



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

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Issue 89

Living With Dogs: Dogs & Your Pregnancy - FAQ

When a new baby is on the way, many expecting parents experience mixed feelings, questions, or concerns about raising dogs and kids together. Here are answers to some common questions:

Does my dog know I'm pregnant?

Probably, yes. Pregnancy brings many changes for expecting moms, both physically and emotionally, including changes in your scent, posture, and moods. Dogs are experts at observing and recognising such subtle changes – and some dogs might react to them.

How will my dog react to my pregnancy?

Reactions vary from an increase in attention-seeking behaviours to aggression. Because of the postural changes in pregnant women, some dogs may view mom-to-be as different from normal. You might not walk as steadily, too, and that can be scary for some dogs.



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Dog quotes

"A dog has the soul of a philosopher."

- Plato

cont.

... dogs & your pregnancy

What can I do about any negative reactions I see in my dog?

Training and good communication play a big role in maintaining equilibrium during your pregnancy. Dogs are most comfortable when they understand what you want them to do. If your dog displays negative or uncertain behaviour, refer back to your basic cues and training exercises to provide him with focus and structure. Practising basic skills is essential during times of change and transition. Communicating in calm, soothing tones is also important. Dogs relax when they know their humans are relaxed and on top of things.

Pregnancy is an emotional roller-coaster for all family members – including the family dog – and all stress, good or bad, takes a toll on energy and mood. This is a great time for your family to learn to read your dog’s stress cues and subtle signals. Think ahead and plan how to handle the stressful times once the baby arrives. Being prepared is the best way to increase success and harmony as your family grows.



Dogs In the Spotlight: Afghan Hound

This sleek, silk-coated aristocrat of the canine world was originally bred for life in rough mountainous terrain. A sighthound bred to catch deer, gazelles, and leopards, the Afghan boasts a top speed of 64 kilometres an hour and a 270-degree field of vision.

The stunning exterior and strong personality of Afghans have inspired writers and artists all through history, not least Picasso, who depicted his beloved Afghan Kabul in both paintings and sculpture. Appropriately, the human companion of Prissy the Afghan in Disney’s One Hundred and One Dalmatians is an artist.

Because of their coats, Afghans require a great deal of grooming and maintenance.



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Website: cheerfuldogswalking.com

Tel: 9630 3884

Email: cheerfuldogswalking@gmail.com

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