

THE BUGSY BULLETIN



FROM LET US DO THE WALKING

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✧ Highlights ✧



LIVING WITH DOGS

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The 5 Pillars of Successful Dog-Dog Greetings

1. Ask first, greet later. Always ask the owner's permission before you let your dog meet another dog. The other dog might be shy, fearful, leash reactive, or—who knows?—in training to learn better greeting manners. This goes doubly for dogs in off-leash areas: If the other dog is on leash, there's probably a reason. Call your dog to your side and clip on the leash until you are well past the other person.



2. No pulling to say hi. Your chances of a successful greeting increase if your dog doesn't come on too strong. Even between dogs it's not considered polite to rush up and put your nose into someone else's face. Insist on loose-leash walking on the approach. If your dog strains at the leash, change direction for a few steps and then try approaching the other dog again.

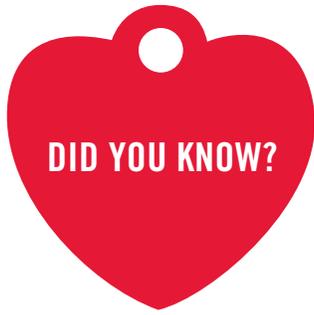
3. Relax. If you feel anxious about the greeting, your dog may pick up on it and react with over-excitement or fear. Take a deep breath, put on your best happy voice, and keep the leash nice and loose—a taut leash can add unintended tension.

4. Keep'em short and sweet. Even if two dogs are getting along famously, it's a good idea to cheerfully encourage your dog to walk away with you after 5–10 seconds. Why? If a fight is going to happen on leash, duration is almost always a component because leashed dogs don't have the option of increasing social distance when uncomfortable.

5. Don't force it. If your dog doesn't seem interested in saying hello, don't insist. Not all dogs enjoy the company of other dogs, and many dogs feel less comfortable saying hello while on leash. That's okay, too.

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"I care not
for a man's religion
whose dog and cat
are not better for it."
- Abraham Lincoln



These History-Changing Dogs?

Peritas. Alexander the Great's trusty companion who defended his master from a charging elephant during a battle and is credited with saving the life of the teenage commander.

Anonymous Newfie. During Napoleon Bonaparte's escape from his exile prison on the island of Elba, he fell overboard. A nearby fisherman's Newfoundland jumped in the water and rescued the pocket-sized tyrant who lived to see his Waterloo.

Donnchadh. The dog that ought to have been in Braveheart, Donnchadh belonged to Scottish nobleman Robert the Bruce. Though Englishmen followed the dog and thus tracked down Robert, their plan backfired when the dog put up a furious defense of his master. Robert the Bruce survived the encounter to become King of Scotland.



A WORLD OF DOGS

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When Canines Go Corporate—Office Etiquette For Dogs

That dogs are good for our health is an oft-quoted fact. By their mere presence, dogs lower our blood pressure, help prevent heart disease and obesity, and reduce stress. But that's not all. Dogs have an equally positive effect on our workplace environment, at least if you ask the one-in-five Americans who get to bring their dog to work.* Employees say being allowed to take dogs to work with them boosts creativity, friendliness, and productivity. Employers say pet-friendly policies mean less absenteeism and a noticeably greater enthusiasm, often resulting in employees working longer hours. All round, a "dogs welcome" workplace is cited as one of the most popular employee benefits.



Not every workplace is suitable for bringing dogs, of course.

What's more, not every dog is a good candidate for office dog. Any type of aggression disqualifies your dog; so does a lack of general manners. Dogs that are hyperactive, highly territorial or vocal, or shy or fearful are also not ideal staff members. What makes a great office dog? A well-behaved, well-groomed, friendly, house-trained dog that's up-to-date on all vaccinations.

If your workplace adopts a pet-friendly policy or you land a job where one already exists, and you happen to have a dog that fulfils the above criteria, why not to preserve this terrific policy by observing good etiquette? Be considerate toward coworkers who may not love animals or have allergies. Keep your dog on leash and bring in a baby gate if your workspace doesn't present a natural barrier that stops your dog from roaming the halls. Adopt a no-tolerance policy on counter- and trash can surfing, and bring all the appropriate gear: Treats, water bowl, dog bed, a favorite toy, chews, and a stain and odor remover in case of accidents.

Want to suggest or implement a pet-friendly policy at your workplace? For inspiration, read *Dogs at Work: A Practical Guide to Creating Dog-Friendly Workplaces* by Liz Palika and Jennifer Fearing.

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DOGS IN ACTION

Nose Work

Also called Fun Nose Work and K9 Nose Work. A chance for regular dogs and dog owners to get into scent work in a low-key, fun, positive-only manner—the way Rally-O is a relaxed version of obedience competition. Basically, if your dog has a nose, he can play this sport. Nose work involves training your dog to search for three scents: Birch, anise, and clove. But before you get that far, you begin with kindergarten-level searches for a favorite toy or treat. Aside from advancing levels of classes and actual competitions, this is a sport you can easily play in your yard, or anywhere.



Defying its newness, the sport is spreading fast, with classes, workshops, and practice groups mushrooming around the country. The brainchild of three Southern California dog trainers all experienced in detection work, nose work is excellent mental stimulation for dogs and fun for you, too, because it's designed to be easy to get started on. Unlike agility or flyball, it isn't physically strenuous, and it's a great activity for shy or reactive dogs because each dog works on his own with his handler, even in a group class.

For training info, visit Fun Nose Work at k9nosework.com. For competition info, visit the National Canine Scent Work Association at nacswnet



HEALTHY DOG

Ear Infections

Dog's ears are impressive. For example, they can swivel to locate the source of a sound in 6/100 of a second. However, the design of canine ear canals leaves something to be desired. Their shape (a downward plunge followed by a horizontal tract) can leave debris stuck too easily, which is why dogs—floppy-eared ones in particular—are prone to ear infections. Telltale signs include: Ear scratching, colored discharge, odor, redness, swelling, crusted or scabby skin, and impaired hearing. Also pay attention if your dog wipes his ear on the floor or furniture, or if he shakes his head a lot.

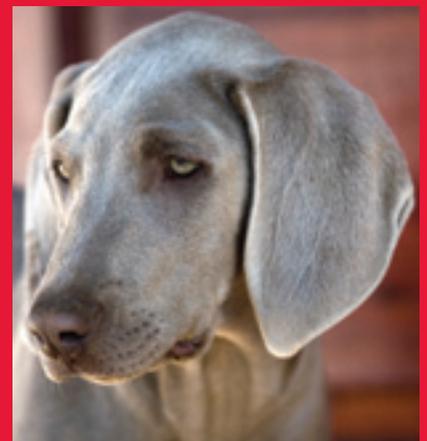
If you suspect a problem, it's important not to self-diagnose. Bacteria or yeast causes most ear infections, and both require veterinary treatment. To prevent infections, gently dry your dog's ears after swimming or baths, and occasionally clean his ears with a cotton ball dampened with a solution recommended by your vet.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Weimaraner

Nicknamed *the grey ghost* for his smooth, bluish-gray coat, the Weimaraner was bred for hunting wolves, boars, and deer in the thickly forested mountains of 19th-century Germany. The superjocks of the canine world, Weimaraners need daily NBA-quality workouts as well as mental stimulation to thrive. They bond strongly and dislike alone-time and boredom—not for nothing is the dog receiving therapy in the movie *Best In Show* a Weimaraner. Perhaps more than other dogs Weimaraners have been seen as near-human, reported to laugh and drink tea, or depicted as wearing hats and gloves (in William Wegman's photographs). A favorite of statesmen (presidents Atatürk, D'Estaing, and Eisenhower), pop culture icons (actors Esai Morales and Brad Pitt), and musicians (Kate Bush, Trent Reznor), Weimaraners add a unique combination of style and zest to any household.

To re-home a Weimaraner, contact your local rescue group.



OUR SERVICES



How To Spot Illness In Your Dog

Masking pain or illness is an evolutionary survival mechanism in dogs, which makes it hard to tell at times whether Fido is unwell. Here are some signs of trouble to look out for (when in doubt, always consult your vet):

- ✓ **Physical symptoms.** Vomiting, diarrhea, bloody stool, drooling, excessive thirst, rashes, swelling, discharge, wheezing, coughing, sneezing, flaky or crusted skin, dull coat, odor from mouth, skin, or ears.
- ✓ **Changes in behavior.** Loss of appetite, disorientation, circling, lethargy, persistent scratching or licking, twitching, trembling, head shaking, unprovoked crying out (a sign of acute, severe pain) or crying out when a specific area is touched (a sign of mild to moderate pain), seizures, frequent urination or unusually long urination. Lapses in house-training in adult dogs.

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WALKING**

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