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Category: All About Dogs

Subcategory: All About Dogs

Tip: Expectations: Removing stereotypes about dogs

One of the hardest obstacles to overcome is the stereotypes the general public has about specific breeds in dogs. For the majority of the time, it is the owners and not the dogs that have created the bad reputations or the misconceptions about certain breeds. Bigger is not always more aggressive – Mastiffs are incredibly gentle and not generally aggressive. The smaller breeds are not guaranteed not to bite – the only difference between their bite and a much bigger breed is the size of the bite – ALL dogs can bite if not socialized properly. Some breeds are referred to as 'hypo-allergenic' but all dogs will produce some forms of reactions in humans who are sensitive to animal dander. Labradoodles (Labrador/Poodle cross) are marketed as 'hypo-allergenic' and command greater prices accordingly. The original intent to produce dogs for the blind that did not cause allergies; this mix was proven to still cause allergies. Many of the 'puppy' breeds were thought to thrive in these pampered environments. As time went on, some of the breeds were bred smallest to smallest and new genetic illnesses began to develop in breeds which previously were not known for them (i.e. liver shunts now appearing in petite Chihuahuas). It has now been shown that breeding in closed environments, and the smallest to the smallest, has not created healthy, well-balanced dogs. To differentiate themselves from puppy mills and the reputation this industry now has, backyard breeders and petshops insist their puppies are not 'mill puppies.' Reputable breeders do not sell to petshops nor to backyard breeders and usually have a waiting list for any of their future litters. Backyard breeders have now moved onto the Internet, selling puppies but yet insisting they are not a puppy mill breeding for profit. The general public usually learns the hard way after the arrival of a sick puppy and extreme vet bills, but there are still enough in the general public that believe the beautiful websites created on the Internet by these puppy sellers. Finally, the general public believes that dogs found in pounds are the rejects, bad tempered, ill and sick or just bad dogs. At least 40% of the dogs found in shelters and rescues are actually purebreds! And with the worsening economy, even more GREAT dogs can be found in your local rescue or shelter, needing to find their new furever home!

Category: Dog Accessories

Subcategory: Dog Accessories

Tip: Dog Beds For Kennels and Crates

Just because your dog sleeps in his crate doesn't mean he can't be comfortable. You can add an orthopedic bed, foam pad, or fleece pad to make his area soft and cozy. These crate inserts come in the waterproof and machine washable variety so that you can keep your pooch's area clean as well. Another added feature to some beds is a layer of air as a cushion - great for your older dogs with arthritic knees and joints. For the smaller breeds that get cold easier, add in or purchase a bed with self-generating heat. Always make sure the length of the dog bed is as long as your pooch is from head to base of tail - if they can't stretch out it in when they want to, they'll seldom use it once you've bought it!

Tip: Dog carriers make travel fun for pets

Dog carriers have a huge range of uses. If your dog isn't a good traveler and doesn't ride well in moving vehicles, try a dog carrier. Your dog may feel more secure in a dog carrier and it can be their 'home away from home' for dogs that get nervous during travel. Dog carriers help dogs behave well, stay calm and provide you with the peace of mind while driving! Many rescued dogs need either a crate or kennel at the beginning of their transition from shelter to home, for the experience of the shelter might have been very traumatic for them. The smaller confined space (as opposed to the wide space of your home) can be comforting to the shelter dog at the beginning of their new life with you. When buying a dog carrier, make sure you select the right size. The dog carrier should be high enough to allow your dog to stand comfortably and be roomy enough to accommodate the length of your dog, too. There are dog carriers to fit the extra-large Newfie and the small Dachshund. In choosing your dog carrier, consider your lifestyle needs. ----- How often will you use your dog carrier? ----- How much do you want to spend on your dog carrier? ----- Does it need to have the ability to collapse to a very small size for space purposes? ----- Are you going to be traveling by air? There are restrictions specific for this kind of travel. ----- Do you need a kennel or a crate? Kennels are usually plastic with one door and have a handle - most collapse around the center and can be flipped into each other to save space. Air travel is usually done with kennels and they come in a wealth of sizes to pick from. Crates on the other hand are usually vinyl-covered wire and collapse fully into a flat almost suit-case like object readily slide underneath any bed or in the back of a closet when not needed. You can also buy furniture that fits over a crate so it can be added to any room in your house (similar to an end-table appearance). For the larger breeds, adding a set of furniture movers (with wheels) to the bottom will allow you mobility to move this crate without having to break it down. ALL have solid bottoms (unlike cages designed for rabbits which have wire bottoms)... make sure you don't buy the wrong one and your dog's paws or toes get caught in those wire bottoms! There are many styles and types of dog carriers to choose from. Dog carriers can be plush, with plenty of stretching room, even air-conditioning and heat. There are dog carriers that are waterproof. Some dog carriers come with water bottles, food dishes and covers to prevent drafts. Also, consider your dog's personality when choosing a dog carrier. Active dogs are going to need a dog

og carrier with ample space. NEVER put a dog inside a crate or kennel with their leash on - it is just too easy for it to get tangled up and choke him to death. If your dog is initially scared of a crate or kennel, begin with short spans of time and give them a Kong (available at any petshop) to occupy themselves with. In the long run, the purchase of a kennel or crate for any dog is a must, whether you travel or not. Many dogs prefer to snooze their afternoons away inside a kennel or crate with an open door and transition to using this same item when traveling!

Category: Dog Adoptions

Subcategory: Dog Adoptions and Dog Rescues

Tip: Volunteer Before You Adopt

Yes, there are a few good ways that you can find out if dog ownership is for you before you make the commitment. One way is to become a foster caretaker for a dog. Often, the dog's food, medication, and health visits are covered by the organization that you are fostering for. Try you local animal shelter or rescue group for volunteer opportunities. Another way is to simply volunteer for an animal shelter and become a dog socializer or handler. You'll have the opportunity to help train a dog, play with it, and take it on walks. A third way is to become a puppy raiser for future guide dogs. You'll be in charge of socializing and raising these talented pups in preparation for their future careers.

Category: Dog Books

Subcategory: All Kinds Of Dog Books

Tip: Find those Rare Breeds

To learn more about breeds you might consider for you or your family, buy an all-breed guide or encyclopedia. This will introduce you to some of the less well known breeds as well as the well known and popular ones. Look for characteristics in the breed's temperament, workability and care needs that you feel will match your interests and lifestyle. Also check with an organization such as the American Kennel Club, which recognizes over 150 breeds of dogs.

Category: Dog Breeders

Subcategory: Choosing a Breeder

Tip: Evaluate the Breeder

When trying to decide on which breeder to purchase your canine companion from, there are several things that you should look for. 1. Find a breeder who is willing to let you visit them. Check to make sure that the puppy is being raised in a clean, healthy environment. 2. Find a breeder who is as interested in you as you are in them. A good breeder will ask you questions to find out if her puppies are going to a good home. 3. Find a breeder who is willing to provide you with a written contract, outlining the terms of your new puppy purchase. 4. Find a breeder who is informed. Your breeder should be knowledgeable about her chosen breed of dog. She should also be able to give you basic instructions on the care, feeding, and training of your new puppy.

Tip: The Pet Store Purchase

When people decide that they want to purchase a puppy, they often head straight to the nearest pet store. Unfortunately, most pet stores do not obtain their dogs from reputable breeders. Instead, they obtain them from puppy mills, which churn out large quantities of dogs purely for profit. The problem with this is that many dogs have genetic problems because the puppy mills do not screen for health when breeding. Many of these dogs are also kept in unsanitary and cramped conditions, which are grounds for spreading unwanted illnesses.

Subcategory: Selecting a Dog/Pup

Tip: Pick of the Litter

So you're heading out to pick out the next champion show dog from the litter. How do you know which one to pick? When you're looking for a show prospect, you have a lot to consider. First, decide if you want a male dog or a bitch puppy. Then, consider the coloring, markings, and structure of the puppy. Discuss each puppy with the breeder to get some insight into evaluating which puppy would be most ideal. If you can, wait until the puppy is at least eight weeks of age to make your selection so that you can get a better idea of its potential. Also look at the puppy's temperament since this will be important once your dog is in the show ring. Choose the puppy that has a self-assured quality, representative of its breed.

Category: Dog Breeds and Breed Selection

Subcategory: Dog Breeds and Breed Selection

Tip: The Working Group

The Working Group contains dog breeds which historically have served humans in the duty of guarding, sledding, and performing water rescues. Because of their size, these breeds are not the best choice for the inexperienced dog owner. When properly trained, dogs of the working group excel at their intended purpose, for example: * The Newfoundland does well at water rescue. * The Alaskan Malamute is skilled at sled pulling. * The Mastiff breed is designed for guard duty. These dogs also make fine companion dogs if you have the space and the dedication.

Category: Dog Clothing

Subcategory: Dog Clothing

Tip: Dog coats of many colors, styles

So you've decided your dog needs a winter coat. Dog coats are a smart choice. A winter dog coat can make outdoor walks with your best friend more fun for both of you. But what kind of dog coat to choose? With hundreds of styles of dog coats for all kinds of dogs, it's a personal choice. But you should probably approach buying a dog coat with the same plan as you do buying a coat for yourself. If you spend a lot of time outside in cold weather, you probably have a big, warm winter coat. Your dog needs an extra warm dog coat, too. If fashion is more important to you than warmth, you can purchase designer dog coats for you and your dog. Overall, you should make sure the dog coat is warm, fits well, is easy for you to put on and take off the dog, and hard for the dog to remove or squirm out of. If it fits well, your pet will find a dog coat comfortable and cozy! Also, make sure the dog coat is washable and won't shrink. Fleece is a good choice for light and flexible warmth in a dog coat, and so are wool blends. Other fabrics might look good, but won't be nearly as versatile.

Tip: Dog coats warm your furry friend

We all know dogs sport their own beautiful coats but winter sometimes calls for extra help. The answer: dog coats, especially for short-haired dogs. When you put on a coat for a walk outdoors, put a dog coat on your pooch as well. Dog coats are especially comforting to short-haired and small dogs, especially breeds with short legs who are low to the ground. Dog coats may add extra protection for a Husky or Chow or other hearty dog with a lot of fur, if it is really, really cold outside. Dog coats are useful indoors for some small, hairless or short-haired dogs (Pugs, Chihuahuas.) They probably need to put on a dog coat or sweater inside, when the temperature is set below 70. If you're still not sure if your dog needs a winter dog coat, ask your vet, breeder or dog trainer. Remember, it's not embarrassing for your dog to wear a winter coat. After all, you do.

Tip: Giving dog clothes – a few simple rules

Dog clothes can make a great gift, highly appreciated by both pet and owner. But there are a few basic rules to follow: * If the dog is an avid chewer, you should avoid buying dog clothes with anything tempting: shiny buttons, fringe or feathers. Any object that can be chewed off and swallowed is a choking hazard. * Get dog clothes that fit. Ask the owner for measurements. If you want to make the dog clothes a surprise gift, offer to dog sit or to take the dog for a walk yourself. And bring a tape measure. Or enlist friends or family members to help get you the measurements for the dog clothes. * Finally, make sure the gift of dog clothes is suitable for the dog and the owner. You might think the doggie polo shirt is cute, but it might not work for a big outdoor dog, like a Lab or German Shepherd. On the other hand, a backpack or doggles wouldn't work for a Toy Poodle. How does the owner like to dress or accessorize the dog? Does the dog normally wear dog clothes? Has the owner ever discussed his or her feelings about dog clothes with you? All good questions to ask and think about before going out to make a special purchase of dog clothes.

Tip: Keeping Dogs Warm

Keeping dogs warm in the winter is vital for their health. Some dogs have a good, thick coat of fur that helps protect them from harsh weather, but others with thinner coats can suffer terribly from the cold. Luckily there are several things that can be done to address this issue. One way to help dogs stay warm is to provide them with an outdoor shelter for cooler days. The Dogloo Dog House is the perfect example of an investment one can make for a temperature-sensitive dog. The structure provides protection from wind and a warm spot to relax. This can be very helpful for dogs that like to be outside in the fall but really need a little bit of additional shelter. Another option is "doggie clothing." Big-dog clothing may be a bit difficult to find compared to clothing for small dogs, but it is out there. After all, larger dogs can get cold too. Small-dog clothes tend to be plentiful as many tiny breeds need additional layers to protect from the elements. Dog clothing has become more popular over the years; these days a savvy shopper can find everything from sweaters to raincoats to booties and accessories too.

Category: Dog Exercise and Sports

Subcategory: Carting, Sledding, and Skijoring

Tip: Carting with Canines

If you are looking for a sport for a larger breed of dog, try carting! Carting is a canine sport in which a dog pulls a wagon filled with supplies or people. Some larger dog breeds were bred specifically for pulling small wagons such as milk carts. This work has evolved into an activity enjoyed today by breeds such as Rottweilers or Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs among others. Special carts and equipment are available for

enthusiasts.

Tip: Mushing with Sled Dogs

When sled dogs are mentioned, many people think of the demanding, 1,000-mile sled dog races such as the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest. However, the sport of sled dog racing has shorter competitions that are more family friendly. The sprint races, with teams of three or four dogs, cover a relatively shorter distance of 4 to 25 miles. Families can also forgo the competition and enjoy recreational travel by dog team.

Category: Dog Grooming

Subcategory: Dog Grooming Supplies

Tip: Your Dog's Skin

Although your dog may be covered in fur, she may still have sensitive skin. Some canines develop skin conditions such as dandruff, eczema, and rashes caused by skin allergies. Skin problems can cause extreme itching, fur fall-out, and even painful skin sores unless treated. On a short haired dog, you can often spot these problems developing early whereas on a long haired dog, the problems may be hidden for some time. If your pet seems to be scratching the same area a great deal, check her skin under her fur. Make sure you also check beneath her undercoat. If the problem appears to be caused by a poorly trimmed undercoat or fur matting, you can approach a professional groomer. In the case of fur matting, don't bathe your dog right away and don't treat with a medicated dog shampoo if your canine has a longer coat and an undercoat. You may actually cause more harm than good because water will actually increase matting in an undercoat instead of cleaning it. Additionally, you can experiment with diet, a main cause of skin problems. Check the nutritional labels of the food you are giving the dog, and try to transition her into a different diet or add a dog nutritional supplement. Finally, you should approach your veterinarian if the problems persist.

Subcategory: Dog Nail Clipping

Tip: Nail Trimming Products

There are a few different types of grooming products available for you to trim your dog's nails. You can use either a standard scissor type clipper or a guillotine one. Scissor type clippers have the clipping mechanism located at the end of the tool and work to open and close much like a scissor. The guillotine clipper is a hinged tool with the cutting device also located at the end of the tool. Both work equally well and are a matter of preference. A third option to use to trim your canine's nails is the grinder, which sands

the nails down to the level desired.

Category: Dog Health Care

Subcategory: Home Health Care

Tip: Vaccinations for Puppies

Puppies are protected against a number of diseases by their mother's antibodies during their first six to eight weeks of life. At about six to eight weeks of age, puppies must start receiving a series of vaccinations against distemper, bordetella, rabies, parvovirus, and Lyme disease. These vaccinations continue until the puppy is sixteen weeks old. An older or adult dog then receives booster shots every twelve months or so.

Tip: Winter Foot Care

You may have heard that it's a good idea to wash your automobile as frequently as possible in the winter to prevent corrosion from road salt. If road salt can corrode the metal under your car, just think of the damage it can do to your dog's feet! The salt spread on sidewalks and roads can soak into your dog's footpads, causing drying, irritation, and in some cases painful cracks and sores. After winter strolls in areas where salt may be used, wash your dog's feet in with warm water and apply a balm to help heal dry skin. You'll both be glad you did!

Subcategory: Reproduction

Tip: Neutering - Defined

Neutering is a surgical procedure that keeps dogs from breeding by removing the testes in male dogs and the ovaries and uterus in female dogs. This procedure is known as spaying when referring to female dogs.

Subcategory: Skin, Coat, & Nails

Tip: Prevent Canine Acne

A dog can get acne or bumps on his chin. While a variety of factors including mange can cause acne on your dog, the problem is often an allergic reaction to a plastic dog food bowl or to rancid oils trapped in scratches in the bowl. Dogs with sensitive skin are especially prone to developing an allergic reaction. To stop the problem, feed your dog from a clean stainless steel bowl.

Category: Dog Housetraining

Subcategory: Accidents

Tip: Household Marking Woes

Is your housetrained canine suddenly peeing in the house? Unfortunately, sometimes even housetrained dogs will urinate to mark their territory. You'll know he's marking if it's a small spray of urine instead of the normal flow you would see if he were relieving himself. The first thing to do is to rule out any health problems like incontinence or a urinary tract infection. If your dog is indeed marking, it could be due to insecurity or separation anxiety. Consider if there have been any major changes in his environment that could cause stress. One way to help curb the problem is remove any urine odor where your dog has marked. Here's a homemade recipe to do just that: • Add one part vinegar and one part water. Mix and apply to the messy area.

Subcategory: Elimination Area

Tip: Designate a Place in Your Yard

Establish a specific area in your yard for your dog to eliminate each time to protect your lawn and simplify clean up. Each time you take your dog out, lead him to the designated area, instruct him to, "Go Potty," and refrain from any other interaction or playtime until he does his business. • For easy clean up, you can use plastic sandwich bags, plastic grocery shopping bags, or a commercial waste pick-up bag. Using your hand inside the bag, pick up the waste, turn the bag inside out, and you have instant clean up.

Subcategory: Housetraining Process

Tip: Dog Litter

Litter training was once reserved only for cats, but in recent years been used to train canines for housebreaking as well. The equipment is very basic and consists of a sturdy plastic pan to house the litter, a bag of dog litter, and a scooper to clean out the mess. The concept to teach your dog is very similar to paper training, but clean up is often easier. You scoop, toss, and you're done. The pellets are a highly absorbent material, imbedded with a scent which is meant to attract dogs to eliminate there. Litter training is ideal for small to medium sized dogs and for people who live in apartments or lack easy access to the outdoors.

Category: Dog Kennels, Crates and Carriers

Subcategory: Dog Crates

Tip: Crate Location

When crate training it's a good idea to remember that, although every dog needs his own space, canines are pack animals. Because of this they have an instinctual desire to be near the other members of their family. Accordingly, you might want to purchase more than one crate or kennel -- appraise your lifestyle and remember wherever you spend a good deal of time, you'll need a crate there for your dog as well. It's a good idea to place the dog crate in a bedroom where your puppy can be near a family member when sleeping at night. It will make crate training less stressful to your puppy if he knows he is not alone at night. You'll also be able to know if your puppy needs to go out at night.

Category: Dog Leashes, Collars and Dog Clothes

Subcategory: Dog Leashes and Collars

Tip: The Halti Collar

A halti collar is a nylon harness that attaches loosely around a dog's muzzle and snaps behind the ears. This collar operates on the idea that a dog's body must follow wherever his head goes. If you're using a halti collar, it allows you to gently apply pressure to direct where your dog's head points. In other words, you can direct your dog without pulling strongly on the leash. The halti collar has been used to train guide dogs in recent years due to its effectiveness as a training tool.

Category: Dog Misc. Behavior Problems

Subcategory: Barking & Digging

Tip: Bark Curbing Device

Having trouble with your barking dog? Try an anti-bark collar. The anti-bark collar is safe for your pet, unlike some collars that use electric shocks. Companies claim electric shocks are not harmful or painful, but why not find a safer and humane alternative with an anti-bark collar? There are two types of anti-bark collars - one emits a high-frequency sound that pulses in response to a dog's bark. But the sounds from the anti-bark collar are not audible to human ears. The second (and most popular) is a citronella anti-bark collar. Fastened around the dog's neck in training situations, the sound of the dog's bark triggers a shot of citronella to be squirted out beneath his

ath his snout... and dogs don't like the smell at all! Most important, these anti-bark training collars are safe for pets. No shocks and no pain for your dog. The anti-bark collar is sensitive enough to hear nuisance barks. The anti-bark collar sends its pulse out around the neighborhood. Dogs will hear or smell the effects of their barking, and it triggers a learned behavior in the dog - I bark, I smell or hear... YUCK!

Category: Dog Obedience Training

Subcategory: Dog & Puppy Training Basics

Tip: Positive Reinforcement

Positive reinforcement is one way of training your pup. It involves rewarding your dog for good behavior. For example, if you are teaching your dog to sit and he completes the task, reward him with a treat or affection.

Subcategory: Dog Training Tips

Tip: Words: How Many can Dogs Understand?

There is technically no limit to the number of words a dog can learn, if you want to take the time to teach your canine. A dog learns by associating a word with an action or object. For instance, she learns whenever you say, "Sit!" that you expect her to put her hindquarters and bottom on the floor and stay put for a while. Whenever you say, "Fetch slippers!", she knows to get your favorite leather slip-ons and not your old tennis shoes.

Subcategory: Reading Body Language

Tip: Avoiding Dog Bites

When approaching an unfamiliar dog, remember that body language is key. Avoid maintaining eye contact as this can be perceived as a challenge and a dominant or fearful dog may attack. If a dog appears to be aggressive, keep your distance, but do not run or bolt. A dog that is aggressive may instinctively perceive you as prey and bite. If a dog does start to attack, a good line of defense is to place any available item between you and the dog, such as a bag or bike.

Tip: Canine Body Language: Submissive

A dog will use everything from his eyes and ears to tail to communicate. A canine who is acknowledging a person or other dog to be of higher rank, will lower his tail, send his ears back, and close his eyes half-way. A dog can also show submissive body language by lying on his back with his belly exposed. One way to find out if a puppy has more

dominant or submissive tendencies is to try and lay him on his back. If he fights back, he is very likely dominant. If he lies on his back willingly, then he is a submissive dog.

Category: Dog Products and Supplies

Subcategory: Dog Products and Supplies

Tip: Elevated Dishes

If you have a larger breed of dog who needs to stoop to reach his meal or if you've got a canine with digestive difficulties, get an elevated food dish. The extra height keeps your taller canine from having to reach so far to get his meal. And he'll have less air intake which will help the food go down better.

Category: Dog Resources & Fun Freebies

Subcategory: Dog Resources and Freebies

Tip: Dog Cartoons Online

Popular character classics like Snoopy and Marmaduke used to just be found in the comics section of your local newspaper. They now have an Internet presence for any Web user to enjoy. For those interested in some newer strips, Get Fuzzy, Barkeater Lake, and Kit 'N' Carlyle all feature lovable canines.

Category: Dog Supplements

Subcategory: Dog Nutritional Supplements

Tip: Dog Supplements

You may have heard about dog supplements and wondered what all the fuss is all about. Dogs have certain dietary and nutritional needs that they don't always get from typical dog foods and treats. All of the following conditions can be helped with homeopathic dog supplements: • Skin Conditions • Allergies • Digestive Problems • Anxiety • Arthritis These supplements come in a variety of chewable, tasty choices to make giving them to your canine much easier. If you think your canine is having serious health issues, always take your dog to the veterinarian for an examination.

Category: Dog Toys

Subcategory: Dog Toy Tips

Tip: Chew Toys to Occupy Time

Get a chew toy that can hold treats to keep your canine busy. There's a number on the market right now that come in an assortment of shapes and sizes, all geared toward making your pooch work a little to get a tasty snack. Typically, made of a very tough rubber, these chew toys are hollow on the inside which allows you to stuff it with dog biscuits, peanut butter, or your dog's favorite treat. Because the hole to the inner chamber is so small, it can take your dog hours to extract all the goodies from within. While he's chewing and digging at it, the tough rubber construction prevents your dog from tearing the toy apart. The specially designed shape allows the toys to bounce erratically, eluding your dog, and keeping him interested.

Tip: What Makes A Good Dog Chew Toy?

If you're looking for a good chew toy, consider this - a dog's jaw can exert over 200 pounds per square inch. Chew toys should be durable to withstand daily abuse. Pick something that is appropriate for the bite strength of your dog. Beyond durability, pick a chew toy that will benefit your dog in more ways than one. You can choose from chew toys that help keep teeth clean and free of tartar, chew toys to hold treats and keep your canine entertained, and interactive chew toys with ropes that let you turn chewing into playtime with your pooch.

Category: Flea Control and Other Parasites

Subcategory: Flea and Tick Control

Tip: Flea Products: What Works and What Doesn't

If you haven't had to deal with a flea infestation or flea control, you may only know about products like flea sprays, flea powders, flea collars and flea dips. Here is a rundown on what is effective and what really does no good. Flea powders and flea sprays and topical remedies for your home and sometimes the dog itself. These products are not really very effective and many of the "old school" products contain pesticides and poisons that may make your dog sick. Products like Frontline spray work better, are safer for your dog, and cost about the same (they may in fact cost less because they are so much more effective in the long run). Flea dips are offered only for dogs because they are not considered safe for cats. Flea dip is a good choice for big dogs, because larger dogs are harder to treat with spot or spray flea control. When you are ready to "dip" your dog, you will need to treat his or her entire body from nose to tail, about every

three weeks throughout the spring and summer (prime flea season). Bear in mind that flea dip is a pretty stinky process so it may not be a good option for indoor dogs. Small dogs should be effectively treated with Frontline or Advantage. Flea collars are cost effective and solid proactive flea control option. If your pet already has an active flea infestation in his or her coat, it is really too late for flea collars. Additionally flea collars can smell funny and are not great for dogs that are around small kids who love to grab onto collars and promptly suck on their fingers. *To eliminate fleas and ticks the natural way, give a dog each day 1 heaping tablespoon of brewer's yeast per 50 pounds of dog and 1 clove of garlic.

Category: Frequently asked questions

Subcategory: ANSWERS-
Behavior & Training

Tip: Housetraining Dogs

To housebreak your dog, you need to establish a routine that helps her learn to do her business outside. Take her to a designated potty spot after each meal, first thing in the morning, and before bedtime. If your puppy is young, she may still need to go out in the middle of the night. Another helpful thing you can teach your dog is to give you a signal when she needs to go outside. One good method is to install a bell about 6 inches off the floor at your backdoor. Show your dog to hit the bell with her paw and then take her outside. Repeat this exercise several times. She should learn to signal to go out in no time!

Subcategory: ANSWERS-
Breeds

Tip: Chesapeake & Labrador Retrievers

The Chesapeake Bay retriever and the Labrador retriever are both large sized active dogs that tend to make good family dogs due to their good disposition with children. However, there are differences between the two breeds to consider. While the Labrador retriever tends to be an all around friendly, trainable pet, the Chesapeake is a bit more discerning. Chesapeakes are good with children if raised with them and require strict training and socialization to avoid any type of headstrong behavior. Labradors tend to want to please their owners and are generally adaptable to most situations and people of all ages. Both breeds are happy to go out for a vigorous round of exercise and take well to the water although the Chesapeake tends to be more of a strong swimmer.

Tip: Rottweiler Metzgerhund

The Rottweiler Metzgerhund is actually the European name for what is known as the Rottweiler in the United States. This breed is a powerful, fearless guard dog originally used to herd cattle. He is a working breed who needs a task whether it is obedience, tracking, or search and rescue. If you're considering this breed, make sure that he gets lots of socialization and training to ensure he is not aggressive around small dogs or children.

Subcategory: ANSWERS-
Breeds - Special Cases

Tip: Breeds Good with Children

Are you searching for the perfect pet that will be good for your family and great with kids? Friendly, tolerant, and good-natured, these breeds love everyone, children and adults alike: • Boxer • Boston Terrier • Irish Setter • Keeshond • Labrador Retriever • Mastiff • Newfoundland • Pug • Siberian Husky • Vizsla

Tip: Dog Breeds Developed in Scotland

So you want to know what dogs are from Scotland. Though many dog breeds have evolved from an earlier stock from many parts of the world, there are a number of sheep dogs, terriers, and hunting dog breeds that have been either created or shaped in Scotland. Here's a list: • Collie • Gordon Setter • Scottish Deerhound • Scottish Terrier • Shetland Sheepdog • Skye Terrier • West Highland White Terrier (and related terriers including the Cairn Terrier, Dandie Dinmont, and Scottie) For more information on these and other breeds, you can go to the American Kennel Club's breed page at www.akc.org/breeds/complete_breed_list.cfm.

Subcategory: ANSWERS-
Puppies

Tip: Q&A: Introducing a Pup to an Adult Dog

Q: How can I introduce a male puppy Rottweiler to my 18-month-old female Rottweiler?
A: In most cases, this is the easiest type of introduction. Female dogs generally will "mother" a puppy. We introduced a male Siberian Husky puppy into our home where a 12-month-old female Siberian Husky already lived. They soon were pals, and one of our favorite pictures of the two of them sleeping together. Now, if your female is especially possessive of you, you might have a case of jealousy. You want to make sure that you give the older dog plenty of love and attention. If you give the pup all the attention, you could create a problem. You need to set the tone right from the start that you love both dogs, and will give hugs and petting to both. In addition, you want to make sure the pup doesn't pester the older dog excessively. If you see any indication of annoyance on the part of the older dog, you'll want to be sure the female has a place to go to escape the

puppy. Still, because she is just 18 months old, she likely has a good bit of puppy playfulness in her and will welcome the puppy as a playmate and they should get along well. If in fact they like to play, then you also have to make sure your female isn't too rough with the puppy. You need to supervise their play interactions so you can help the female learn that. Again, I think you will have a good experience, but you want to make sure that's the case. Here's a Web site with an article on introducing a new puppy to current pets. It offers some additional ideas:

http://www.petsmart.com/dog/answers/your_new_dog/articles/article_877.shtml

Tip: Q&A: Puppy Digging on Furniture

Q: About digging on furniture...I have a puppy that digs on the bed or the mat. How do I stop him? A: Training a puppy to be a "civilized" member of your family involves showing the dog over and over which activities are allowed and which are not.

Consistency is absolutely essential for success. Now, that does not mean simply telling the puppy "no!" as the puppy will want to do any of a number of natural activities such as digging again. A firm no may stop a pup momentarily, by distracting it, but it really doesn't learn much from that. You need to show the puppy alternative activities that are allowed -- and then praise the pup for doing those things. For example, stop the pup from digging on the bed by telling it "no!" followed by picking it up off the bed, putting it on the floor and asking the pup to do an action you've trained it to do, such as "sit."

When the pup sits, praise the pup. Then introduce a chew toy and praise the pup when it chews on its own special toy. You are encouraging a positive activity that is also natural -- chewing. Now, about a pup "digging" on its own bed or mat [if that's what you meant by mat]. This is a very natural activity -- digging a hole or nest to sleep in. I see no reason why you would want to stop this. A dog should be able to prepare its sleeping place. You may want to avoid expensive dog beds if your pup really loves to dig before sleeping. See my Behavior and Language section for more tips on digging dogs.

Tip: Q&A: Weaning

Q: When should a puppy be weaned? A: Weaning dates vary by size of the breed, size of the litter and by attitudes of breeders. Some prefer to move puppies to dog food rather soon to the limit the impact that nursing has on the mother. Others prefer to have the puppies nurse until the dam herself decides it is time for the pups to stop. Here is an article that outlines a step-by-step process for weaning puppies at what seems to be rather early dates, with the breeder taking a major role in weaning quite abruptly at four weeks old: <http://www.lasvegas-dog.com/weaning.html> Here is an article describing a weaning process that is more gradual. The breeder introduces puppies to some milk and then baby cereal between three to five weeks of age, the dam gradually produces less milk as pups make less demand on her, and weaning occurs more naturally:

<http://universaldogs.com/pupcare/feeding.htm> Finally, here is information on the life history of a dog, including the recommendation that weaning occur no earlier than 3 weeks and no later than 7 weeks, depending in part on the size of the litter:

<http://www.lookd.com/dogs/history.html>

Category: Puppy Mills

Subcategory: Puppy Mills

Tip: Animal Advocacy & Puppy Mills

Puppy mills have been the 'deep, dark, dirty secret' in the pet trade industry for a VERY long time. Puppy mills supply the petshops, petshops supply the backyard breeders and Internet sellers... it is just that simple. The mindset of the general public is slowly changing - they no longer want to be part of the contribution to the problem and more are turning to adopting a new companion instead of shopping. But there are a select few that want to do more than just boycotting petshops that sell puppies - they want to become animal advocates and actively fight the sales of puppy mill puppies. A common question I am asked is "How do I start? Where do I begin?" One answer is to organize protests of your local petshops that sell puppies. This should be done ONLY after you've talked to the petshop owner and attempted to encourage them to stop the sales and offer spots for rescue groups to come into their establishment and place unwanted companion animals. For more detailed information on how to go about doing a protest, see this website: <http://www.peacefulprotests.org/toolbox.htm>

Category: Vacationing and Travel with Dogs

Subcategory: Vacation Safety

Tip: Travel Safety Checklist

If you're taking your pooch to a new destination, take the time to consider this checklist before packing your bags:

- A few weeks before you leave, get your dog current on all her vaccinations.
- Plan to feed your dog at least an hour before you leave and never in a moving vehicle.
- Make sure your pooch is outfitted with a collar or harness with an ID tag that has your current contact information.
- If you're driving in a car, harness your larger dog to the seat. For a smaller dog, place her in a crate.
- If you're traveling by air, contact the airline ahead of time to confirm policies. During warmer weather, travel in the early morning or late afternoons for cooler temperatures. During winter months, travel during midday.
- Check hotel policies to make sure you can leave him in the hotel. If you get the ok, consider crating her while you're gone. Leave a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door and alert the front desk.

Category: Your Aging Dog

Subcategory: Your Aging Dog

Tip: Your Aging Dog

Signs of old age in dogs include difficulty getting up, problems navigating stairs and "accidents" in the home. While it can be difficult to see signs of aging in dogs, there are some things their owners can do to make things easier for their beloved pets. Dog steps can help with getting into and out of vehicles, and dog beds can provide a warm, soft place for them to rest and sleep. Keep in mind that aging dog problems can vary widely, depending on the dog's size and breed. A veterinarian can help explain more about the process of aging in dogs and give suggestions for addressing any health-related issues that arise. Sometimes medication can be an answer while other times a few small adjustments may be all that are needed to help the dog feel more comfortable.

Category: Your New Dog/Puppy

Subcategory: Introductions (multi dog homes)

Tip: Introducing On Neutral Territory

If you're adding a second dog to your home, the key is to introduce the two dogs on neutral territory. If you must introduce the two dogs near your home, try an outside fenced area that neither considers its own territory. It may be helpful to get the help of a willing friend or family member. Have your friend handle the new dog on a leash while you handle your first dog on a leash. Allow them to sniff and greet each other. If any tension starts, redirect the behavior towards another activity, like a brisk walk in the other direction. Once the two are comfortable, you can let them off leash to interact and then bring both dogs home. Keep a close eye on both dogs for the next several weeks and separate them if any aggressiveness occurs. However, let both dogs pick their own pecking order in the home.

Subcategory: Necessary Items

Tip: Can I see your ID?

All dogs should be outfitted with some form of identification so that you can find him if he ever gets lost. You have a few different options to choose from. The most common form of identification is an ID tag on your dog's collar. You can purchase one at most of the major pet retailers. You should always include the pet's name and your name, address, and contact number. You can also choose to tattoo an identification number on your dog that shows either your social security number or his kennel club registration

number. This tattooed number then gets placed on a national registry. An excellent way to ensure that your dog gets identified is to microchip him. A veterinarian can do this procedure and it takes less than a few minutes. Animal shelters will typically scan a dog that gets lost. That way, you can be contacted once your dog is found.