



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

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Issue 68

Dogs In Action: Canine Parkour

If you're looking for a canine sport that can be enjoyed anywhere, requires no special equipment, and suits dogs of any size, shape, age, or energy level, canine parkour may be the answer for you and your best friend.

Canine parkour is a creative, flexible mash-up of agility and human parkour, where dogs are trained to navigate environments by jumping, crawling, climbing, and balancing across whatever they encounter in their path. It can be played in any environment, from an urban sidewalk to a suburban park.

And lest you worry you might be required to scale walls or jump from banisters like the parkour wizzes on Youtube, you can



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Healthy Dog: Prevent Bloat

Bloat, also known as twisted stomach, is a scary condition that results in death in 25-40% of cases. While the cause is unknown, we know risk factors include eating too fast or too much, drinking too much water, eating one large meal per day, stress, trauma, and a dry food-only diet. Any dog can get bloat, but the victims are overwhelmingly large, deep-chested breeds like akitas, boxers, basset hounds, Irish setters, great Danes, rottweilers, and German shepherds. Signs of bloat are a distended stomach, retching that doesn't produce anything, weakness, drooling, panting, pale gums, a galloping heart, and collapse. If you think your dog might have bloat, get him to a vet immediately.

Preventing bloat: Feed your dog several small meals per day instead of one large meal. Don't let your dog overeat or exercise vigorously right after eating. Vary your dog's diet.



cont.

... canine parkour

participate at your own fitness level as the sport stresses flexibility and inclusiveness. Whether you guide your dog with your own feet firmly on the ground or match him leap for leap, there's plenty of fun to be shared.



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Tips & Tools: The Stoic Dog

Masking pain or illness is an evolutionary survival mechanism in dogs, which can sometimes make it hard to tell when your dog is feeling poorly. Here are some signs of trouble to look out for (when in doubt, always consult your vet):

Activity level changes: Lethargy, restlessness, or a less cheerful dog can mean something is wrong.

Mood swings: Happy one day, grouchy the next? Pain could be at the root. The same goes for a buddy who's happy in the morning, but cranky at night.

Sudden aggression: If an otherwise friendly dog, especially an adult, shows aggression, be sure to include pain as one of the chief suspects.

Loss of appetite: Could be pain, illness, or something less alarming, but a lack of appetite always warrants a trip to the vet.



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