



We put a twinkle in your eye, a smile on your face, a song in your heart, skills in your hands, so that the time with your family dog will be some of the best times of your life.

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Issue 57

Living With Dogs: Surviving Your Dog's Teens

Two-legged kids are not the only ones to go through an awkward phase. Adolescence – usually thought of as the period from four months to two years of age, a little later for larger breeds – could feel like an honest-to-goodness teenage rebellion. Your young dog develops selective hearing, seems to forget manners they know well, and reverts to puppyish behaviour like mouthing, jumping, barking, and destructive chewing. Disheartening as such apparent setbacks can be, remember that adolescence is a phase. It, too, shall pass.



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Family Dog: Camping With Your Dog

Camping with family is for many people part of a fun day at the beach. Before you pack everything up and head to your favourite camping spot, here are some things to keep in mind:

First, everyone in your family should be on the same page about who will be caring for the dog during the trip. In the chaos of unpacking, setting up gear, etc., it's all too easy for the dog to break loose, get into mischief, or, worse, eat all the hotdogs. Plan who will be the primary caregiver. The ideal is an adult who can ask for assistance from older children when needed. Second, bring lots of things to keep your dog busy. For example new chews, a Kong ready to put goodies in, and plenty of treats to reward good behaviour. Third, always bring a first-aid kit for your dog in case he gets a minor cut or scrape while romping and having fun on the beach. If swimming is involved, carry a pet life jacket: Even the keenest water dog can get caught up in strong currents. Finally, always leash your dog on campsites – other dogs might not be friendly, and you're bound to meet other children running and playing.



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...teen dogs

Meanwhile, here are five tips for keeping your sanity intact and raising a polite, easygoing adult dog:

Be consistent. Consistency in routines, training, and expectations is key. Just like human children, young dogs do better with boundaries and rules in place.

Use life rewards. Dinner, treats, walks, belly rubs, play sessions, a spot on the couch – all are opportunities for manners practice. Use things your dog enjoys to reward him throughout the day for a quick practice of sit or other cues he knows. A little training all day long will help keep your dog’s “manners muscles” flexing.

Take a class. Now is a great time to take training classes or engage with a private trainer to get tips and regular training time in. You wouldn’t consider your human children’s education finished after primary school, right? Think of this time as high school for your dog.

Have fun with exercise. The more appropriate workouts you can fit in, the better behaved your dog is likely to be. Stress-free exercise is the antidote to adolescent hyperactivity. Just consult with your trainer and vet before undertaking strenuous sports. Don’t go running with your dog until he is at least 18 months old, for example. It may harm bone development.

Dog In the Spotlight: Jack Russel Terrier

The Jack Russell is a high-energy terrier bred in 1800s England for fox hunting by the eponymous Reverend John Russell. The demand for hunting dogs declined dramatically post-World War II, after which Jacks increasingly found themselves as family and companion dogs, which remains their main job today.

But though their original job has shifted, their original energy levels have not. The trick to living with a JRT is exercise and enrichment– lots of it. In fact, a Jack named Bothy made history as part of the 1982 Transglobe Expedition. That may be a bit much to ask of most JRT owners, but thankfully Jack Russell Terriers excel at high-energy dog sports like agility, flyball, and trieball – and most love a good game of fetch. Jacks also love to train, and are good at it, too. In short, a JRT with a job is a happy JRT.

If you enjoy great company and a bit of a challenge, and are ready to provide lots of exercise and training for your best friend, search nearby shelters and rescues for a Jack in need of a home.



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