



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

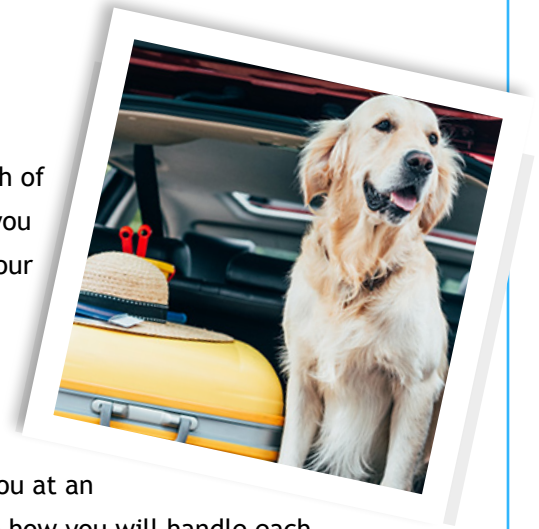
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Issue 86

Living With Dogs: Out & About - Setting Your Dog Up for Success

A successful outing with your dog is one that's safe and enjoyable for both of you. As natural and easy as that sounds, it often doesn't happen unless you prepare for and practise it. Here are some tips for making the most of your time with your favourite companion.



1. Preparation is half the battle. Before you go anywhere, think about the challenges you're likely to encounter: bins full of goodies in a pet store, other dogs, people who want to pet your dog, people walking by you at an outdoor café, kids running around in a park, trash on the ground. Decide how you will handle each challenge. Will you move away to create distance? Use treats to keep your dog's attention on you? Use cues your dog is well practised at (settle, watch, leave-it) to help guide his behaviour?

2. Be on the lookout. Actively scan the environment so you can respond proactively to challenges rather than reacting when the distraction is already too close.



Dog quotes

“Opening up your life to a dog who needs a home is one of the most fulfilling things you can do .” - Christopher Morley

cont.

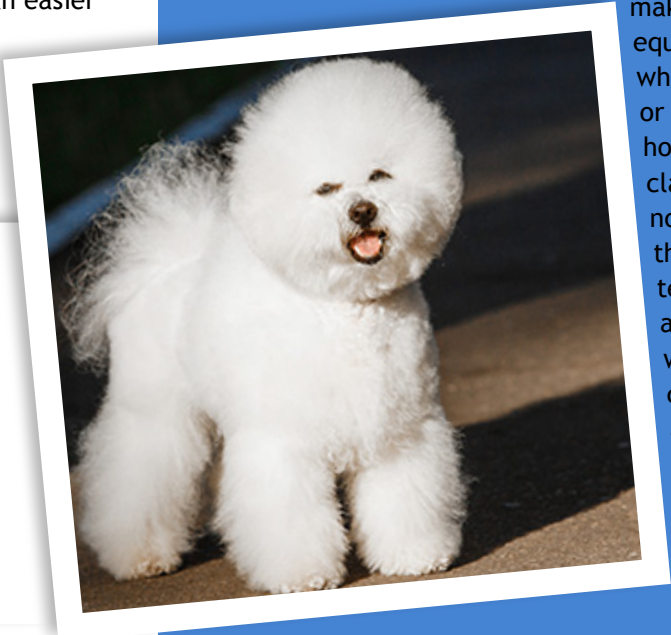
... setting up for success

3. **Work at your dog's level.** Is your dog ready to settle comfortably for the full duration of a café lunch or should you start with a shorter visit like a trip for coffee? Has your dog noticed the chew bones in a lower bin at the pet store? A leave-it, let's go, or watch from several feet away is more likely to work than when he has his nose in the bin.

4. **Set your dog up for success.** If your outing was not as enjoyable as you would like, spend some time at home working on the behaviours your dog struggled with. Then pick an easier outing, such as the park during the morning lull instead of the afternoon rush. Bring tastier treats and go before your dog's mealtime, not after.



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Dogs In the Spotlight: Bichon Fries

This cheerful and companionable powderpuff hails from the Mediterranean area; bichons travelled widely as companions for sailors, minstrels, and circus groups. Beginning in the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance, they found favour with one royal European family after another, from Spain to Italy to France (King Henry III of France reputedly carried his bichon in a basket hanging from his neck). Bichons are the star performers of the dog world.

Consummate entertainers, they love engaging with their people and can play and clown around for hours. The well-socialised bichon is friendly, resilient, and quick to learn. This, combined with a sturdy build,

makes him an equally great buddy whether travelling or lounging at home. Despite his classification as a non-sporting dog, the bichon is a terrific little athlete that, with training, can excel at agility, nose work, and other dog sports.



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