



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

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Issue 67

A World of Dogs: Wedding Dogs

As dogs have become increasingly ingrained in our families and daily lives, the number of dogs participating in the actual wedding ceremony of their human parents has exploded. In a trend that's easily trackable in the age of Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter, dogs in tuxedos or wearing flower wreaths trailing happy couples as they walk down the aisle is an ever more common sight. On duty as ring bearers and flower girls – perhaps even as dog of honour – they pose for wedding photos and socialise at receptions. Some less socially inclined pooches are not physically present during the party but are mentioned in the vows or have their likenesses sculpted into wedding cakes or gracing fancy invitations.

And why not? Dogs are an integral part of the family, so including them in this ancient family ritual is only natural. Of course, when animals are involved, no amount of preparation and practice guarantees a perfect outcome; a sense of humour is essential in case the big day has a few canine-related glitches. Certain common-sense precautions will help keep mishaps to a minimum, though. Don't overdress the wedding dog, for example, lest she spend the entire ceremony trying to wiggle out of her outfit. It also pays to find a wedding photographer who is experienced working with pets – a well-timed squeaky toy can mean the difference between a so-so photograph



Dog quotes

“There’s no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.” - **Bern Williams**

cont.

... wedding dogs

and a lifelong treasured memento for the living room wall.

If the plan is to include a strong, young, nervous, or high-energy dog in your special day, getting help from a professional dog trainer early can be well worth the investment, especially if the designated dog escort isn't used to crowds. Make sure the needs of the dog, including the need for alone-time, is met throughout the day. Enlist help and back-up dog handling from dog savvy friends in attendance. After all, a wedding is about love and family, and for many of us, neither is complete without our four-legged friends.



Dog In the Spotlight: Saluki

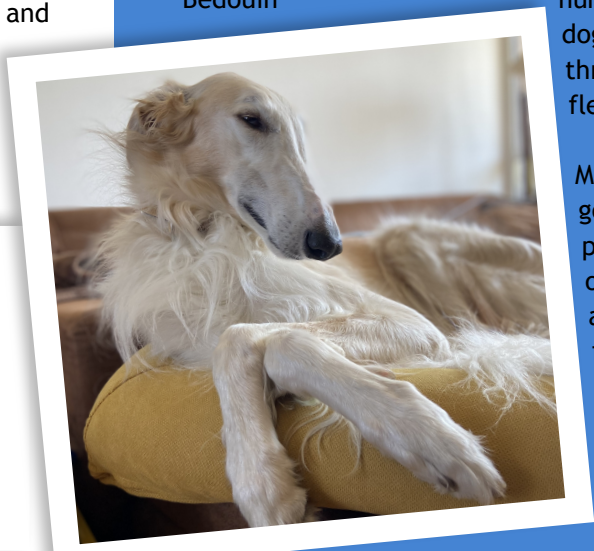
These majestic dogs first appeared on Sumerian wall carvings dating from 6,000 to 7,000 BC. Notable moments from then include depictions on Egyptian tombs, travel from ancient Iran to China via the Silk Road, and accompanying crusaders returning home from the Middle East to Europe.

Over their history Saluki have gone by many names – gazelle hound, Arabian hound, and Persian greyhound. But while true greyhounds are said to be the fastest dogs, it's a Saluki which is credited with the Guinness Book of Records' top dog speed, clocked at 68.9 km/h.

Having been bred by nomadic tribes in the Fertile Crescent to hunt fast quarry like gazelle, hare, fox, and jackal, their speed makes good sense. Using swiftness and sight to bring down prey, Saluki were also given a unique running start by Bedouin

hunters who carried the dogs astride camels to throw them toward their fleeing victims.

Modern Saluki still enjoy a good chase and should be provided sanctioned opportunities through activities like fetch, flyball, or lure coursing to avoid them harassing fellow pets and wildlife.



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