



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 81

## Family Dog: Music Does Mom, Dog & Baby Good

Including your dog in daily baby routines is a great way to keep your dog mentally active. Mental stimulation is so important for our dogs and keeps them out of trouble. You can be really creative in finding ways to do this. One way that works well for babies from newborns to about four months of age is dancing. Nothing calms us down or keeps our spirits up like dancing. Put some great music on, hold your baby in a carrier or in your arms and move around the room. As you move around the room have your dog follow you to different locations.



## Healthy Dog: About the third eyelid

Dogs have lots of wonderful and fascinating quirks, but did you know that they also have an extra eyelid? Yep, this inner eyelid, known as a nictitating membrane, provides extra protection against scratches and debris. They share this feature with many of their canid cousins, such as foxes, wolves, and coyotes. It plays an important role, especially considering all the scurrying dogs tend to do in bushes and grass. It also provides extra protection during altercations. Located under the lower eyelid on the inner corner of the eye, the third eyelid is also responsible for spreading moisture across the eye and keeping the eye healthy. The third eyelid isn't visible to us - in fact, if you do see it then it may be a signal you need to take your dog to the vet. It could be a sign of eye issues such as cherry eye, Horner's syndrome, or conjunctivitis.

Another interesting fact? Humans also had a third eyelid, but it shrank throughout evolution to become the plica semilunaris - a small structure near the tear duct. It still plays a role in keeping our tears drained and debris flushed from our eyes.



## ... mom, dog & baby

And as you do, ask your dog to perform sits, downs, or any other cues he knows.

This activity is wonderful to do at different speeds and in different rooms. It will continue to be something you and your dog will benefit from as your baby grows. This creative way to practice your dog's skills will soon elicit huge belly laughs from your baby while she enjoys meals in the highchair or jolly jumper. The more you practice these basic manners skills, the more your dog can be safely included in the daily routines as your baby grows. Keep it simple, fun, and safe!



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## Dogs In Action: Race to rescue

In 2021 a stray dog named Gobi made headlines after she completed a 155-mile ultramarathon in northwestern China with her human running companion, Dion Leonard. The two met during the race and Gobi started following Dion. The two soon became inseparable.

Following the race, Dion wanted to adopt Gobi and take her back to his home in Scotland, but Gobi went missing in the city where they were staying. Dion launched a massive search effort with the help of local volunteers and social media. After several days, Gobi was found and reunited with Dion.

Their incredible story captured the hearts of people all over the world and inspired a children's book called "Finding Gobi", which has been translated into 17 languages. Dion and Gobi are still going strong and live together in France. She reportedly still loves running - almost as much as a morning pastry. Dion advocates for animal adoption and welfare and continues to run ultramarathons. What a team!



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