



The Way Home

An outreach e-communication from Papillon Haven Rescue (PapHaven)

Issue #79

www.paphaven.org

March 2013

1,200+ rescued & counting! Celebrating 10 years in 2013!

The 411 on fostering

Tails Magazine – <http://www.tailsinc.com/2013/01/the-411-on-fostering/>

It's no secret that we've got a serious case of animal overpopulation in this country. And though more people are starting to understand the necessity of spaying and neutering, dogs and cats are continuing to procreate like... well, rabbits. Shelters/rescues across the nation are continually dealing with over- capacity, and not only is it taxing their resources and staff, it's making it increasingly difficult to save as many animals as they'd like.

So what can you do? While the possibility of adopting another pet may not be in the cards for you right now, becoming a foster parent is an excellent (and unbelievably rewarding) way to keep the population of unwanted and stray animals down, decrease euthanasia rates, and increase adoption rates. It better prepares your foster pet to be the perfect new addition for another family – teach an animal how to love and they will

share it with others (and with you!) tenfold.

Think you've got what it takes? Here's the 411:

Is fostering right for you?

To help decide if fostering is right for you, first consider how much time, energy, and money you can devote to caring for the pet(s) you'll bring into your home. Take an inventory of your living area – it's important



to know if you have enough space for more animals in your home because even dog bowls take up room. Also, keep in mind how easy

it is to get attached to pets. While many animal agencies would love to have foster parents keep the animals they've taken in, some strongly discourage foster parents from

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Our own little "Energizer Butterfly"

As many of you know, our "fearless leader" Jan Jorolan recently had to have shoulder surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff. Unfortunately, she has had to have physical therapy twice!

It only takes a few minutes as a member of PapHaven to see that Jan is our own little "Energizer Butterfly" in constant motion. She is always available to anyone trying to contact her. Her bright and happy "Hi there" is a welcome sound when one of us is trying to deal with our own responsibilities for PHR ... trying to take away a little of the responsibilities off Jan's plate.



What many of you may not know, is that some of our members decided to make a "nice memory" out of her situation! Those members went to our "co-captain" Andy Watson and decided to make an honorarium to PapHaven in Jan's name. A beautiful plant was sent and donations were made. And guess what? Jan doesn't even know! This little article is her "card" of get well, speedy recovery, and "how could we live with out you" wishes. We have added a butterfly to our Memorial Wall in Jan's name.

We wish Jan a very speedy physical therapy ... GET WELL!

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Watch for the May 2013 issue of *The Way Home* for up-to-date details about PHR happenings.

Make donations thru PayPal

www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr



Remember - all donations are tax deductible!

Become a virtual foster!



Click here to see how easy it is to make a difference in a rescued pap's life!

<http://www.paphaven.org/vfoster/shtml>

Watch for upcoming sales of PHR's new cookbook!



"The Cook is not Responsible for Dog Hair in the Food"



<http://butterflyboulevard.pbwiki.com/>

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Knitz 4 Dogz



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<http://myplace.frontier.com/~knitz4dogz/>

The Way Home
Issue 79 -- March 2013

www.paphaven.org

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Visit the Mall

http://www.paphaven.info/shopping_mall.html

The Way Home is a monthly e-publication for members/supporters of Papillon Haven rescue (PapHaven). Masthead photos taken by *Animal Photography.com* (used with permission); unless otherwise designated.

Newsletter deadlines:
Materials and olor photos for the next issue must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send materials to: nora3paps@yahoo.com.

Contact PHR

Subscribe to e-news

Make sure your dog's food makes the grade!



<http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/>

Time to begin

Spring Auction Planning

Planning has started and we need your help! The 2013 Spring Auction is FAST approaching.

Did you receive a gift for the holidays that is “just not you?” Have you been holding “regift” items in the attic, closet, or basement? Would you consider donating these items to PHR’s bi-annual auction?

Donations are now being accepted. As you pack up your donations, please do the following:

1. **Take a photo of each item** you are going to donate.
2. **Write up a brief description** of each item; include size (length, width, and height where applicable), color, and any details that you feel would make this item “stand out” to buyers.
3. **Email these details** to either Ann Paynter at annie.paynter@gmail.com or Amy Fretz at afretz@ptd.net.

These simple steps will help our committee to prepare the webpage while they await the postal carrier or UPS driver.

4. Mail donated items to:

Amy Fretz
631 Golden Eagle Drive
Saylorsburg, PA 18353
or
Ann Paynter
423 Freehall Street
Mertztown, PA 19539

Thanks for your continued support of PapHaven. Watch for event flyers and upcoming issues of *The Way Home* for more information.

Dollar\$ for dog\$

Here are several ways you can help raise much-needed funds for our organization. All donations to PapHaven are tax deductible.

- Crafty? Sell your work on ebay, etsy, etc. or to your friends/family.
- Encourage your co-workers to bypass one coffee run, and instead donate that money.
- Host a garage sale. Enlist neighbors/friends/family to join or donate their stuff to you.
- If you run your own business, donate a portion of your sales. You can do this on a regular basis, on certain items, or as a special promotion.
- Set up a car wash. Better yet, set up a dog wash!
- Organize a bake sale at your mom’s club, bunco game, book club, or church group.
- Walk neighborhood dogs as part of a “Walk for Freedom” campaign – the more money you raise, the more dogs can experience freedom.
- Bypass gifts for birthdays and holidays and request donations to your favorite animal rescue instead.

Contest for dirty dogs!

+ soak it in

Let’s face it: dogs like to get dirty. Unfortunately, your cream-colored chaise lounge doesn’t. That’s why we’re giving five dirt-plagued pet parents the chance to win a 16 oz. bottle of Dogtails dog shampoo, perfect for keeping your best friends sparkling clean after spring showers. Dogtails’ natural clarifying shampoo contains soothing essential oils like aloe vera for itchy skin and chamomile for calming. For a chance to win, visit GoPetplan.com/dogtails and tell us your dirt-loving dog’s grimiest tale. Winners will be selected on May 24 and announced in June!



Calming hyperactive behaviour

by Teoti Anderson – <http://www.moderndogmagazine.com/articles/ask-expert-calming-hyperactive-behaviour/20190>

Q: My dog is frequently in overdrive, over-excitedly jumping, bumping into me, charging about, nipping at me. How can I tone down his boisterous behavior?

A: Some dogs, especially some breeds, are full of energy. Here are five options to help calm a boisterous dog:

Exercise. Most dogs who are over-exuberant are not getting the amount of exercise they need for their age and breed. For a typical adolescent dog, a walk around the block isn't sufficient exercise. You need to get his heart rate pumping for a sustained period. Try starting at 30 minutes a day and see if it has an impact on Scout's behaviour.

Training. Instead of getting frustrated at

what Scout is doing, give him something else to do that you like better. Don't want him jumping on you? Teach him "sit" or "down." Train him to chew on appropriate toys.

Sports. If you have a dog that is a jumping bean, how about trying agility? There are lots of sports to give Scout an outlet, such as flyball, lure coursing, sledding, herding competitions, and more.

Diet. If you're feeding a high-calorie, high-protein food, it may be too much for Scout's lifestyle. The average suburban dog does not need a "performance" diet! Consult your veterinarian if you have questions about what to feed.

Massage. Some dogs need help learning

how to calm down. Learn how to massage Scout to help him relax. Start after an exercise session, when he's more likely to be tired. Begin by gently stroking the outside edges of his ears. Rub your thumbs in slow, small circles on his forehead, gradually down his spine and along his body. Make sure it's a pleasant experience for him. Start with short sessions and gradually make them longer as Scout learns to relax.



Happy Birthday Harry

Harry Houdini (left) was a PapHaven Dog who was adopted just a year ago from a foster home in Florida. The birthday party was to celebrate his being a New Yorker for whole year. His mom sends lots of pictures and letters from him to both his foster mom and to me. She always dresses him up for various holidays.

(Below) Harry dressed to how his support for his favorite NY team.



Have an adopted or foster dog that you want to see highlighted in PHR's e-news? Send your photos and a short story (no more than 50 words) to nora3paps@yahoo.com. We will feature your dog in an upcoming issue.

This is highly recommended for foster dogs.

Canine Nutrition Basics

By Claudia Kawczynska – <http://thebark.com/content/canine-nutrition-basics>

Whether you feed your dog a premium commercial food or prepare homemade meals, it is important to understand the fundamentals of canine nutrition. Here is a review of the basics to help you get started in making the right and informed choices for your dog.

There are six major classes of nutrients: protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and water.

It all begins with energy, the basic requirement of life. The energy content (measured in calories) of a food is determined by how much of the first three elements the food contains. Vitamins and minerals are also essential for many functions of the body and, because about 70 percent of a dog's body is made up of water, that too is critical.

Proteins – are complex molecules made up of amino acids, the building blocks of cell growth, maintenance and repair. In companion animals, one of the biggest demands for protein comes from the maintenance of fur and hair, which can use up to 30 percent of the daily protein intake, according to Barbara Fougère, BVSc.

Proteins are made up of 20 amino acids. While dogs, cats and even humans produce about half of these amino acids internally, the other half, termed “essential amino acids,” need to be provided by the diet. The 10 essential amino acids are arginine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, threonine, tryptophan and valine. If even one of these “essentials” is deficient, as Lowell Ackerman, DVM, explains, the body cannot make specific proteins effectively. Amino acids work in a step-by-step fashion to manufacture protein.

If one of the steps is missing, the process stops. The biological value of proteins indicates how efficiently an animal utilizes them. Animal nutrition expert Donald Strombeck, DVM, notes that this value is high for proteins from meat, most meat by-products, eggs and dairy products. “Dogs digest these proteins efficiently and they provide amino acids in proportions suitable for tissue protein

synthesis. In contrast, the biological value of most plant proteins is low, due to insufficiencies of specific amino acids and lower digestibility.”

Fats – provide the most concentrated source of energy in the diet. They also supply the fatty acids that are important building blocks for important substances and essential to maintaining normal, healthy cells. Along with protein, fats contribute to a diet's palatability, plus aid absorption of the fat-soluble vitamins A, E, D and K.

Like protein's essential amino acids, fat has its own essential fatty acids (EFAs): linoleic acid, linolenic acid and arachidonic acid. Because they make up an important part

of every cell, they are also required by animals. Linoleic acid is the source of omega-6 fatty acids, and linolenic acid is the source of omega-3 fatty acids. According to Strombeck, animals need more omega-6 (linoleic acid) than omega-3 fatty acids for health.

Carbohydrates – Although dogs do not need carbohydrates because their bodies can get energy from protein and fats alone, carbohydrates that can be broken down by the digestive system and converted to glucose can also be a source of energy. (Carbs can be the main caloric source in some dog foods.)

Carbohydrates in the form of whole grains can furnish iron, minerals and fiber

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Fostering 411

(Continued from pg. 1)

the rules and limitations associated with fostering before taking on the commitment.

How to become a foster

Rescues and shelters are always looking for volunteers who want to go the extra mile by fostering animals in their home, and some animal welfare organizations don't have a kennel space and rely solely on fosters. If you have a shelter/rescue you're interested in working with, contact them and ask if they have a foster program. Or you can visit *TAILS Resource Page* and find a shelter in your area to contact. You'll likely need to fill out an application and be interviewed, and the rescue/shelter will probably send somebody to check out your home and make sure it's suitable. In addition, some organizations may require you to complete a foster orientation program.

Understand the costs

Many shelters may provide the basics you'll need – such as a pet bed, food, and some toys. On the other hand, rescues may not. Both organizations usually cover any medical costs you incur while the animal is in your care. If you have a tendency to spoil

your pets though (and really, who doesn't!), do know that extra out-of-pocket expenses you pay will not necessarily be reimbursed. If you're concerned, talk to the shelter before making any purchases. Otherwise, consider any extras you purchase a donation and accept payment in the form of waggy tails, purrs, and happy kisses! You may also pay for the animal's healthcare if you so choose ... taking away one more expense from the shelter/rescue. And they will be VERY appreciative of this doation!

Saying goodbye is ruff

When it's time for your foster pet to go to their fur-ever home, chances are it will be a little tough for you. If the shelter or rescue and new family are okay with it, get all the appropriate contact information and arrange for a future play date or for occasional photo updates. Sure, you'll be sad, but you'll also get the enormous gift of knowing you saved a life. The rewards are worth the difficult goodbyes. And be assured, there is another life hanging in the balance, waiting for a space in foster care to save his/her life.

Canine Basics (continued from pg. 5)

as well as other beneficial nutrients. Since cooking determines starch digestibility, and therefore its availability, starches need to be well cooked; otherwise, they tend to ferment in the large intestine. Carbohydrates can be found in vegetables and fruit, which also supply minerals, fiber, antioxidants, phytochemicals and some protein.

Vitamins – Fresh, wholesome food provides your dog (as well as you) with the best source of vitamins, organic substances required for normal functioning of the body. They are also important in the conversion of calories to energy. Ackerman points out that they are needed in only small amounts: “All of the vitamins needed by your dog on a daily basis could be provided by a fraction of a teaspoon.” (See chart on for ingredient sources for vitamins and minerals.)

Minerals – are inorganic nutrients that make up less than 1 percent of a dog’s body weight but are essential to many important functions, such as growth and strong bones and teeth. They are classified as either macrominerals or microminerals. It is important to note that two of the macrominerals, calcium (the most abundant mineral in the body) and phosphorus, must be in balance and given in correct proportions (the ideal calcium:phosphorus ratio is between 1:1 and 2:1). Microminerals (also known as trace minerals) serve very important functions as well. Balance is critical with all minerals because they interact; too much of one can interfere with the absorption of another.

Bottom line

If you elect to feed your dog commercial food (and most of us do), here’s what to look for and what to avoid when you’re standing in front of a shelf of carefully designed bags, cans, pouches or boxes.

- High-quality named animal proteins should be the first ingredient, and, ideally appear more than once as top items on the ingredient list. Note that whole meat is made up of a lot of water (up to 75 percent), so if a whole meat is listed as the first item, the food might not contain an

equal amount of meat by weight unless there is another whole meat, or a specifically named meat meal (chicken meal, for instance, which is about 10 percent water). Avoid foods that use generic “meat” meal; the actual type of meat needs to be named: lamb meal or chicken meal, for example. Fat should also come from named source, avoid generic “animal” fat.

- Whole fruit, vegetables and whole grains which contain the entire grain kernel. For example, rice rather than rice flour or bran. Refined grain products, gluten and mill runs should be avoided.
- Natural preservatives like tocopherols (Vitamin E) and Vitamin C, or antioxidants like rosemary extract.

Avoid: All by-products (from meat, grain or any other source); added sweeteners (which are usually listed as grain fragments); artificial preservatives such as BHA, BHT, ethoxyquin, propylene glycol; and artificial flavors or colors.

Dry-Matter Basics – When you compare different types of foods – canned, kibble, etc. or simply different brands – you need to keep in mind the moisture content so you can compare like to like. Use the dry-matter basis.

First, establish the amount of dry matter by subtracting the percentage given for moisture from 100 percent. If the moisture is given as 10 percent, the food’s dry-matter content is 90 percent.

Next, convert the protein found in the Guaranteed Analysis statement to a dry-matter basis by dividing its percentage by the amount of dry matter (calculated in the previous step). For example, if the protein is given as 26 percent, it converts to 28 percent on a dry-matter basis (26 divided by 90). If the moisture level had been, say, 30 percent, the dry matter content would have been 70 percent and protein would have been 37 percent (26 divided by 70).

You can do similar calculations for fat and fiber after converting their percentages to a dry-matter basis.

Treats – Although treats are usually given in small portions (or ought to be!), make sure that you pay the same high level of attention to what’s in them as you do for all of your dog’s food. Look for organic, wholefood ingredients, including named meats, whole grains, lots of good fruit and/or vegetables and natural, food-based sweeteners (if they are used at all) — applesauce, honey or molasses, for example. Avoid by-products, artificial coloring, artificial flavoring and artificial preservatives. Look for individual portions that are easy to break into smaller bits.

Treats are often high in calories, so factor them in when thinking about your dog’s overall food intake. It is recommended that “treat substitutes” make up no more than 5 to 10 percent of a dog’s diet. If the calorie count isn’t listed on the label, find out what it is before giving them to your dog. Contact the manufacturer for calorie information if need be.

To keep bagged treats fresh — and make it a little more difficult for the diligent treat-hound to score — keep the bags sealed. If the seal doesn’t work (often they don’t), use heavy-duty zip lock-type bags or store them in glass or ceramic containers with tightfitting lids.

Dogs love variety, and with the wide array of treats on the market, it’s easy to find a selection that will satisfy most co-pilots.

Calorie Count

To determine how many calories a moderately active adult dog living in a temperate climate requires daily, use one of the following formulas:

Body weight 0.75 x 132 = Kilocalories needed (National Research Council)

Body weight 0.75 x 125 = Kilocalories needed (Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition)

Tips on Dog-Safe Gardening

<http://thebark.com/content/tips-dog-safe-gardening>

Garden organically, for the sake of both the planet and your dogs.

Raised beds protect plantings from scampering paws and swinging tails. Dogs can be taught where they're permitted and where they are not.

Digging pit, preferably in shaded locations, give dogs places to practice their excavation skills without disrupting your garden beds. You might entice them to use it by lightly burying (as they watch you) a treat-filled Kong.

Leave a plant-free "patrolling" area around the perimeter of your yard; dogs instinctively (and repeatedly) cruise boundaries and fence lines.

Construct a barrier around plants of the nightshade family, including eggplant, tomato and potato; their foliage and stems contain dangerous alkaloids that can kill a dog. Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Deadly

Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*), Larkspur (*Delphinium ajacis*) have toxic effects on the heart and circulation. When dogs eat large amounts of onions, they may suffer red blood cell destruction. Rhubarb leaves (*Rheum rhabarbarum*) contain oxalic acid. In quantity, it damages kidneys.

Avoid cocoa bean mulches; their chocolaty smell makes them pup catnip, but they contain theobromine, which is toxic for dogs.

Cross almond or walnut trees off your list for areas used by dogs; tannin is a canine toxin, and almond and walnut hulls contain it; moldy walnuts are also a problem. Avoid trees with toxic bark, such as cherry (contains cyanide-like components). And, some stone fruit trees (apricots, plums) can provide raw material for obstruction by indigestible pits.

Do not use snail bait containing metaldehyde, which is highly poisonous to dogs and cats. Copper barrier tape is a good

alternative; slugs and snails are deterred from crossing it by the tape's tiny positive electric charge.

Protect young trees, especially if you have a male dog. Be sure to frequently rinse the trunk and soil with fresh water. Or, secure a copper or galvanized splash guard of appropriate height and circumference around the developing tree the first couple of years to divert unwelcome attention from your pup.

Green Grooming with Baking Soda

A fantastic dog-grooming helper

by the Bark – <http://thebark.com/content/green-grooming-baking-soda>

Baking soda is a key ingredient when it comes to grooming.

- Keep your dog brushes clean by soaking them in a small basin in a solution of warm water and 1 teaspoon baking soda. Rinse and air dry.
- Give your dog a dry bath by sprinkling her with baking soda. Rub it in, then brush it out.
- For a wet wash, combine 3 tablespoons baking soda with 1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid and 1 teaspoon baby oil in a spray bottle. Spritz your pets, then wipe them dry.
- For healthy teeth and gums, dip a damp, soft brush in baking soda and gently brush your dog's pearly whites.
- Maintain your pet's dental hygiene by rinsing her mouth regularly with a solution of 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon baking soda in 1 cup of warm water.
- If you trim your dog's toenails and accidentally cut too close and draw blood, dip the affected nail in baking soda, then apply pressure to stop bleeding.



DIY Eat - Sweet Potato Chews

Prepare these single ingredient fiber- and vitamin-rich treats for your dog in 5 minutes flat!

All you need is five minutes prep time and a single raw yam or sweet potato. Pure, easy, and unadulterated, dog treats don't get any healthier, easier or less expensive than this.

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 250° F.
- Scrub the sweet potato or yam. No need to peel.
- Cut it into thin slices (the thinner the slice the shorter the cooking time) and place on a cookie sheet in a single layer.
- Bake in oven at 250° F for about 3 hours for slightly chewy treats or bake slightly longer to get them crunchy. Note: timing will vary according to the thickness of your slices; just keep an eye on them. Or, better yet, if you have a dehydrator, pop them in there instead of the oven.

What your dog REALLY wants

By Steve Duno – <http://www.moderndogmagazine.com/articles/what-your-dog-really-wants/31472>

Dogs are problem-solving team players who need more than cookies and affection to prosper. Follow these eight steps to make sure your dog is happy, secure, and fulfilled.

We love our dogs. To show it, we write magazines and books about them, buy them designer collars and clothes, and feed them diets more nutritious than what we ourselves ate in college. Our dogs go on vacation with us, visit doggie daycares, get massages, go on dates. They get birthday presents, and haircuts more expensive than our own. Some even get their own trust funds. Yes, we definitely love them.

But what do they really want?

Besides steak and bottomless cookie jars and slow cats and bellies full of grass, they probably have a much more doggish list of things that truly make them happy, secure, and fulfilled. But what exactly would those be?

They can't actually make a list, so we'll need to do it for them as best we can. It's a wish list based not upon what makes us happy, but upon what they need as canines living in a human world. Let's take them one at a time:

Good Health

This one's a no-brainer; every dog deserves to be kept in top physical condition. You can start by feeding her the best quality food you can, in the right amounts, with special focus on her age, energy levels, and potential allergic reactions. Deciding on the right food can be made easier by the second key factor in maintaining your dog's health—namely, your veterinarian. In addition to giving vaccinations, your veterinarian will keep tabs on your pet's overall health, recommend food options, and diagnose potential issues such as allergies, joint problems, disease, and even behavioural problems. Accordingly, be sure to take your dog into the vet at least once a year.

The other key ingredient in maintaining

your dog's good health is exercise. Sedentary dogs gain weight, which in turn affects joint health, and can incite early-onset diabetes. A lack of exercise also creates boredom and pent-up stress, leading to a host of behaviour issues. Avoid this by walking your dog, playing fetch with her, taking her to the dog park – whatever the two of you enjoy doing together.

Guidance

With the minds of two-year-old humans and the physical prowess of Olympic athletes, dogs need direction from us, their elders, to learn focus, control, and etiquette. Without it, they can become insecure holy terrors, without muse or cause. Whether you call it leadership, mentoring, management, or guidance, it's essential to Fido's happiness.

A dog who knows the rules will be more at ease than one forced to run the show for lack of human guidance. Truth is, though they aren't capable of running things in our world, we often put dogs in that position by forgetting that, like kids, they crave boundaries. To that end, be sure to train Fido from day one. Teach rules, manners, and consequences; be consistent, build routine, and praise to the hilt when he minds. The reward will be a sentient, well-behaved, cheerful pet with calm focus, instead of an unreliable and reactive pain in the neck.

The Right Kind of Socialization

Dogs need to interact to feel fulfilled, and to learn basic social mores. But their sociability is not unlimited; in fact, most dogs are somewhat tribal in nature, preferring to mingle with those they know, or with those who pose no discernible threat. It's why so many reasonably social dogs don't fare well in big doggie daycares, or at busy dog parks. Dropped into a seemingly chaotic situation filled with strange dogs and people, many dogs can short circuit, stress out, or even act aggressively.

Isolating a dog is just as detrimental. Keeping Molly at home 24/7, without exposure to other persons or pets, can create an antisocial misfit who, when confronted by a

visitor to the home or a strange dog on the street, might erupt in fearful fury. This scenario occurs often; we lead busy lives, and sometimes fall into routines that don't allow for getting the dog out often enough. And when a dog begins to become antisocial, her owner often tends to cloister her away even more, in an attempt to avoid the conflict. This compounds the problem.

Try to get your dog out on a regular basis. Take her for a daily walk, and a weekly trip in the car. Visit the dog park on days that aren't too chaotic. Trade dogs with a good friend once a week. Don't force your dog to socialize, but allow her a significant amount of contact with friendly, focused dogs, and with people who understand how to interact calmly and confidently. Always praise and reward for civil interaction. Avoid subjecting your dog to frenetic children, or to unpredictable, chaotic environments. Take into consideration your dog's personality, too; if she is a gregarious, happy girl capable of mixing it up, then have at it. But if she is a worry wart, consider limiting social time to those few friends she feels comfortable with.

Enrichment

Dogs need to problem solve, investigate and evaluate, and apply their senses, brains, and muscles to some end, to feel that they have purpose. Without these things, they overflow with energy and desire, and eventually burst like a bubble, in the form of misbehaviour. To avoid this, enrich Fido's life by providing him with stimulating toys, environments, events, and conditions. When he's left alone, supply him with safe chew toys, and perhaps a treat-stuffed rubber ball. Hide small treats about the home for him to find. Leave the radio on a talk radio station.

To test your dog's problem solving skills, place an uncooked chicken egg in his dish and watch what happens (limit this to a cleanable area). Leave a scent trail for him to follow by sprinkling a tiny line of allspice or bouillon powder, leading to a hidden treat or toy. Or, simply leave a few pigeon feathers about. Whatever might get your dog