To walk with a dog… is to share his world. What sights and sounds he encounters. What past and present smells he reads. To stretch his legs, to bask in the sun, to discover and wind his way through this brave new human world.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Living With Dogs: Keeping Fido Busy While You Feed Baby

As a new mother, feeding your baby is, of course, so much more than serving up nutrition. It's an opportunity to bond and learn about your baby's personality. It follows that the early days of your feeding relationship are critical. You'll likely go through a range of emotions from joy and pride to frustration, and any time emotions run high your dog may need your guidance.

Dogs become familiar with babies by regularly observing normal baby activities, sounds, and smells, so including your dog in baby-related activities in a structured, positive way is

Did You Know:
These Extinct Dog Breeds?

The Talbot. This giant hunting dog was brought to England by the Norman conquerors in 1066. The Talbot had a glorious reign of about 450 years of stag hunting. Then its size and considerable upkeep caused its popularity to wane to the point of extinction. It's credited to be the ancestor of Beagles and Bloodhounds.

Pugnax Britanniae. A wide-jawed fighting dog also introduced to England, this time the Romans. Roman writers describe this dog, favoured by soldiers and military leaders, as courageous, persistent, and cunning.

The Tahltan Bear Dog. Small, black-and-white, and similar to spitz-type dogs, the Tahltan migrated with tribes across the Bering Straits and ended up tracking bears for the First Nations people in what is now northwestern Canada.

Interested? Google to see what they looked like.

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...while feeding baby

essential to building a safe dog-and-baby relationship. One option is to have treats ready as you settle down to feed. Then, when you and baby are relaxed, ask your dog to perform a basic skill (sit, down) and reward him by tossing treats with one hand. You can either have your dog on a tether or roaming free, depending on the manners and energy level of your dog. If your dog hasn't been tethered before, be sure to make it a positive experience and give him time to get used to it.

Whether your baby is breast- or bottle-fed, feeding takes time and patience to learn. At times, you or your baby may become overwhelmed and stressed. When that happens, put your dog in a quiet area away from the hubbub, for example another room, outside, in his crate, or behind a baby gate. The last thing you need is for your dog to also become stressed and add canine anxiety to the situation.

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Dog Sports Around the World: Herding

There are more than 70 breeds of herding dogs worldwide, and they enjoy enormous popularity as companions. The majority of today's herding dogs and herding dog breed mixes never come across a flock of cattle or sheep or goats. But that doesn't mean their herding instinct is dormant. People who share their lives with these energetic and intelligent dogs know how easy it is to trigger a round of (often annoying) heel nipping and other classic herding behaviours. They also report that no amount of exercise can induce the blissful "tiredness" afterwards. So in some countries, herding breed guardians choose to take their charges to recreational herding trials.

A typical sheepdog trial involves using whistles and calls to direct your dog to move three sheep through an obstacle course into a pen. But there are many different herding events and different courses. Also, plenty of enthusiasts never compete, but simply go once a week to have fun with their dogs.

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