



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 85

Dogs In Action: Saving Lives In the Snow

The mention of a rescue dog on a mountain might conjure up a St. Bernard, ploughing through snow drifts carrying blankets and whiskey. In reality, you are much more likely to run into a German Shepherd, Border Collie, Labrador, or Golden Retriever. These types of dogs - active, hard-working nose detectives - are the partners of choice for avalanche search and rescue teams. Trained to locate human scent in snowbanks, a fully certified “avy dog” can cover 1 hectare in thirty minutes, an area it would take people four hours to cover.

Healthy Dog: Is Your Home an Ice Rink?

Slippery floors are an often overlooked aspect of keeping your dog safe and healthy. Dogs have different anatomy to us, making them more susceptible to accidents on slippery surfaces. Their paws lack the grip and traction that our shoes provide, making it challenging for them to maintain balance.

Slips and falls can lead to various injuries, ranging from sprains and strains to more severe fractures. Older dogs, young and developing dogs, or those recovering from surgery are especially vulnerable. Slip-related injuries can have lasting effects on our dogs' physical and emotional wellbeing. A fall can not only cause physical pain but also create fear and anxiety around walking on slippery surfaces.

So, what can we do to protect our dogs from slipping and sliding around our homes? Provide traction via non-slip rugs, mats, and carpet runners around your home. Trim nails regularly so your dog's grip is not impeded. Create a dedicated area in your home where your dog can play and relax - either carpeted or with a non-slip surface.



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cont.

... saving lives

To an avalanche victim, that speed can mean the difference between life and death. Barring fatal injury, as many as 90 percent of victims survive if found within the first 15 minutes of burial, a figure that drops to 30 percent after half an hour. Avalanche dogs go through rigorous training, all based on positive-reinforcement methods. The handler determines where it's most likely someone could be buried, how the wind is blowing, and then releases the dog to search based on a strategy of optimal coverage. When the dog indicates human scent by digging in the snow and wagging her tail, humans with shovels take over. Every year, avy dogs help save lives in the world's mountainous regions and ski resorts.



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Dog In the Spotlight: English Cocker Spaniel

This dapper little gun dog was originally bred for flushing and retrieving small game. Don't be fooled by her melting spaniel eyes and soft, feathery coat: the Cocker is an all-terrain dog and can be a handful to live with. Exuberant and energetic, she needs lots of exercise and careful positive training.



Cockers love having a job – something scent-related, preferably, otherwise anything demanding will do: agility, obedience, flyball, canine disc, etc. The well-socialised Cocker is affectionate and wants to be part of all family activities. Beware the noise, though, she's quick to alert to doorbells. (A Cocker Spaniel holds the world record for the most persistent barking: 907 times in ten minutes!). With her soulful expression, the Cocker is popular

in arts and entertainment too, most famously in Disney's enduring 1955 animated classic, *Lady and the Tramp*.



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