



Dear friends,

Welcome to our November Newsletter from www.bestdoggietips.com.

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We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

"Down in the silent hallway, Scampers the dog about, And whines, and barks, and scratches, In order to get out. Once in the glittering starlight, He straightaway doth begin, To set up a doleful howling, In order to get in"

- Richard Kendall Munkittrick

Recipe - Beardie Coolers

Ingredients

2 fresh beef marrow bones (or other species)
water

To Make

Place the bones in a saucepan and add enough water to cover the bones. Bring the water to a boil and continue to boil for at least 10 minutes (more time is ok, for a richer broth).

Remove the bones and return any beef marrow to the liquid, along with any meat that you can get off the bones.

Cool the broth to room temperature.

Pour liquid only into ice cube trays. Chop up the marrow/meat/gristle into little bits, and put them into each section of the tray.

Freeze solid. Serve 2-3 cubes on a very hot day. (Not too many if you made the broth very rich with extra bones or lots of marrow).

(Based on a recipe from the I Love Dogs cookbook available at BestDoggieTips.com)

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Puppy Pet Care

Bringing home a new puppy can be stressful for you and the puppy. Here's how to start off on the right foot (or paw)!

Moving to a new home can be very stressful for a new puppy, especially if they are being separated from their littermates for the first time. You can help your puppy transition more easily by doing some pre-preparation before they arrive.

Have a bed set up ready for new puppy, and a bowl filled with water nearby. Puppies should have a nice warm, dry place of their own, as young pups need a lot of rest! You should also have a few toys for your puppy to play with.

Don't feed your puppy for about an hour after getting them home for the first time, and try to make it as near to a normal meal time as possible. Young puppies should be fed very small meals 4 times per day up to about 3 months of age. You can vary these between puppy biscuits, commercially prepared puppy food, and home cooked food. Remember that puppies have very small teeth, so you may need to cut meat into very small pieces for the first few weeks. Also remember that puppies need lots of calcium for growing bones, so an all fresh meat diet at this age is not recommended.

Schedule a trip to your vet within the first 2 weeks, just for a general check up to make sure puppy is OK. You can also discuss a vaccination & worming program and desexing with your vet at this time.

Get your puppy used to a collar and a lead as soon as possible. When fitting the collar, you should be able to fit 2 fingers between the collar and their neck. And don't forget to keep checking the collar size as puppy grows!

The first few times you attach the lead to puppy's collar, just let the puppy trail it around the floor for a while. You can then move to picking up the lead, and encouraging puppy to walk beside you.

There may be other things you want to introduce puppy to at an early age:

- Having their coat brushed / groomed
- Having their teeth cleaned
- Getting their nails clipped

Above all, make sure puppy is part of the family, and has a safe, quiet area it can retreat too when things get too much!

And for more information about puppy training, don't forget our article in the July newsletter [10 Things You Must Teach Your Puppy Before They Are A Year Old](#).

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Improving Your Dog's Environment

As more and more families find both partners need to work to keep their head above financial water, more and more dogs face hours on end stuck in a small back yard with little to interest them. Little wonder we come home to uprooted plants and large gopher holes in our backyards!

So what can we, as owners, do to make life a little more interesting for our canine friends when we have to be away?

Environmental enrichment is used by many animal shelters, wildlife sanctuaries and zoos to improve and enhance animal environments and standards of care by analysing an animal's natural behaviour and origins.

This enrichment includes the design of stimulating enclosures and the introduction of objects, sounds, smells and other stimuli in the animal's environment.

Great ways to introduce this for your dog include using Kong balls and treat balls which keep your dog entertained and provide mental stimulation for your dog.

Other games and activities you can try include:

- 🐾 Give toys to your dog one at a time and rotate them on a daily basis.
- 🐾 Take your dog for a walk at different times of the day and use different routes.
- 🐾 Take your dog to an unleashed dog exercise area.
- 🐾 Take your dog to training classes where he can learn, and meet and socialise with other dogs.
- 🐾 Enrol your dog in agility classes.
- 🐾 Make a play date with a friend or family member who has a social dog.

And remember, at the end of the day, all dogs are pack animals. They need some time with their pack!

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Acupuncture for Dogs

Back Problems in Dogs

By Dr Clare Middle

Vets trained in acupuncture use it for a variety of problems in different animal species, but its most common use in my small animal practice is for treating back problems in dogs where the problem has not responded to drugs or surgery.

The most common cause of back problems in dogs is trauma (car accidents, falling, repeated jumping and twisting during exercise), often superimposed on an existing poor conformation. The dog will show pain, an unwillingness to perform, and uneven gait, or often a lameness in one leg due to the pinching of nerve origins in the spine. Some dog breeds are more prone to back injury due to long vertebrae (such as dachshunds) or short vertebrae (such as bulldogs). I also see "over-responsible" dogs who suffer from back problems from being emotionally tense while active – working kelpies and heelers for instance.

Often there is nothing to see on x-ray as these small changes do not show but are sufficient to pinch a nerve and cause pain. Injections and tablets for arthritis may not help because nerve pressure pain (or trigger points) are the cause of the pain, not joint inflammation.

For dogs with "slipped disc" leading to a sudden onset of pain and/or partial or total paralysis of limbs, acupuncture is now the treatment of choice if surgery is not indicated. There are many well-documented research papers with proof of the effectiveness of acupuncture over anti-inflammatory or no treatment in cases showing recurrent back pain or varying degrees of paralysis.

From a sample of 100 dogs seen by Dr Janssens, a prominent Norwegian acupuncture veterinarian, the following data was published. Janssens places dogs with thoracolumbar disc disease into four categories or types:

Type 1 – showing acute, severe back pain only. Of these 97% (38 of 39 dogs) fully recovered with acupuncture only.

Type 2 – showing back pain and partial paralysis – able to walk in a staggering way when their toe is turned over they stay standing on the toe, and if gently pushed they stagger to keep balance. Of these, 95% (21 of 22) fully recovered with acupuncture.

Type 3 – paralysed – cannot walk on hind limbs, bowel and bladder function OK. Of these, 85% (19 of 24) recovered with acupuncture.

Type 4 – "totally" paralysed, no (observable) deep pain. Of these, 58% (8 of 15) recovered with acupuncture.

(Most, if not all, of these dogs would have been treated with rest or drug/surgical treatments for days or weeks and been deemed non-responsive and sent off to the acupuncture vet as a last resort).

The Procedure

Acupuncture involves placing fine needles into specific points in the body. Health, according to the Chinese, is the life force energy, or chi (also qi) flowing freely around the meridians or energy channels of the body. Acupuncture clears any blockages to allow the free flow of chi. It's interesting that acupuncture points and meridians can be measured electrically and observed under a microscope.

Most dogs accept acupuncture well. They seem to know it's doing them good and will often lie quietly with their needles in. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes for each treatment; three or four treatments a few days apart are needed in most cases. Some dogs need to come back once every few months for a top-up treatment.

The majority of paralysed dogs will be up and walking within 10 to 20 days of the start of treatment if they are going to respond. Dogs with lameness, pain or stiffness improve within a day or two.

There are more than 200 vets in Australia with have International Veterinary Acupuncture Society accreditation, the official veterinary acupuncture qualification endorsed by the Australian Veterinary Association and the Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Association.

[Dr Clare Middle](#) BVMS, Dip Hom, Dip Ac is the publicity officer of the Australian Association of Holistic Veterinarians. She also has a private practice at BibraLake in Perth WA.

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World's Best Canines?

Boomer, a Landseer Newfoundland, is a 7-foot-long dog (and he may be the world's tallest)



When Gibson, a harlequin Great Dane and the world's tallest dog, died in August after a short battle with osteosarcoma, he left behind a void not just in his owner's life, but in the Guinness World Records book as well.

Boomer, a 3-year-old Landseer Newfoundland (Newfoundland is his breed, which hails from the Canadian island of the same name, and Landseer refers to his black-and-white markings), is here to fill that second void. Boomer measures 36 inches tall at the withers (the ridge between the shoulder blades where dogs and horses are measured for height) - a bit smaller than Gibson's 42.2 inches - and 7 feet long from nose to tail tip.

Even for a Newfoundland, one of the largest dog breeds around, Boomer is big. (According to the Newfoundland's AKC breed standard, 28 inches is an average height for males. And Boomer weighs more than the typical Newf too, tipping the scales at 180 pounds, with the average weight for males ranging from 130 to 150 pounds.) "He comes into the house and his tail is so high everything gets knocked around," his owner, Caryn Weber of eastern North Dakota, said.

As evidenced by the above photo, Boomer is big enough to drink from Weber's kitchen faucet without having to stretch or stand on his hind legs. (Note to self: This is one reason we might want to stick with small-to-medium-sized dogs.) And a 20-pound supply of dog food lasts just a few weeks, Weber said.

As a puppy, Boomer was called Ripley (as in "Believe It or Not!") by Weber's sons, who gave him the nickname in reference to multiple surgeries he had to deal with an abdominal hernia. The growing puppy expanded at such an alarming rate that his stitches ripped. (Note to self: This is another reason to stick with smaller dogs.) Later, Boomer grew into his ... well ... booming bark, and his current name was chosen.

Weber plans to send Boomer's measurements to the Guinness company in hopes of snagging the currently unheld world record for tallest dog. (In case you're wondering, an Irish wolfhound named Mon Ami von der Oelmühle has Boomer beat for the longest-dog title, measuring more than 7 feet.)

Otto crowned world's 'oldest dog'

A dog from Shropshire has been crowned the world's oldest canine, which his owners have put down to a "wholesome diet of Sunday dinners and vegetables".

Otto Jones, a Dachshund terrier cross from Reabrook, Shrewsbury, is 20 years and eight months old.

He has been recognised as the oldest living dog by Guinness World Records and despite his age still enjoys playing ball with neighbours' children.

His owners Lynn and Peter Jones said he was a "loveable, affectionate rogue".

The couple have had him since he was a puppy.

He is a bit deaf, but apart from a few grey whiskers and a touch of arthritis they said he was fit and healthy.

"The only thing I can put it down to is plenty of good wholesome food. He loves his Sunday dinners and his vegetables," Mrs Jones said.

His owners said the children in his street regularly call for him to play.

"Nothing seems to faze him," Mrs Jones added.

Otto, who is a single bachelor, is due to be feature on the Paul O'Grady Show next month and has also been invited to open a dog show.

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Fun Stuff - Dog Crossbreeds

- 🐕 Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter, a traditional Christmas pet
- 🐕 Kerry Blue Terrier + Skye Terrier = Blue Skye, a dog for visionaries
- 🐕 Great Pyrenees + Dachshund = Pyradachs, a puzzling breed
- 🐕 Pekingese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso, an abstract dog
- 🐕 Irish Water Spaniel + English Springer Spaniel = Irish Springer, a dog fresh and clean as a whistle
- 🐕 Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated Retriever = Lab Coat Retriever, the choice of research scientists
- 🐕 Newfoundland + Basset Hound = Newfound Asset Hound, a dog for financial advisors
- 🐕 Terrier + Bulldog = Terribull, a dog prone to awful mistakes
- 🐕 Bloodhound + Labrador = Blabador, a dog that barks incessantly
- 🐕 Malamute + Pointer = Moot Point, owned by....oh, well, it doesn't matter anyway
- 🐕 Collie + Malamute = Commute, a dog that travels to work
- 🐕 Deerhound + Terrier = Derriere, a dog that's true to the end
- 🐕 Bull Terrier + Shitzu = Bullshitz, a gregarious but unreliable breed

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The Weird & the Wonderful

Meet Sugar Daddy Ken (Sugar's the Dog!)



A date with Barbie is the last thing on this Ken doll's mind!

Meet the "Palm Beach Sugar Daddy Ken" - the latest version of Mattel's iconic Barbie boyfriend, infused with a huge helping of Florida fabulousness.

From his green print jacket to his pink shirt to his little white dog on a rosy-colored leash, this Ken looks ready to give Barbie a run for her money as the doll world's fashionista.

And get a load of those white slacks!

"He exemplifies fantastic Palm Beach fashion," a company spokeswoman said.

It might not be something that a lot of parents would want their daughters -- or sons -- to get their hands on.

But don't worry: Mattel said it's targeting the action figure at grown-ups.

"The 'Palm Beach Sugar Daddy Ken' is actually part of the adult Barbie Collector Line," the spokeswoman said. "It is targeted toward adults."

And before anyone thinks the "Sugar Daddy" title refers to an older man with a younger lover, Mattel says that there's a much more innocent explanation.

"The little dog's name is actually Sugar," said the Mattel spokeswoman. "That's where the name comes from. He's Sugar's daddy, as a reference to the dog."

The "Sugar Daddy" Ken was created thanks to popular demand from Mattel's Barbie adult enthusiasts, who wanted a Ken doll that could hold his own as part of the already popular Barbie Fashion Model Collection, the spokeswoman said.

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