



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

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 69

## Family Dog: Banishing Rainy Day Blues

Some of us feel stuck during the rainy months, a bit low on motivation, and that can translate into sharing less energy with our dogs. Creating special fun games that can be done inside or outside no matter the weather is a great solution. Keep games short and sweet so you can easily fit playtime into a busy schedule. Here are some of our favourite games:

**Which box?** A great game using old boxes holiday gifts came in. Use different size boxes and hide a bone, toy, or kibble in it and let your dog find the goodie. Mix up boxes and repeat.

**Recall fun!** Have each family member go to a different room and call your dog. See whom the dog comes the fastest for.



**Dance and downs.** Nothing changes a mood and picks you up like music. Put your favourite music on and practise cues with your dog in different rooms – switch between just using hand signals, verbal cues *etc.* Great way to keep your dog sharp on his skills.

There are many ways to have fun with our dogs. Don't let the rainy days keep you and your dog down. Make the most of these slower days with some new, fun activities.

## Tips & Tools: How to please your vet

**Appointment decorum.** Be on time for your appointment and, if it's your first, be early so there's time to fill out paperwork. If you can't make it, call and let the vet clinic know.

**Injury prevention.** Nobody likes to get bitten or scratched, and your vet is no exception. Always mention in advance if your dog tends to get nervous or cranky during vet visits.

**Ignore your mobile.** The vet clinic is not the place to return phone calls. If you're in mid-conversation when called in, excuse yourself, hang up, and give your full attention to the vet.

**Good communication.** Be prepared to describe your dog's symptoms and behaviour. Has anything unusual happened? Tell the vet. Draw a diagram if that helps make things clear – vague communication is a pet peeve of most vets. It's also a good idea to take notes or ask for written instructions.



Certified. Force-free. Dog-centred.  
[cheerfuldogswalking.com](http://cheerfuldogswalking.com)



Follow us



## Tips & Tools: Does your dog need a winter jacket?

Many dogs don't enjoy getting dressed up, so it is best to avoid it unless you have properly prepared Fido for wearing an extra coat. But for some it may be a necessity when the weather gets chilly. Which dogs are likely to need extra warmth when temperatures drop?

- Thin-coated breeds such as Boxers and French Bulldogs
- Dogs with low body fat such as Greyhounds and Whippets
- Older dogs who may be more sensitive to cold or have health issues

When considering options, think about:

- Designs that adapt to body movement and aren't restrictive
- Jackets that cover the chest and stomach as this is where a lot of heat is lost
- Options that are easy to take on and off to reduce stress for your dog



## cheerfuldogs.com

*Your go-to trainer for enlightened dog lovers*

Website: [cheerfuldogs.com](http://cheerfuldogs.com)

## cheerfuldogswalking.com

*Professional dog walking you can trust*

Website: [cheerfuldogswalking.com](http://cheerfuldogswalking.com)

Tel: 9630 3884

Email: [cheerfuldogswalking@gmail.com](mailto:cheerfuldogswalking@gmail.com)

Save the environment, access our e-newsletters on our websites