



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.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 60

Living With Dogs: A Before-Baby Prep Check List

1. Review and firm up your dog's basic skills. Practise asking for behaviours from different positions. Try sitting back on a couch, lying in bed, or sitting on the floor.
2. Socialize your dog around children in a positive and controlled environment.
3. Know your dog's sensitivities. Research his breed or mixture of breeds. Observe whether he startles with fast motion, noises, or other sudden events. Figure out in advance how to manage any sensitivity and, if need be, consult with a trainer to desensitize your dog.
4. Begin a baby schedule that includes varying feeding times; crating or dog-zone times; varying exercise routines; ignoring attention-seeking behaviour.



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Tips & Tools: From Sour to Sweet

Dogs smell like... well, dogs, but some smell more than others. Regular bathing and grooming should be enough to keep your dog's natural fragrance to a pleasant minimum. If not, a change to your dog's diet or visit to your vet may be in order. These are common culprits of canine odour:

Bacterial or fungal infections. Ear infections can emit a pungent smell. So can skin infections, common in dogs with overlapping folds of skin. Dental infections, in addition to being painful and dangerous to a dog's health, can smell of rot.

Diet problems. Food allergies, poor food quality, or a diet high in starches and low in fatty acids can cause dry skin, bad breath, excessive flatulence, and other health-related issues that add to the bad smells around the house.

Overdoing the bath products. Shampoos, powders, and perfume with strong fragrances can irritate your dog's skin and make matters worse. Stick to gentle formulas.



cont.

...before-baby

5. Put a teddy bear in the baby’s carrier and move through the house and yard with it. Go through doorways and in and out of the car to get the feel for using the equipment around your dog. Practise training your dog while using the carrier.
6. Walk your dog with an empty stroller – or put a heavy doll or a bag of flour in it for a more realistic feel – to learn more about the skills your dog needs to learn before your baby comes.
7. Use a CD of baby noises to introduce your dog to the sounds and create a positive experience prior to baby’s arrival.
8. Put the scent of baby lotion on the baby carrier, car seat, the teddy you carry in the sling, and any other items your dog will associate with the new baby, so he can learn to recognise this new, interesting smell.
9. Familiarise your dog with any person who may care for him while you’re in the hospital.

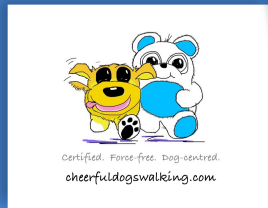
This isn’t everything, but it’s a great start. And remember to have fun with it!

On the Job: Arson Dog

Arson dogs work with fire investigative units to sniff out minuscule amounts of anything from lamp oil to lighter fluid in scenes flooded with water or covered in mud. They can detect more than 60 different ignitable petroleum-based hydrocarbons. They use their 200 million scent receptors (compared to our 5 million) to help investigators accurately assess the flammable products present at a fire scene and increase the chances of collecting a positive sample.

This can help rule arson in or out. With billions of dollars in property and hundreds of lives lost every year as a result of intentionally set fires, arson dogs can play an important role in bringing arsonists to justice.

What makes a good arson dog? At the top of the list is a high level of energy. Dogs that might be considered the problem child in other settings are often prime candidates – Guide dog training “dropouts,” for example. Other key characteristics are curiosity, high trainability, an excellent nose, and an easygoing demeanour.



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