," adds Nickloes. 🐾

INCORPORATING DOG BEDS INTO YOUR DÉCOR

Design tips for pet parents



available in a variety of sizes and finishes to help bring together your design vision.

Finally, keep in mind when you're shopping for a doggie bed that those with a plush pile may look softer and more comfortable, but they'll be much harder to keep clean – and can be a nightmare for allergy sufferers – than those with shorter piles.

Also, for beds with shorter piles, all you'll need is a Dust Buster or even a lint roller to rid them of hair. 🐾

For many families, the heart of the home is the living room, and unless you live in a mansion with rooms the size of football fields, your dog's bed is going to be very much on view – not something that's quietly out of sight. That's why it pays to give some careful thought to your choice of a doggie bed. With a few simple steps you can find one that enhances the look of your living room – instead of clashing with it.

The biggest piece of furniture in most living rooms – and the most expensive to replace – is the couch. When selecting a new couch, the trick is to stick with neutral shades like cream, beige or greys – preferably a tone that matches your dog's fur to hide any day-to-day shedding – and take your colour cues from there.

Dog beds are now available in a huge range of colours, patterns, and fabrics; the secret is to coordinate your dog's bed into your overall colour scheme. If you go the neutral route for your couch, why not add splashes of colour with cushions that complement a brightly coloured doggie bed?

Some interior designers have even started to make or source curtains and throw pillows to expressly coordinate with pet beds. You can also tie your colour scheme together by painting walls a harmonising colour.

Looking for an inexpensive change? Try a slipcover on your couch that matches your dog's bed. Not only do slipcovers protect your furniture from dirty paws and fur, but they're

DIY!

When you buy a new couch, order extra fabric so you can create a matching bed for your dog.



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SAVING MISS DAISY

By Luke Kruyt (TEARS Animal Rescue)

That dream home was there all the time!



When weeks turn into months and then into years for a dog in a rescue shelter, there's always the question of why no one's adopted them yet. For Daisy, she must've been asking herself the same question for nearly three years – multiply that by dog years and you'll see it's a huge chunk of time to be waiting patiently!

Daisy was surrendered by her owners after enjoying a number of years living the good life in Noordhoek, Cape Town. She arrived at TEARS looking wary of life in general, and who could really blame her? One minute everything was nice and normal, and then suddenly her world was turned on its head, and here she was, wondering what went wrong.

At first, she was quite defensive around other dogs, so we think she'd been attacked and bullied in the past. Fortunately for Daisy, she had wonderful kennel mates, and when things worked out for them


and they were adopted, she was happy to meet and make friends with her new buddy.

Then lockdown happened and changed everything. Daisy and her kennel buddy went off to their temporary foster home, and we made no secret of the fact that we were hoping it would be an epic fail – that her foster parents would see what a special dog she is and that they would make her part of their family for good.

Sadly, this wasn't to be, and Daisy and her buddy found themselves back at TEARS, waiting patiently for their luck to change. Although we were sad to see them back, it was happy in some ways, as both were firm favourites with the TEARS volunteers. Daisy in particular had a special relationship with volunteer Maggie, and the pair were well known on the local training scene at the Good Dog Club. Maggie worked with Daisy to increase confidence and always had the goal in mind of one day waving goodbye to her star pupil.

TIME FOR DAISY

The special day finally arrived a couple of months ago when an application was received for Daisy, all the way from McGregor. Could this be what she'd been waiting for? Yes, it was – that dream home was there all the time, it just took a lot of patience and perseverance to find it! After 1,094 days at TEARS, Daisy had a celebrity send-off and escaped to the countryside, where she now has masses of nature reserve to explore, wild flowers to roll in, and moles to chase.

This is a feel-good story of hope, faith, and the right family turning up at the right time for this special girl who waited for so long. 



Sasha's Adoption Story

By Caroline Jacobs



Well, hello humans. My name is Sasha, and I found myself orphaned at Dogtown. That place wasn't bad, though – I had good food, daily walks and training, so I could do goofy stuff like plonk my bum down and plonk my body down and get a tasty reward just for doing that! I even met a guy called Stevie. Handsome, big ears and chubby – we had fun and ran around playing together. Well, I ran circles around him, because I can zoom very fast, and he is, well, he's chubby. We hit it off and soon became roommates.

One day Stevie and I were asked to meet visitors who arrived at Dogtown. I thought it was interesting, played aloof, and let them greet me like the civilised gal I am. I know how to speak dog and human. We went for a gentle walk while the humans chatted and touched us. Stevie was not so cool with the visitors and told me that he felt upset. He was glad

when it was all over and we were back in our room.

A few days later my caretaker took me on a long journey. It took ages, and I was starting to feel a knot in my tummy when we stopped and the door opened and I could jump out and sniff my surroundings. No sooner had I done that when I was greeted by the same visitors I'd met a week ago! They swarmed all over me and we said hello. I was happy to meet them and hoped they were happy to meet me too.

MEETING MY NEW FAMILY

My caretaker took me for a walk in their garden. It was interesting, with lots of space to explore, treats and new things to smell. The humans were talking together when suddenly the atmosphere changed, and I knew trouble was coming from a dog named Hannah. Oh dear – I'd encroached onto her territory and she wasn't happy. Being the sensible gal that I am, I made all the right moves and submitted to Hannah, apologising for the intrusion and agreeing that this was her domain. Boy, she didn't let up and disciplined me all afternoon. I spent a lot of time on my back begging for acceptance, but she was a tough nut and determined to show me who was boss. She even made me spend the first night outside, and although I had a comfy bed, I was bewildered by the change and missed my cuddly friend Stevie.

The next morning dawned bright and new, and I was ready to play. With ears up and a mischievous look in my eye, bowing and tail wagging, I soon encouraged my new doggy friends to zoom around the garden with me. That broke the ice and we settled down together – hooray! I was grudgingly accepted by Hannah, which meant that my life would get easier every day. I had freedom of the garden, time to explore, space to play and friends to play with. My new caretakers were around talking and touching me gently. They allowed me to adjust, and I plucked up the courage to creep into their rooms, keeping a watchful eye on Hannah in case she didn't approve. She kept her eyes on me, so I

The story of how I was adopted and found my new family

knew I had to respect her, but I also knew that I belonged to this new pack and could now come inside to sleep.

SETTLING DOWN

I'm a clever gal and watched my siblings get their food at suppertime, provided they did that bum plonk thing. Now I know how to get my supper, and if I smell anything delicious, a bum plonk works to get that delicious-smelling titbit as well. However, I've been told that paws up on the table is not okay – which makes sense, because my tongue did have trouble reaching the delicious smell, so I guess I should wait for the dish to be placed on the floor. It's much easier for me to eat that way.

Another thing that happened is a change of name. Apparently, the names "Hannah" and "Sasha" sounded too similar, so the humans asked me if I'd like the name "Twiggy", because I'm long, thin and brown like a stick. And I thought it was because of my long legs and model looks! Just kidding. I'm happy to be their Twiggy. Which reminds me, I did pose for a photo shoot at Dogtown, so I hope they use those pictures to show you what a beautiful gal I am, with an elegant long neck perfect for showing off my necklace and tag.

LIVING MY BEST LIFE

The humans also have a regular habit of collaring me and Hannah and going for a run around the neighbourhood. At first it was very noisy, and I did jump out of the way for a few unusual objects (you never know, hey – it's safer to jump out of the way) but Hannah just kept on running. So, I thought, okay, I'll run alongside her, and everything was much better after that. Running is soothing. I settled into a rhythm and felt a lot calmer jogging along. Mind you, I still have time for zoomies when we get back 'cos there are two other friends to play with: small brown Gracie, who reminds me of a rabbit, and grey Jabu, who's older, so I respect him. However, Gracie is always game to be chased until she rolls over and squeaks. Then I know she's had

enough play, so we sniff around and then go sun-bathing.

Oh, before I go, I must tell you about Freya, the Great Dane next door. We've had our chats – she tells me that she was rescued a few months back and has settled happily. She's a goofy gal, and every time her human arrives home, Freya pops her head over the wall to tell us, so we all rush to answer her back until our human says we must come away for a treat. It's fun shouting at Freya, but I think the treat is more fun, so I may just give up on her bouncy big head when it pops up.

Oh, gotta go, my human has a brush in her hand, and I love a brush, so I'm going to stand in line for my turn. Chat soon, folks. Looking forward to those soothing strokes. Love, Twiggy. 🐾



TALKING ABOUT LYMPHOMA IN DOGS

By Dr Larry Kraitzick, Bruma Lake Veterinary Clinic



Lymphoma is a cancer of lymphocytes in lymphoid tissue. About 15% of malignant tumours in dogs are lymphomas, and whilst they most often occur in the lymph nodes, spleen and/or liver, they can occur in many other organs.

Lymphoma primarily affects middle age to older dogs, and only about 20% of dogs with lymphoma are clinically ill when diagnosed; the majority are brought to the veterinarian because of recently identified swellings or lumps.

CAUSES OF LYMPHOMA

We do not, at this time, understand why lymphoma occurs in dogs. In cats, there's a link between some forms of lymphoma and

infection with certain viruses. However, in dogs this link has not, as yet, been found. There's a strong possibility that there's a genetic predisposition to lymphoma, as well as other types of cancer. Dogs who have a suppressed immune system do also appear to be at increased risk.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The symptoms of lymphoma in dogs vary according to the location of the tumour or tumours. Some non-specific symptoms such as fever, listlessness, decreased appetite and/or weight loss may be present. Tumours that develop in the lymph nodes often present as swellings with no other symptoms. When the lymphoma is present in the

gastrointestinal tract, vomiting, diarrhoea, weight loss, and lack of appetite are commonly seen. Tumours in the chest often present with shortness of breath and/or coughing.

TREATMENT

Treatment for lymphoma in the dog consists of chemotherapy. Lymphoma is considered a systemic disease, which makes surgery and radiation impractical and ineffective as a primary treatment. There are a wide variety of chemotherapy protocols and drugs that are currently being used to treat lymphoma, which usually consist of a combination of oral and injectable drugs. The exact treatment protocol will vary depending on the patient,



By **Dr Larry Kraitzick**
BVSc MRCVS
Facebook: @drlarrykrait



We do not, at this time, understand why lymphoma occurs in dogs

tumour subtype, pet parent and the veterinarian. Although most veterinarians can perform chemotherapy, it's advisable to consult with a veterinarian who's experienced in chemotherapy.

PROGNOSIS


Perhaps the most important question dog owners want answered about lymphoma is the survival rate and how long a dog diagnosed with lymphoma has

to live. The answer, unfortunately, isn't that simple. Lymphomas vary widely in their aggressiveness, and the prognosis will also depend on the stage of your dog's cancer at the time of treatment and the choice of treatment itself.

No owner wants to hear that their dog has lymphoma, but there are steps owners can take to help them and their dogs after diagnosis. Talk to your vet about

the available treatment options and about what to expect as the disease progresses.

Medical terms explained

Lymphocytes – small white blood cells that play a vital role in the immune system and protecting against disease. Lymphoid tissue – tissue in which lymphocytes are concentrated to protect and respond to threats to the body. This tissue is found in the lymph nodes, spleen, liver, intestine and many other organs. 

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BANDIT AND THE SMOKEY

By Marizanne Ferreira

Saving a neglected Pit Bull and a shelter dog, and loving them unconditionally



You may ask how a young man who has never owned a dog and who certainly had no intention of getting a dog ended up being the perfect Daddy to two rescue dogs.

It was a normal day on the 1st of June 2019 when Marc noticed a very forlorn, emaciated male Pit Bull in the street. Being the man he is, he felt sorry for the dog and took him in to his property, feeding him and giving him fresh water. The exhausted dog soon fell asleep in the sun.

Marc Sing Key extensively networked the dog to find its owners and was dead set on taking him to a nearby shelter if no owner was found. Ten days in (the legal requirement is seven days), waiting to hear from an owner, Marc realised that he'd fallen in love and that this dog was going nowhere.

Bandit loved his new home, doted on his Daddy, and things were going just dandy.

SCARY TIMES

Six weeks later, Marc and Bandit's union was

threatened when a man arrived at Marc's home, claiming that Bandit was his dog. He could provide no proof, no photographs, no paperwork, no microchip – nothing. It was evident that he saw Bandit in the garden and was taking a chance.

Marc called me for advice, and I suggested that he call the SAP. While Marc was on the phone with the police, the guy grabbed Bandit and tried to haul him over the gate, which Marc quickly put a stop to.

The so-called owner gave up on his quest, and for now Bandit and Marc were safe. However, I explained to Marc it would be just a matter of time before Bandit would be stolen. He sterilised and microchipped Bandit and did the necessary alterations to his property to keep the dog safe.

A FRIEND FOR BANDIT

But this was not the end of Marc and Bandit's happy story. Bandit, being the jovial, happy and friendly fellow he is, needed a friend – and that was a need that I could just not resist!

I suggested to Marc that he come to meet a medium-sized x-breed female, and after a visit or two to the Animal Welfare Society PE, both Marc and Bandit fell in love with Julie, a sweet just-a-brown-dog. Julie was then aptly named Smokey.

ALWAYS TOGETHER

Soon our dog walking group in PE was flooded with happy Bandit and Smokey photos – playing, sleeping, walking, never separated, always together. We hope you enjoyed the story of how a first-time pet owner saved a neglected Pit Bull and a shelter dog, loving them unconditionally.

Bandit's story is such a grand example of why it's important to put your Pit Bull behind a minimum of 2m high walls, why it's important for your Pit Bull not to be visible from the street, and why you should always sterilise your Pit Bull and have him or her microchipped. Be a responsible Pit Bull owner! 🐾

Loving SCARLETT

By Luke Kruyt (TEARS Animal Rescue)

Scarlett is queen of the castle and living the life she so deserves



Scarlett is one of those dogs that wriggle into your heart slowly but surely, and for the TEARS team, none of us could figure out why she was one of our long stayers. Why did she have to wait so long for her forever home? Sure, she could be tricky at times, as she was very particular about whom she liked and whom she just didn't gel with. But she also had a way of batting her eyelashes and smiling, and one of the things we remember about her, apart from her stunning speckled coat and long brown eyelashes, was the way she'd press up against the gate of her run for a good scratch and a pat if one of her chosen people happened to be nearby.

Scarlett was rescued from Ocean View, where she'd been wandering around the streets as a stray. As nobody came forward to claim her, she was made available for adoption. Having spent a while fending for herself, it was understandable that she was bossy with other dogs, so it took some time to find the right kennel mate. When she found Wally, it was a great match, and they settled down happily like the ideal couple. So, when Wally was adopted, the search was on again for a suitable kennel mate for Scarlett.

MEANT TO BE

With all the dogs in foster care at the beginning of lockdown, there were high hopes that her foster family would turn into a home for keeps. This didn't happen for Scarlett, but one day an application came in from someone who'd seen her profile on the website and had fallen in love without meeting her. Knowing how particular Scarlett could be with trusting new people, we were holding our breath to see what would happen when they met. Well, it was love at first sight for both of them, and after 1,264 days in kennels, Scarlett finally found the home she'd been waiting for.

Now she's queen of the castle and living the life she so deserves. Her new mom is smitten, and they make a great team. She loves snuggling on her fancy custom-made bed, chilling in front of the TV, and making up for lost time enjoying the comforts of a real home after so long. Scarlett, you're missed by all who knew you at TEARS, but for all the right reasons! 🐾

The Tale of Jimmy and Bonnie

Our fur kids were shown tender love and care all the time and even spoilt with treats



Jimmy and Bonnie Marshall, two South African-born Scottish Terriers, recently caused quite a stir on social media. They became the first clients to be successfully relocated to their new home in Auckland, New Zealand, since what is now known as March, BC (Before Corona). Jimmy and Bonnie's family relocated in January 2020 after checking them into BKC Pet, Kennels and Cattery. What was initially supposed to be a two-month stay and departure after receipt of their test results, turned into a seven-month stay due to the worldwide pandemic.

Jimmy and Bonnie checked into our partner kennels and cattery and developed an amazing relationship with their head pet handler, Piason. BKC Pet in Johannesburg understand how important routine is in the lives of fur babies and worked religiously with Jimmy and Bonnie, providing them with a sense of love, family, care, health and wellness. BKC Pet made sure to send through pictures and videos weekly of daily playtime sessions. They even had a special

birthday party for Jimmy and Bonnie while in their care!

TIME TO FLY

In May 2020, a limited number of airline carriers opened up flight routings, but to our dismay, Qantas, the only direct flight, announced that it wouldn't be touching the skies until November

2020 and was under a full embargo. Thankfully, in late June, Emirates came to our rescue by announcing a three-day flight plan from JHB – Dubai – Bangkok – Auckland for live animal travel.

With careful planning, Bev, their International Consultant, arranged final vet checks, documentation and booking of quarantine and flights, and Jimmy and Bonnie were set to leave South Africa on the 4th of August. They successfully arrived in Dubai at 4:30am on the 5th of August and DKC – Dubai Kennels and Cattery – handled their transit care. On the 6th of August they made their way to Auckland and arrived in quarantine on the 7th of August.

All transiting animal stations and Pet Haven Quarantine in Auckland provided the best care for these precious fur kids before they reunited with their family on the 17th of August 2020.

We at PETport are honoured to have been a part of this journey and commend the Marshalls on keeping their family together. Being separated during this pandemic hasn't been easy for

many families across the world. We thank the Marshalls, Jimmy and Bonnie, for being an absolute joy to work with. Even during the most stressful times they remembered that we're a team!

Here's a note from Cindi Marshall, Jimmy and Bonnie's mom – *We couldn't ask for a better company or bunch of people to look after our precious fur kids.*

We received excellent service and communication all the time (even with our country time differences), and you were always available or would respond to our messages as soon as you could. Our fur kids were shown tender love and care all the time and even spoilt with treats.

Outside groomers were even arranged for them on our request, just showing us how far you were always willing to go for your customers. Jimmy and Bonnie are happy and healthy and were taken such good care of, which at the end of the day is what was most important to us.

Nothing was ever too much trouble. You are all simply the BEST! 🐾

About PETport

PETport is a registered pet travel and relocation specialist service, affiliated with major international animal governing body, IPATA (International Pet Animal Transport Association) and ATA (Animal Transportation Association). With international training and hands-on experience passed down from one generation to the next, PETport is the best choice to transport fur babies, fluff babies and feather babies. For more information, email info@petport.co.za or call 0867 227 678.

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Miniature Schnauzer (-ology)

By Deborah Blane



Schnauzers consist of three breeds: the giant, standard, and miniature. The Miniature Schnauzer breed is the most common in South Africa and is a popular and favourite family pet.

The Miniature Schnauzer is a dog breed that has it all in one small package: intelligence, affection, an extroverted temperament, humour, and a personality that's twice as big as they are. Throw in that signature beard and quivering enthusiasm and they'll make you laugh every day. With a Miniature Schnauzer in the house, you'll never be alone, not even when you go to the bathroom. They've got personality-plus, and whether they're bounding around ahead of you or curled up snoozing on your lap, you'll never be bored with them around.

HISTORY

Miniature Schnauzers were originally bred to be ratters and guard dogs on farms. They were developed in the mid-to-late 19th century in Germany by crossbreeding the Standard Schnauzer with smaller breeds, such as the Miniature Pinscher, Affenpinscher, and perhaps the Poodle or Pomeranian. In Germany, he's known as the Zwergschnauzer ("zwerg" means "dwarf").



Affectionate, intelligent, mischievous, and often stubborn

LIVING WITH A MINIATURE SCHNAUZER

The Miniature Schnauzer is people-oriented and wants nothing more than to hang out with you. They're incredibly affectionate, intelligent, mischievous, and often stubborn. They need to sleep inside and be part of the family, and they need lots of love and attention, as a bored Miniature Schnauzer is an unhappy Miniature Schnauzer. Because they're intelligent and energetic, they thrive on varied activities and exercise. Make sure that you give them both, or they'll become destructive and depressed.

Miniature Schnauzers are protective of home and family and are good guard dogs, as they'll bark at noises. Although good with well-behaved children and other dogs, they're not to be trusted around small mammals.

HEALTH AND GROOMING

Miniature Schnauzers are low-shedding but high-maintenance in terms of grooming. They need to be groomed every four to six weeks and brushed regularly. They can have very sensitive tummies, so they need to be fed a good-quality, balanced dog food. The lifespan of a Miniature Schnauzer is 12 to 18 years, and they should weigh between 7 and 10 kilograms. They can be prone to obesity. Although considered to be a pretty healthy breed, Miniature

Schnauzers still have a tendency towards certain dog illnesses such as diabetes, bladder stones, and pancreatitis.

SCHNAUZER FRIENDS SOUTH AFRICA COMMUNITY

Our mission is to spread joy and happiness to Schnauzers and Schnauzerholics! Schnauzer Friends South Africa is a large, happy and crazy community of Miniature Schnauzer parents in South Africa. We love, celebrate, share and enjoy the Miniature Schnauzer breed. We have over 20,000 members and are united by a common love of precious Miniature Schnauzers.

We host monthly Miniature Schnauzer fun walks in Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and George. We welcome all socialised, sterilised Miniature Schnauzers.

We share information to assist Miniature Schnauzer owners to look after this special breed. This includes nutrition, sterilisations, microchipping, socialisation,

grooming, and general health. We teach Miniature Schnauzer grooming and have an online Miniature Schnauzer home grooming course for people who want to groom at home.

We assist with Miniature Schnauzer puppy guidelines to assist new owners to make the right choices. Puppy farms and unethical backyard breeders are a sad reality in South Africa. In 2015, we ran a huge rescue project where 320 Miniature Schnauzers were rescued from a network of puppy farms in Mpumalanga and rehomed into loving homes.

We network Miniature Schnauzers when they're lost, found, or they need a new forever home via our social media platforms.

Visit the Schnauzer Friends website at www.schnauzer-friendsza.com and follow our super-popular Facebook page Schnauzer Friends – South Africa. You'll also find us on Instagram at @schnauzerholics. 



THE JOURNEY OF A SCHNAUZERHOLIC

BY DEBORAH BLANE



Maximilian (pictured on the cover) arrived in December 2012, and my life was never the same again. Max brought so much joy and happiness to my life. We loved going to the park, walking along the river and hanging out with all our new park friends. At night we'd cuddle up and watch TV and then snuggle up for a good night's sleep.

Seven years later, I'm

now the proud mom to four Miniature Schnauzers! I call them the Schroyal Family. They're my best friends and confidantes. Together we tackle life's ups and downs, enjoy adventures and have made many new friends. Some days I think my heart is going to explode because I love them so much. They're bundles of love and

happiness, and they each have their own unique personalities. Max is gentle, Rosabella is loving, Thomas is naughty, and Annabella is a bundle of adventure! They all love teasing hadedas and enjoy wrestling and playing with each other. Our home is full of laughter and Schnauzer smiles. At night we all snuggle up on our queen-sized bed while I read them a bedtime story. We go on holidays together, visit granny and grandpa, visit friends, and I throw legendary Miniature Schnauzer birthday parties.

I started Schnauzer Friends South Africa in 2014 as I wanted to create a community of like-minded Schnauzer parents. We have 20,000 members and host monthly Miniature Schnauzer fun walks all around South Africa. I'm officially a proud Schnauzerholic!

In 2012, I decided to become a doggy parent. I wanted a small dog that was robust enough to take on walks and adventures but would also be cute and cuddly so that I could snuggle up with them while watching TV. I found that the Miniature Schnauzer was the perfect fit for me.

Nine-week-old puppy HRH

MY HAPPY FAMILY

BY SAMANTHA NOLAN

4am. Cape Town. Heavy rain. Thunder. Lightning. In the crook of my arm is Kimchi. Lindt and Petit Four are cuddled up tightly by my side, being comforted and loved through the storm. Hops is chilled. Always. His biggest excitement is food. He loves eating. Really loves eating.

All four are Miniature Schnauzer rescues from Schnauzer Friends South Africa. Kimchi was our first. In 2015 she was rescued from a horrendous puppy mill with 300 others. She was flown to us in Cape Town. We hadn't met before, and I so clearly remember the day we collected her from the airport; I had to "peel" this underweight, scared princess out of her travelling crate. I hugged her for what seemed an eternity. I cried and I'm sure she did too. It was an incredibly emotional

event and one that created a beautiful, inseparable bond between us. Today she's a confident, attention-demanding, happy girl.

Matriarch of the pack is Petit Four. She sorts out any schnaughtiness. Quickly.

Our "laatlammejie" is Lindt. She's just like a toddler, wanting to be picked up 24/7. She's also an avid gardener and loves bedtime stories. Lindt sleeps between our pillows every night and in the morning pushes herself closer to me or on top of me to cuddle, kiss, and get her daily dose of back and ear scratches. The moans and groans of satisfaction are music to my ears.

We love adventures, going to the beach or the park, but their best adventure is the monthly Cape Town Schnauzer Friends Fun Walk. They love seeing their friends and

socialising!

Each one of these gorgeous fur kids has their own personalities and are loved beyond measure. Schnauzers are the best dogs ever, and yes, I may be biased, but honestly, I don't know how we ever lived without them.



ADVENTURE SCHNAUZERS LEVI AND JAKE

BY AMANDA KRUGER

Three years ago, I adopted two Miniature Schnauzer brothers called Levi and Jake. Chris loved them but had to go work abroad. Having pets was definitely not on my list, as my passion is long-distance adventure bicycle touring. I wanted to be an awesome doggy mommy, so I decided that we'd all do it together!

Jake took to the bicycle like a rocket. He was a natural. He was born to run – my little Schnauzie Greyhound, I call him. In the beginning, it took great patience with Levi to come along on my cycle route on our farm in Stellenbosch. I literally had to beg him. He'd stop at the end of the vineyard and just sit down, refusing to carry on after just

200m. But I kept on asking Levi to come, never giving up on him. Levi loves water, and I used the dams for rewards. I'd cycle dam to dam, and he loved it. Eventually I could go further to the neighbours' farms, and he loved the adventure. After a year they easily covered 30km with me on the farm and neighbouring mountains.

Jake and Levi love our daily cycling adventures. On days when I don't feel like cycling, Jake runs away with my cycle shoes, cycle gloves and socks. Levi gives me the death stare while every movement I make is under four eyes full of hope. It's just easier to get the bicycle out and cycle and have peace and



happy dogs.

I never had to give up my passion because of two fur balls. Our longest adventure is 800km over 21 days from Cape Town to Knysna on the coastal back roads. When they get tired, they hop in my doggy trailer. I can't imagine cycling without them. They love cuddling and are my best friends. We are a happy family!

WHO'S THE BOSS?

BY MARK AND LYNNE ECKHOF



The 20th of January 2017 was the day that our lives changed forever. It was the day that the cutest little Miniature Schnauzer puppy called Bailey joined our family. She

took over our lives the second her cute little paws came through the front door!

We were already parents to two beautiful Staffies, Blade and

Storm, who, given their size and nature, were going to be formidable siblings. The second they met their little sister Bailey, she explained to them that she was now the BOSS!

Fast forward three and a half years, and Bailey is still the BOSS. She's our princess. The Staffies love her and are protective of her. Bailey is cute, cuddly, gentle and loving. She loves car rides (knowing we're off to see her Miniature Schnauzer friends), a walk in the park, or an adventure hike. She has a special doggy seat that she sits in like a princess, and she waves her paw at people as we drive by. We love buying her beautiful collars and designer jackets. She struts around like a super model, knowing she looks

fabulous.

I home groom Bailey because I love knowing she's safe with me, and I enjoy the flexibility of being able to groom when I want, or more importantly, when Bailey wants. We've met the most wonderful fellow Miniature Schnauzer lovers through the monthly Schnauzer Friends South Africa Fun Walks. The joy and excitement of seeing in excess of 70 – 80 Miniature Schnauzers running around, socialising, and having a good time is heart-warming, to say the least! Bailey is so tired by the end of the walk that she barely makes it out of the car park before she's fast asleep, dreaming of the next adventure with her friends!

IRRESISTIBLE LIVER BREAD RECIPE

By Deborah Blane

My Schnauzers Max, Rosabella, Thomas and Annabella's favourite treat in all the world is Liver Bread. I like it because I know exactly what's in it, and it has no preservatives. It's really quick and easy to make, and I store any extra in my freezer and use as and when required. It's great for treats, for training, as a snack, and to crumble on top of their food. You can also use the same recipe to make a birthday cake or muffins.

Ingredients:

Puree in Blender –

- 500g raw liver (any good ox/chicken liver. I find that the ox liver has a better result. A tip is to ask the butcher to already chop it up for you).
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup (optional)

Dry ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1½ cups whole-wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate/baking soda

Optional additions:

- Add some yummy vegetables like grated raw baby marrow, broccoli and/or cooked mashed sweet potato, butternut or pumpkin. These really give the Liver Bread a lovely consistency and makes it even more healthy.
- Add some green onion seasoning or chicken spice, etc. for flavour.
- Substitute some of the flour with potato or rice flour if you don't want too much wheat.

Method:

- In a large bowl, add the blended wet mixture to the dry ingredients and stir until mixed.
- Then add the vegetables/spices and stir into the mixture.
- Place mixture in a greased flat baking tray.
- Bake at 180 degrees Celsius for about 12 minutes (check cooked through).
- Once cooled, cut into squares and serve.

- I freeze what I don't need and take out and defrost when required.

Recipe Variations

To make doggy muffins or a cake: Place mixture in a greased muffin or cake tin. Bake at 180 degrees Celsius for about 20/25 minutes (check cooked through). Decorate with biltong, biltong powder, low fat smooth cream cheese or peanut butter. You can even stick doggy biscuits on top and add a candle for birthday celebrations!



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Practical Dosing Guidelines:

- A 'dose' is 5 pillules (dogs, cats & small animals) and 10 pillules (horse & large animals)
- One cannot overdose, thus rather dose 'too frequently' initially than not. Once a positive response is observed, decrease frequency.
- The 'purest' homeopathic method of dosing is onto a 'clean mouth', directly from the cap. However, with animals one must be practical, adaptive and inventive; Dogs and horses generally love the sugar based pillules but one can crush 5-10 pillules between plastic spoons, add a little water and pour/syringe into their mouths. (the remedy is instantaneously absorbed via the buccal mucosa in the mouth).
- One can dissolve 10 – 15 pillules into the pets drinking water (preferably a plastic bowl).
- As a last resort, add into some food or the feed. (The correct remedy will 'break through' and heal).
- Cats will often take with yoghurt or milk.

Dosing:

- In Acute cases such as stings, bites, injury and shock, dose every 15-30 minutes x 3 doses, then every 1 – 2 hours x 3 doses, thereafter every 4 hours until relief is obtained.
- For General, less acute conditions, 3 x Daily till well, will suffice.
- For more CHRONIC conditions, E.g. Arthritis or Kidney issues, dose just once daily, once a positive response to the acute phase is achieved. (Stop dosing once desired results are achieved – dose only while symptoms are present)

NB: Should a positive response to the symptom, not be seen within 3-5 days, then referral to a homeopathic Vet or Veterinary Practitioner is strongly advised.



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- anti-virabac 30c** homeopathic 'antibiotic', stimulating the body to fight viral & bacterial infection.
- arthritis complex 30c** inflammatory pain, arthritis & rheumatism.
- bites 30c** serious bites, i.e. spider, scorpion, snake & dog bite.
- boils & abscesses 6c** boils, abscesses & ulcers (can push out splinters).
- calming 30c** general calative - helps reduce anxiety & cope with stressful situations.
- cystitis 30c** acute bladder infection, frequent burning urination - often involuntary.
- dermatitis complex 12c** general skin conditions, incl. mange, dermatitis, eczema, dry unhealthy stinging, itching & burning skin.
- d.v.c. 30c (diarrhoea, vomiting & cramping)** gastro-intestinal symptoms & dehydration.
- fracture/osteo 30c** bone & teeth maintenance - repair of fractured bones.
- haematonic 6c** general blood tonic. Excellent in recuperative situations e.g. post biliary & post-op.
- hayfever 6c** itchy eyes & nose, sneezing with watery discharges.
- injury 6c** bruises, sprains, muscle strain, nerve & crush injuries. Shock of accident.
- kennel cough & cold 30c** chest symptoms, including cough, cold & fever.
- muco drainol 30c** drains thick mucous from chest, nose, eyes and ears.
- otitis 30c (ears)** general ear conditions; ear canker, otitis externa, pain & itching.
- ringworm/fungal 12c** skin & hoof conditions caused by ringworm fungi; itching, irritation & hair loss.
- renal 12c** kidney & bladder issues of a more chronic nature.
- snuffles complex 12c (cats)** specifically to treat the associated symptoms & conditions of cat rhinotracheitis.
- sting & itch 30c** insect stings & bites. Itchy skin of an allergic nature.
- throat 30c** sore, inflamed, infected throats.
- travel sickness 30c** nausea, vomiting & vertigo associated with motion.
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By the makers of Ricky Litchfield, known for its natural and highly effective products with the active ingredient Buchu, now comes a brand new range of skin care and grooming products specially formulated for cats. The Ricky Cats range includes Feline First Aid Gel, which is ideal for injuries; EarWise ear cleaning solution, to keep kitty's ears fresh and clean; and Purrfect Care Wipes, to assist with grooming, including the nose, ears, eyes and paws. Visit www.rickypetproducts.com for more information and a list of stockists.



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Montego Pet Nutrition's Sauce for Dogs and Sauce Plus range now comes in vibrant new packaging that's brighter and reflects the personality of the family-owned brand as it stands today – a unique,

progressive, innovative, and successful pet food manufacturer. A little Sauce goes a long way to making already nutritious meals extra delicious and flavourful. Sauce for Dogs comes in four mouth-watering flavours, including Boerewors, Grilled Chicken, Roast Lamb and Grilled Steak, with two specialised sauces that target joint and cartilage or skin and coat health. These are sure to become your dog's new squeeze! Sauce for Dogs is available in 500ml bottles at a RRP of R37.00 and specialised sauces at a RRP of R45.00. Visit Montego's website for more information.

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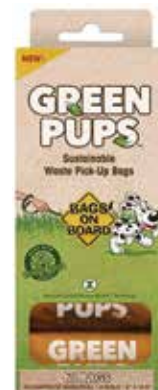
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**UNLEASH
YOUR DOG'S
INNER
LEGEND**



All photos courtesy of Marusckha Wessels

A REACH FOR SKYE

After an intruder attacked the Wessels family in their home in Richards Bay during the night, not only did Hans and his son, Daniel, require medical treatment, but also their pure-bred Pitbull, Skye, had to be rushed to surgery.

Her injuries were very severe, but this brave member of the family had given everything to protect her pack from an intruder who fled into the night.

The physical ordeal was over, but soon reality set in. Extensive surgery comes at a price, and the Wessels family was in despair. They had no idea where the money would come from.

"The biggest hero in this story is the SPCA," says Hans straight off the bat. "I don't know how, but they heard about Skye and the next day they called and asked how they can help. They took total control and ran with it."

Soon the call went out on the SPCA Facebook page, and Skye's owner and career photographer, Marusckha, offered 5 photoshoots to followers of her Capture Life Photography page if they would donate to the SPCA to help Skye.

"It spread like wildfire. I couldn't believe it. People donated from

England and New Zealand. Right over SA! Everywhere!" exclaims Hans. Raking in almost 4000 shares, the community united to save the hero.

Patsy Blignaut, a Richards Bay resident who supported the outreach, says, "Our community immediately jumped in and donated towards the vet bill. I've shared it far and wide



on Facebook... It's heart-warming to see the help that poured in. We get updates on her progress and I am delighted to see that she is well and healthy again. I am proud of our town people!"

In fact, the response was so overwhelming that it took only 3 days to cover the bills. Messages of support, concern, and donations kept pouring in. "We had to ask people to stop sending money," says Hans.

Hans continues, "When we walk around town, heads turn. People come up to us and ask, 'Aren't you Skye's owners? We also donated. How is Skye doing?' It definitely brought the community together."

Overwhelmed by the outpouring from their community, Marusckha and Skye decided to dedicate their 67 minutes on Mandela Day to help the animals at the SPCA by donating food. "If it wasn't for them helping us, we would really have struggled to gather the money for her," says Marusckha.



**"It spread like wildfire.
People donated from
England and New Zealand.
Right over SA! Everywhere!"**

Hans says he has seen many animal shelters in his previous career as a police officer, "There is no other SPCA like Richards Bay. It's the best in the country because of the people who work there. Beverly Thole and Engela Hamman are truly amazing. And Dr Singery and Dr Charl Nehore who treated Skye at Meerensee, they are fantastic with the animals."

"We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team in Meerensee who have once again shown the will to go above and beyond the call of duty," relates Gail Nel a long-time client of Meerensee Veterinary Clinic.

At Skye's last check-up the vets gave her a clean bill of health. "She's back to her old self. Her hair just needs to grow back," says Hans.



Like all great stories this one starts with a conflict, tragedy, and despair. But, really, it's what happens thereafter that reignites our belief in the real everyday heroes all around us.



Footnote: Local police instantly recognised the intruder on the CCTV footage from the incident. They have since tracked him down and arrested him in relation to four other open cases.

Looking for Love

A nation's worth of canine cuteness is yours to take in... right now!

ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY (Port Elizabeth)



BUDDY is a handsome two-year-old boy who was surrendered to AWS PE. Buddy would be best with a social female. He's lived with children and loves his beach outings. He's a gentle, affectionate boy who'll make a great family pet.



NOAH is a sweet, dark chocolate-brown boy who's been in our care for many months. He's social with other dogs and loves to be around people. Noah thrives on companionship and is happy to hop in the car and join you on a trip. Noah has lived with children and loves his daily exercise. He's approximately three years old.



PEBBLES is a beautiful three-year-old girl who was rescued from an informal settlement where she had multiple litters. She now needs a new beginning in a home where she'll be adored and taken care of. Pebbles is a happy girl who's always smiling, and she'd be happy as an only dog or share her home with a social male. She loves her toys and has lived with children.



DAPPER is a gentle boy who arrived at AWS PE totally neglected. He was found in an industrial area, shivering and petrified, and was brought to safety. He's made amazing progress and is now ready to meet the perfect family. He loves meeting new dogs, and he's approximately one year old. He'll need a patient owner who has lots of love to give.

Photography by Marianne Browne

A NEW HOPE DOG RESCUE (Johannesburg)



MICHAEL is the sweetest old man you can imagine. He loves toys and people of all ages. He presses himself against the wire in his run for love from anyone who comes to visit. Micheal is great with other dogs and would make the perfect member of any family. He's around seven or eight years old.



MAURA is a social and energetic girl who dances on the spot for attention. She's great with children and other dogs, so all she needs now is a family to love her. We estimate Maura to be around four years old.



DAISY is only about two years of age. This gorgeous girl, who's very friendly and energetic, is beautifully social with people and other dogs and enjoys long walks and games. Can you make Daisy's dreams come true and give her a forever home?



KIA arrived with three very young pups and has done an amazing job raising them; now it's her turn to find a forever home. She's a Boerboel cross Labrador with a very sweet nature, and she's great with children. Kia is about four years old.

Photography by Philson Photography

ANIMAL ANTI-CRUELTY LEAGUE (Cape Town)



CHLOE is a one-year-old Collie-cross girl. This beautiful girl is with us at the AACL in Epping, and she'd love to find a family of her own to love and care for her. She's sociable with other dogs so would make the perfect addition to your family. Contact AACL in Cape Town for more information on Chloe, as well as all the other wonderful dogs looking for forever homes.



BRODY is only ten months old and finds himself looking for a home to call his own. This absolutely gorgeous German Shepherd cross is sociable with other dogs and would be the perfect walking companion. If you'd like to meet this handsome boy, pop down to our shelter to meet Brody and many other wonderful dogs just like him.



Yanka-Kvanita says that there is no such thing as a problem dog. She says there is, however, no shortage of problem owners.

WHERE TO FIND THEM...

ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY PE (PORT ELIZABETH)

BUDDY, NOAH, PEBBLES & DAPPER

AWS PE is an open shelter for stray and abandoned animals in Port Elizabeth. The shelter was founded in 1971. Our aim is to rehome as many animals as possible into loving forever homes. We also work in the neighbouring Walmer Township, offering veterinary care and sterilisations. For more information on the work we do, please visit our website, www.awspe.co.za. To find out how to adopt, please contact Adoption Specialist Kathryn Schmelzer on Kathryn@awspe.co.za

A NEW HOPE DOG RESCUE (JOHANNESBURG)

MICHAEL, MAURA, DAISY & KIA

A New Hope Dog Rescue is a small family-run dog shelter located in Drumblade, Midvaal, Gauteng, South Africa. It's headed

up by mom, dog lover and passionate rescuer Liv Stirling. A New Hope Dog Rescue endeavours to break the mould of a "typical" shelter by providing large, social runs for the dogs in our care and the opportunity for them to be as much a part of a family as possible. Because of our unique set-up, most of the dogs are able to experience sleeping inside – many for the first time in their lives. A New Hope Dog Rescue is pro-life and doesn't euthanise unless the dogs are terminally ill or considered a danger to society – all steps are taken to rehabilitate any dogs in our care and find them homes suitable for their temperament. Email: anewhopeadopt@gmail.com or call 0818934427. Visit our website on www.anewhopedogrescue.com

ANIMAL ANTI-CRUELTY LEAGUE (CAPE TOWN)

BRODY & CHLOE

We're a non-profit-making organisation that doesn't receive a subsidy from the government. The Animal Anti-Cruelty League has been protect-

ing and caring for animals since 1956. We're the second biggest independent animal welfare organisation in South Africa and rely entirely upon the generosity and goodwill of the animal-loving public for financial support. We're an organisation that gets involved with all aspects of animal welfare. Our Dog Adoption fee is R850 and includes first vaccination, worm and flea treatment, compulsory sterilisation, microchip, and ID tag. Although Brody and Chloe are based in Cape Town, the Animal Anti-Cruelty League have branches throughout South Africa. Visit their website on www.aacl.co.za. For Cape Town adoptions, contact 021 534 6426/7, or email info@aacl-ct.co.za



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Bevat: Sarolaner 120 mg

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40.1 - 60.0 kg
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sarolaner

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Bevat: Sarolaner 80 mg

Base of tablets 30°C to avoid absorption
Basis van tablette 30°C om te voorkom absorpsie

Chewable tablets for dogs
Kiesbare tablette vir honde

3 tablets / 3 tablette

30.1 - 40.0 kg
80 mg

3 tablets / 3 tablette

zogenis

Simparica 40 mg
sarolaner

Reg. No. G4323 Act 36/1947

For the treatment and prevention of ticks and fleas on dogs.
Vir die voorkoming en behandeling van bosluise en vloede op honde.

Contains: Sarolaner 40 mg
Bevat: Sarolaner 40 mg

Base of tablets 30°C to avoid absorption
Basis van tablette 30°C om te voorkom absorpsie

Chewable tablets for dogs
Kiesbare tablette vir honde

3 tablets / 3 tablette

10.1 - 30.0 kg
40 mg

3 tablets / 3 tablette

zogenis

Simparica 20 mg
sarolaner

Reg. No. G4324 Act 36/1947

For the treatment and prevention of ticks and fleas on dogs.
Vir die voorkoming en behandeling van bosluise en vloede op honde.

Contains: Sarolaner 20 mg
Bevat: Sarolaner 20 mg

Base of tablets 30°C to avoid absorption
Basis van tablette 30°C om te voorkom absorpsie

Chewable tablets for dogs
Kiesbare tablette vir honde

3 tablets / 3 tablette

5.1 - 10.0 kg
20 mg

3 tablets / 3 tablette

zogenis

Simparica 10 mg
sarolaner

Reg. No. G4325 Act 36/1947

For the treatment and prevention of ticks and fleas on dogs.
Vir die voorkoming en behandeling van bosluise en vloede op honde.

Contains: Sarolaner 10 mg
Bevat: Sarolaner 10 mg

Base of tablets 30°C to avoid absorption
Basis van tablette 30°C om te voorkom absorpsie

Chewable tablets for dogs
Kiesbare tablette vir honde

3 tablets / 3 tablette

2.6 - 5.0 kg
10 mg

3 tablets / 3 tablette

zogenis

Simparica 5 mg
sarolaner

Reg. No. G4326 Act 36/1947

For the treatment and prevention of ticks and fleas on dogs.
Vir die voorkoming en behandeling van bosluise en vloede op honde.

Contains: Sarolaner 5 mg
Bevat: Sarolaner 5 mg

Base of tablets 30°C to avoid absorption
Basis van tablette 30°C om te voorkom absorpsie

Chewable tablets for dogs
Kiesbare tablette vir honde

3 tablets / 3 tablette

1.3 - 2.5 kg
5 mg

3 tablets / 3 tablette

zogenis

For animal use only.
SIMPARICA 5 mg (chewable tablets for dogs), Reg. No. G4326 (Act 36/1947). Each chewable tablet contains 5 mg sarolaner. SIMPARICA 10 mg (chewable tablets for dogs), Reg. No. G4325 (Act 36/1947). Each chewable tablet contains 10 mg sarolaner. SIMPARICA 20 mg (chewable tablets for dogs), Reg. No. G4324 (Act 36/1947). Each chewable tablet contains 20 mg sarolaner. SIMPARICA 40 mg (chewable tablets for dogs), Reg. No. G4323 (Act 36/1947). Each chewable tablet contains 40 mg sarolaner. SIMPARICA 80 mg (chewable tablets for dogs), Reg. No. G4322 (Act 36/1947). Each chewable tablet contains 80 mg sarolaner. SIMPARICA 120 mg (chewable tablets for dogs), Reg. No. G4321 (Act 36/1947). Each chewable tablet contains 120 mg sarolaner. For "WARNINGS" note, please refer to the package insert. For full product information refer to the package insert approved by the medicines regulatory authority.

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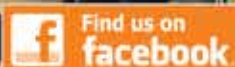
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