



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 78

Living With Dogs: Dogs and Baby Equipment

Bringing home baby equipment is an exciting and emotional thing, often followed by unwrapping, organizing, or DIY tinkering to put a contraption together. Anticipation and newness fill the air, and expectant or new parents aren't the only ones sensing it. The resident pooch is guaranteed to pick up on the buzz surrounding the new toys. Not only will the object become immediately fascinating, it might well be mistaken for a dog toy. For safety reasons, it's important to teach your dog to behave calmly around all baby-related items before you use them for your baby. Ask yourself:

- Does your dog love to chase anything and everything?



Tips & Tools: How to remove a tick

Found a tick? Hurry slowly! As in, get it out right away, but be slow and deliberate about the actual procedure. If you accidentally leave parts of the tick behind, it can cause serious problems.

1. Dab the area with rubbing alcohol.
2. With your fingers or a pair of tweezers, grab the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible.
3. Pull straight upward. Don't twist, jerk, or squeeze the tick. Avoid leaving any parts of the tick behind.
4. Disinfect the area, wash your hands, and sterilise the tweezer.
5. Monitor the bite site for the next few weeks. If you see redness or swelling, bring your dog to the vet right away.

cont.

... baby equipment

- Is she reactive to sudden motion? Blinking lights? Does she startle easily?
- Is she sound sensitive? What's her tolerance level with high- and low-pitched sounds?

Knowing the answers will make it easier to manage your dog around equipment that rolls, squeaks, vibrates, rotates, or flashes with light. If your dog is a hard-core chaser, for example, you may need to keep her in her crate or another room while your baby is in the baby swing. Does she tend to get possessive of her toys? Same thing. Management is key. Overall, if you spend time rewarding your dog for leaving baby's equipment alone (use food treats liberally and redirect your dog to her own toys), most dogs will grow used to the new objects and will classify them as just another piece of furniture that's out-of-bounds.

Remember: If a visitor knocks on the door or the phone rings, take your dog with you, close the door to the room baby and equipment are in, or use a securely locked baby gate to separate your dog from baby. Never leave your dog and baby together unsupervised for any reason.



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Dog In the Spotlight: Basenji

This dapper little hunting dog traces her general ancestry back to ancient Africa; carvings of dogs resembling Basenjis decorate the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs. Of the many charming distinguishing characteristics a Basenji possesses, the most well known are her "barroo," a yodel-like sound, and her habit of standing on hind legs to see better, the way meerkats do. Another fun trait is her almost feline obsession with grooming – a pastime she can spend hours on. Despite (or perhaps because of) her acute intelligence, the Basenji is not the easiest to train, but with patience and gentle, positive methods she can be a polite and attentive family companion. In addition to gracing royal tombs and paintings throughout history, this dog's imperial good looks and curious and independent nature has inspired movies (Good-bye My Lady) and novels (Heart of Savannah and The Basenji Revelation).



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