

# TOP DOG

E-ZINE

ISSUE 2

## CHEERS

ROTHELY WINE'S  
DOG INSPIRED  
WINE

## BREED PROFILE

ENGLISH MASTIFF

## MAKING A SPLASH

SWIMMING  
POOLS FOR  
DOGS

## HOWLIN'

OUR TOP DOG  
JOKES

## ON THE BALL

MENTAL  
STIMULATION

## LETS CELEBRATE

DOG BIRTHDAY  
CAKE

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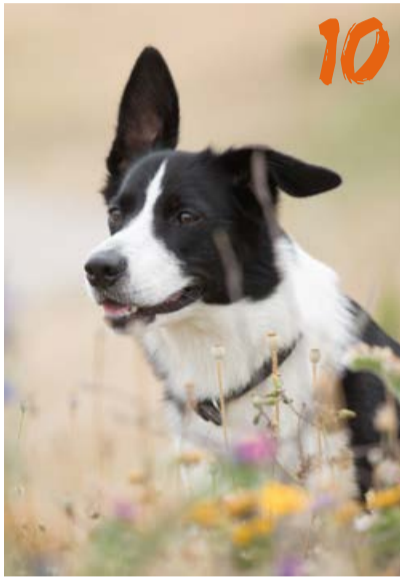
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# SPOIL MY DOG BIRTHDAY CAKE BY DIAMOND DOGS







# INGREDIENTS

## For the Cake:

- 140g Self Raising Flour
- ½ tsp Baking Powder
- 30ml Vegetable Oil
- 1 Egg
- 65g Peanut Butter (not all peanut butter is recommended for dogs, we use Meridian Peanut Butter)

- 75g Apple Sauce
- 75g Grated Carrot

## For the Icing:

- 200g Plain Greek Yoghurt
- 65g Peanut Butter



# METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees centigrade.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour and baking powder.
3. In a separate bowl, mix together the vegetable oil, peanut butter, apple sauce and grated carrot. When combined, add the egg and mix well.
4. Add the mixed wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
5. Grease an 8" cake tin and tip the mixture in.
6. Bake for approximately 25-30 minutes - Insert a toothpick into the centre of the cake, which should come out clean when the cake is cooked - it should also spring back when pressed lightly.









# NOTES

7. When cooked, remove from the cake tin and cool on a wire rack.

8. Mix the Greek yoghurt and peanut butter together in a bowl and spread evenly over the cake. Decorate with dog treats. If not serving immediately store in the fridge.

## Recipe notes

The ingredients were halved to make the small cake in the photographs. Alternatively the ingredients can also be doubled to create a layer cake.

Roxie's verdict: "Woof , Woof, Lick, Lick" (meaning: Wow this is amazing!!)

Roxie's owner's verdict:  
Roxie was completely delighted with her birthday cake and just couldn't get enough! - A fantastic recipe.







For more information on Diamond Dogs Head over to their website  
by clicking the logo below.







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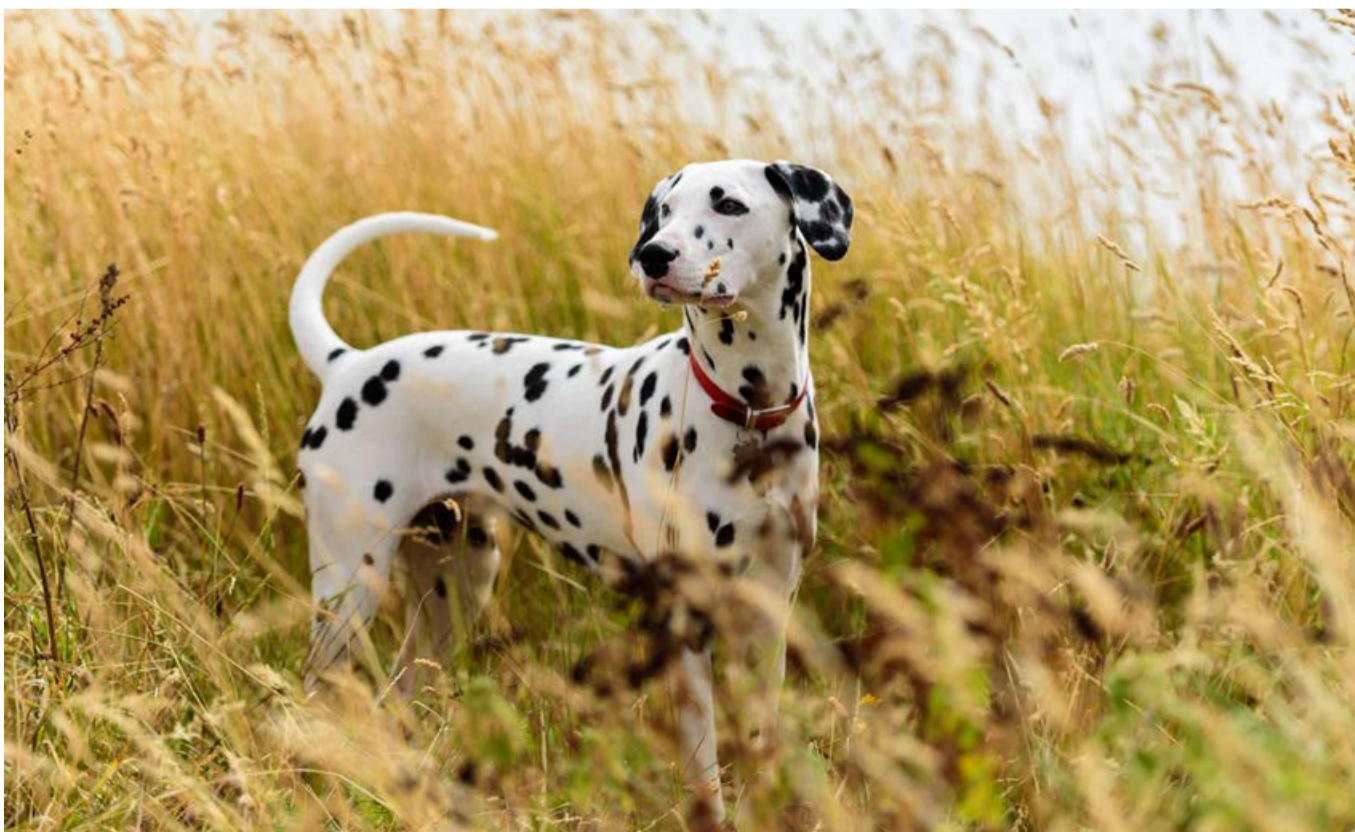
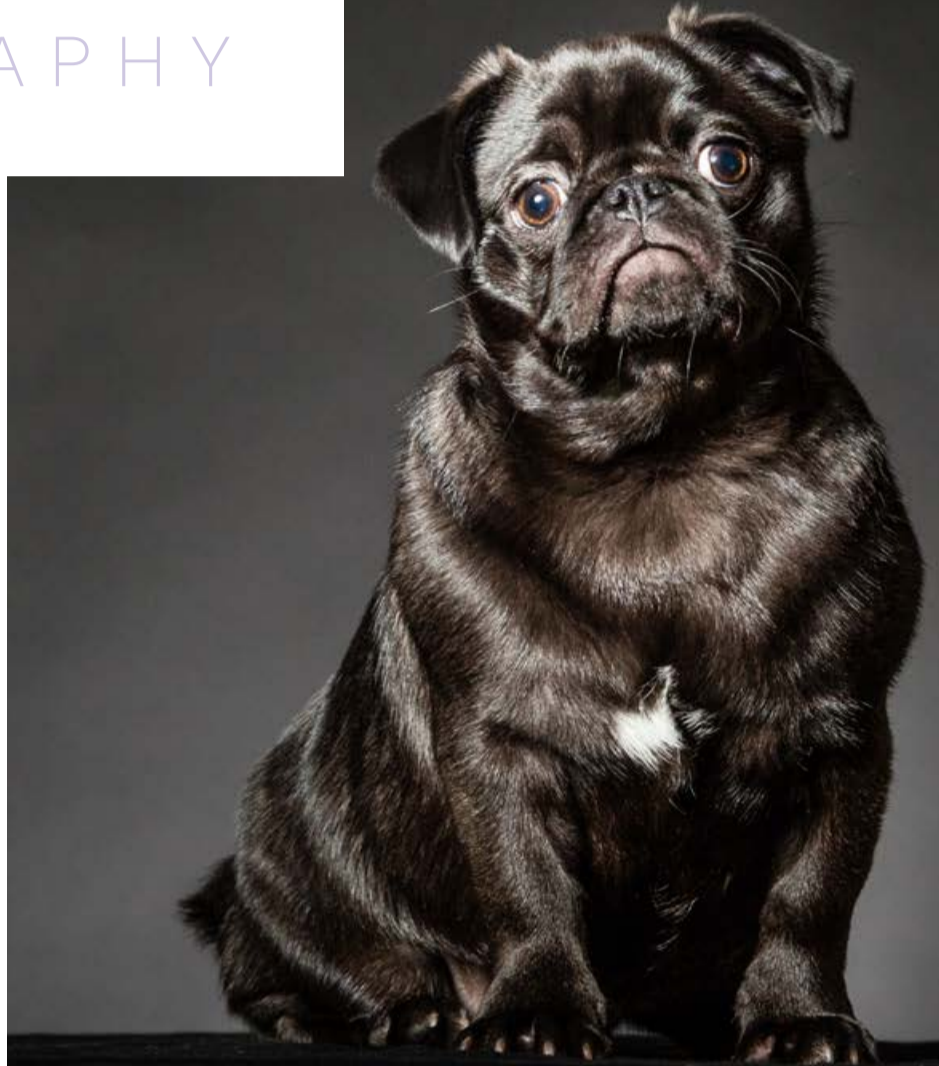


## THE IMPORTANCE OF DOG PHOTOGRAPHY

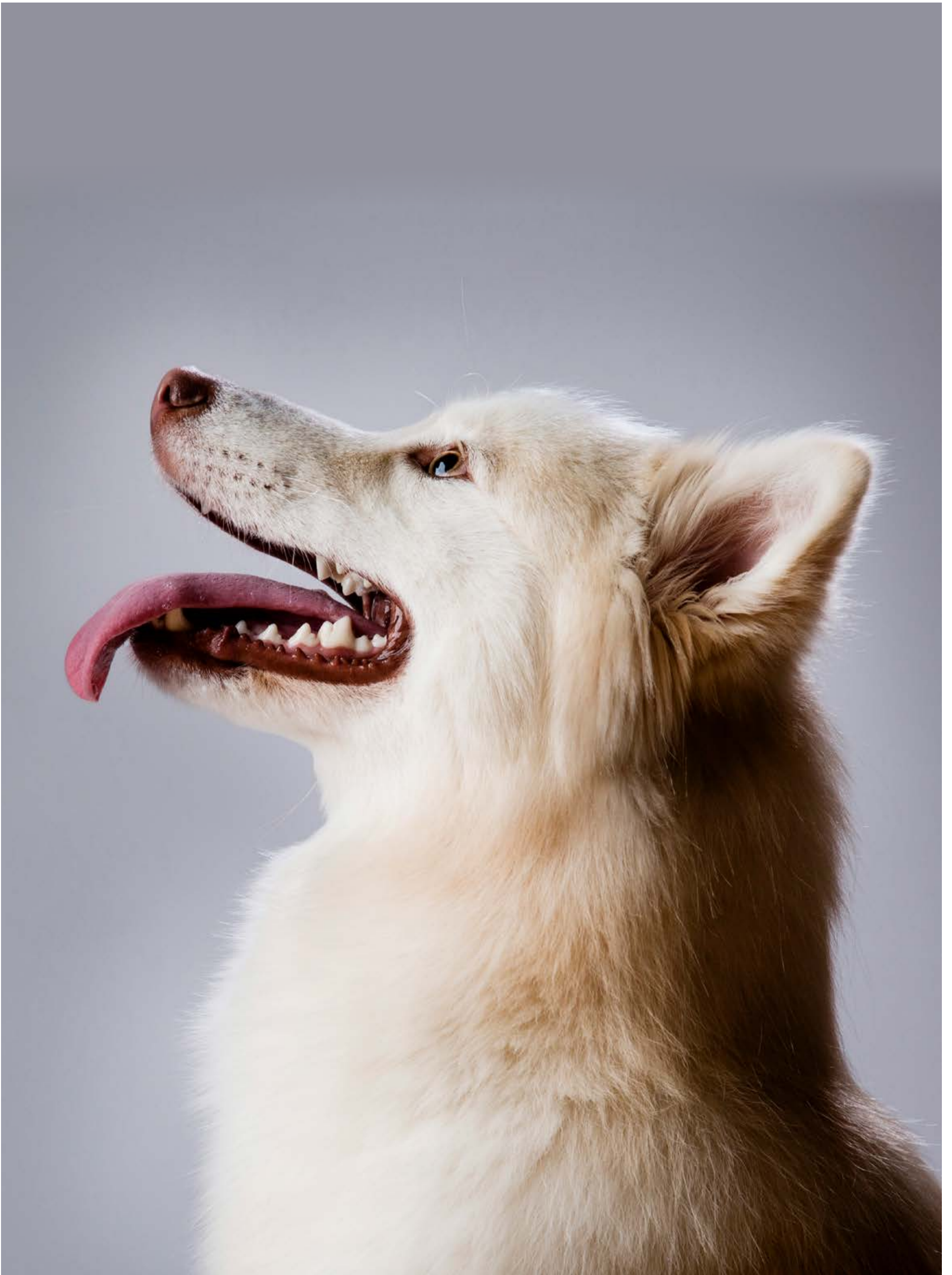
Every dog is so different, and as professional paw-trait photographers our goal is to bring out the full character of your faithful and loyal companion using creative lighting and photography techniques.

As specialists in dog photography, we use our dog handling skills combined with subtle dog psychology to truly bring out your best friend's personality, as well as capturing their little quirks and mannerisms to capture their personality.

The role of the professional photographer is to bring energy, emotion and imagination to the paw-trait and not just a record of the occasion. Everybody wants their special friend to show their real life traits, and that is exactly what we do. The session gives you the perfect Dog Paw-trait Xperience to remember the emotion and relationship between you and your dog.







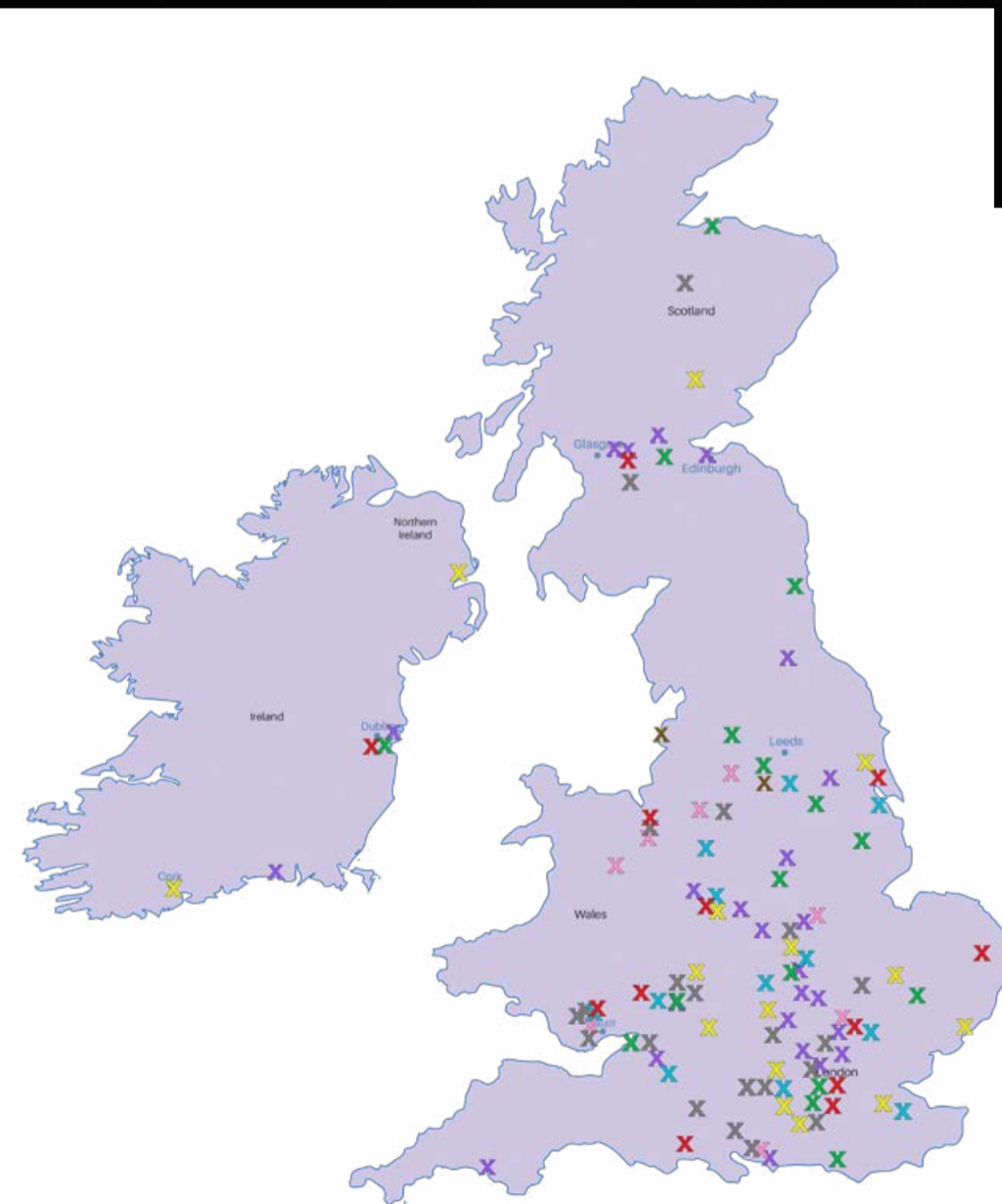


When tragedy happens, which is all too soon, the thing we reach for is our photographic memories. That's why our Xperience photographers dedicate themselves to creating images that will bring smiles across generations, helping to give you memories that are made to last lifetimes.

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The Xperience Group is an independent collection of professional photographers based throughout the UK & Ireland.

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# OSCAR

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## Post-Christmas Bulge!

It's that time of year again when we think about our waistlines and the extra calories we consumed over the festive period – that amazing turkey dinner, all those chocolates, festive treats and chilled days being lazy!

Our diet begins, and the gym is booked for our New Year's resolutions, but what about our four-legged pooches? Have they also enjoyed a treat too many? An extra Christmas dinner? Visitors feeding goodies?

With over half of the UK dog population currently overweight, and the added extra pounds consumed over the festive period, who will help with their growing bulge?



Did you know that obesity is classed as a disease in dogs? It can shorten their lifespan and lead to many other diseases such as arthritis, breathing difficulties, diabetes and certain types of cancer - to name but a few.

## So, what can we do?

**Diet:** If your dog is slightly overweight then feeding an appropriate diet with reduced calories and increased fibre such as OSCAR High Fibre Lite is important. Make sure you are feeding for the weight the dog should be, and not its current weight. If you are concerned your dog is obese then please seek further advice from your local vet.

**Measure:** It is important, especially during weight loss, that the amount of food fed is exactly the same every day. Weigh food daily for the exact food ration as studies show that measuring cups can be inaccurate.

**Interactive Feeders:** Using a slow-down bowl or interactive feeder will mentally and physically stimulate your dog. It is more interesting than feeding from a bowl and encourages them to work for each meal and burn calories whilst eating!





## Body Condition Score



### UNDER IDEAL

- 1 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.
- 2 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominences. Minimal loss of muscle mass.
- 3 Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

### IDEAL

- 4 Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.
- 5 Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.

### OVER IDEAL

- 6 Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.
- 7 Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.
- 8 Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.
- 9 Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.

German A, et al. Comparison of a bioimpedance monitor with dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry for noninvasive estimation of percentage body fat in dogs. *AJVR* 2010;71:393-398.  
Jeusette I, et al. Effect of breed on body composition and comparison between various methods to estimate body composition in dogs. *Res Vet Sci* 2010;88:227-232.  
Kealy RD, et al. Effects of diet restriction on life span and age-related changes in dogs. *JAVMA* 2002;220:1315-1320.  
Lafamme DP. Development and validation of a body condition score system for dogs. *Canine Pract* 1997;22:10-15.

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**Exercise:** Enjoy plenty of time together out walking, playing at home and in the garden. If your dog is very obese, start off very gradually and seek veterinary advice.

**Regular weight and BCS:** Ensure the dog's weight and Body Condition Score (BCS) are regularly checked.

**Treats:** Cut back on the extras, avoid high calorie rewards and if you really have a special treat you want to give them cut back a small amount of their daily food to allow for it. All extra calories from treats will be stored as fat in the body.

**Food diary:** Use a daily diary to record all the food the dog is currently being fed. This encourages all family members to be part of the dog's routine and may reveal some extra food that you didn't know was being eaten!

Let's make this New Year the time to set a resolution for our dogs - making their future a healthier, happier and slimmer one!

If you would like further information about your dog's current feeding regime or are worried about their weight, please speak with **Rachel Knight** on **07702 307440** for further advice.





# BECAUSE WATER WORKS!

BY NICKI BARNES OF BLUESTONE HYDROTHERAPY, IMAGES BY MANDY MILFORD

## What is Hydrotherapy?

Canine Hydrotherapy is a form of exercise utilising the therapeutic benefits of warm water. It is either completely non-weight bearing in a pool or partially weight bearing when walking in an aquatic treadmill. It's an excellent form of exercise for dogs as it involves using most of the muscles engaged in movement without putting stresses on joints which are

associated with walking on hard ground.

## How does it benefit?

Hydrotherapy tones the majority of the dog's muscle groups. As the dog moves forward against the resistance of the water (which is more difficult than walking on land) it helps to increase muscle mass and subsequently improves balance, core strength and overall mobility.

The properties of water such as hydrostatic pressure can help to reduce swelling and inflammation and act as natural pain relief.

The rate of healing following injury or surgery can also be improved as increased circulation of blood to muscles and joints promotes recovery and can help to alleviate muscle spasms.





Some conditions that can benefit from Hydrotherapy include:

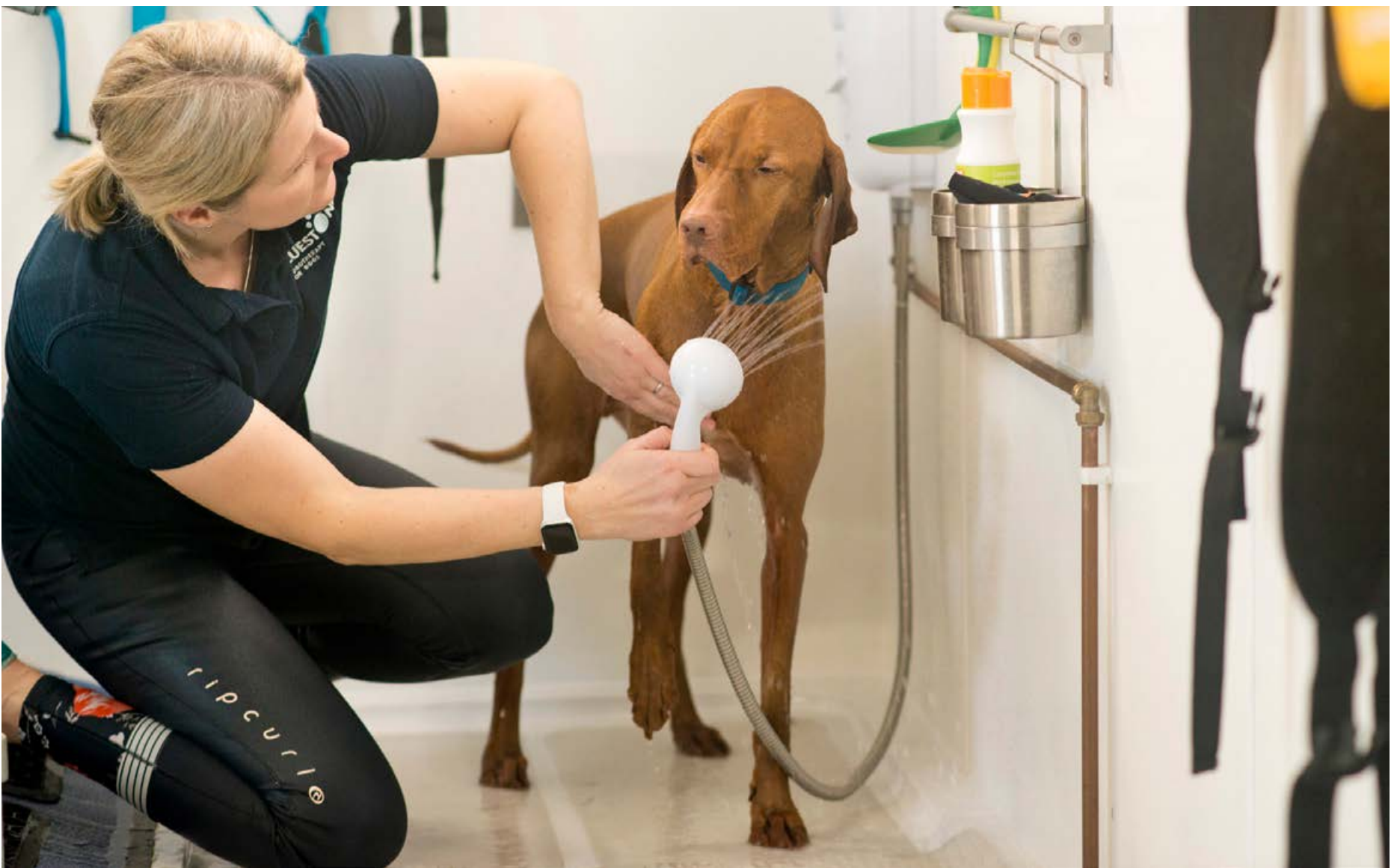
- Osteoarthritis
- Hip and Elbow Dysplasia
- Cruciate ligament injuries/disease
- Neurological conditions
- IVDD (Intervertebral disc disease)
- Obesity
- Soft tissue injuries
- CDRM (Canine degenerative myelopathy)
- Fractures

#### **Who can benefit?**

Although most commonly used to aid recovery and

improve mobility, dogs don't have to be injured or have a medical condition to benefit from hydrotherapy. Many customers bring their dogs for sessions for a variety of reasons. For some dogs it's to improve condition before attending dog shows. Many competing agility and fly ball dogs benefit from hydrotherapy sessions to help keep them at their peak of fitness. Puppies can also benefit hugely from hydrotherapy sessions as they are introduced to water, learn to swim and gain confidence in a warm, safe and fun environment. They can also burn off some of that seemingly endless puppy energy without putting stresses on their growing joints.





Most (ok not all!) dogs love the water and with hydrotherapy they can have fun in a warm, controlled and safe environment while improving their fitness and mobility. It keeps dogs stronger for longer and helps improve quality of life. As dog lovers isn't that what we all wish for our furry best friends?

As dogs age we often see them slow down, stiffness can set in and it can become harder for them to stand after lying down. Swimming can really help with mobility issues for such dogs. Regular swimming strengthens muscles, improves core strength and balance, improves cardiovascular fitness, enhances mental wellbeing, It allows exercise without weight bearing on painful or stiff joints.

The properties of the warm water can also help to reduce pain and swelling and can improve blood circulation. We've seen some amazing

improvements in the mobility of arthritic dogs. They visibly love their weekly swim sessions and improve their quality of life at the same time.

Keep your dog stronger for longer and book in for regular sessions!

### **Fun & Fitness**

Dogs don't need to be injured or have a medical condition to benefit from Hydrotherapy. At Bluestone we have a large pool which enables free swimming. We use a range of exciting toys and motivational methods to enable your dog to get a good workout and have fun at the same time. These swims are great for cardiovascular fitness, core strength and mental stimulation. They also keep your dog fit and strong reducing risk of injury, improving mobility as they age. If you like to see your dog have a great time, whilst improving it's condition then book in for regular fitness and fun swims.



**“REGULAR SWIMMING STRENGTHENS MUSCLES, IMPROVES CORE STRENGTH AND BALANCE, IMPROVES CARDIOVASCULAR FITNESS, ENHANCES MENTAL WELLBEING”**



“THEY VISIBLY LOVE THEIR WEEKLY SWIM SESSIONS AND IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AT THE SAME TIME.”



Puppies (up to 6 months) – early introduction to water in a safe and controlled environment can help your puppy gain vital confidence and learn to love the water from an early age. Swimming is also a great way to exercise your pup and burn off energy without over stressing growing bones and joints.

Puppies should have had their 1st vaccinations and be house trained

### **Who is Bluestone Hydrotherapy?**

Bluestone Hydrotherapy is a dedicated canine hydrotherapy centre conveniently located at Solstice Park near Amesbury, just a ten minute drive from Salisbury and only one minute from the A303.





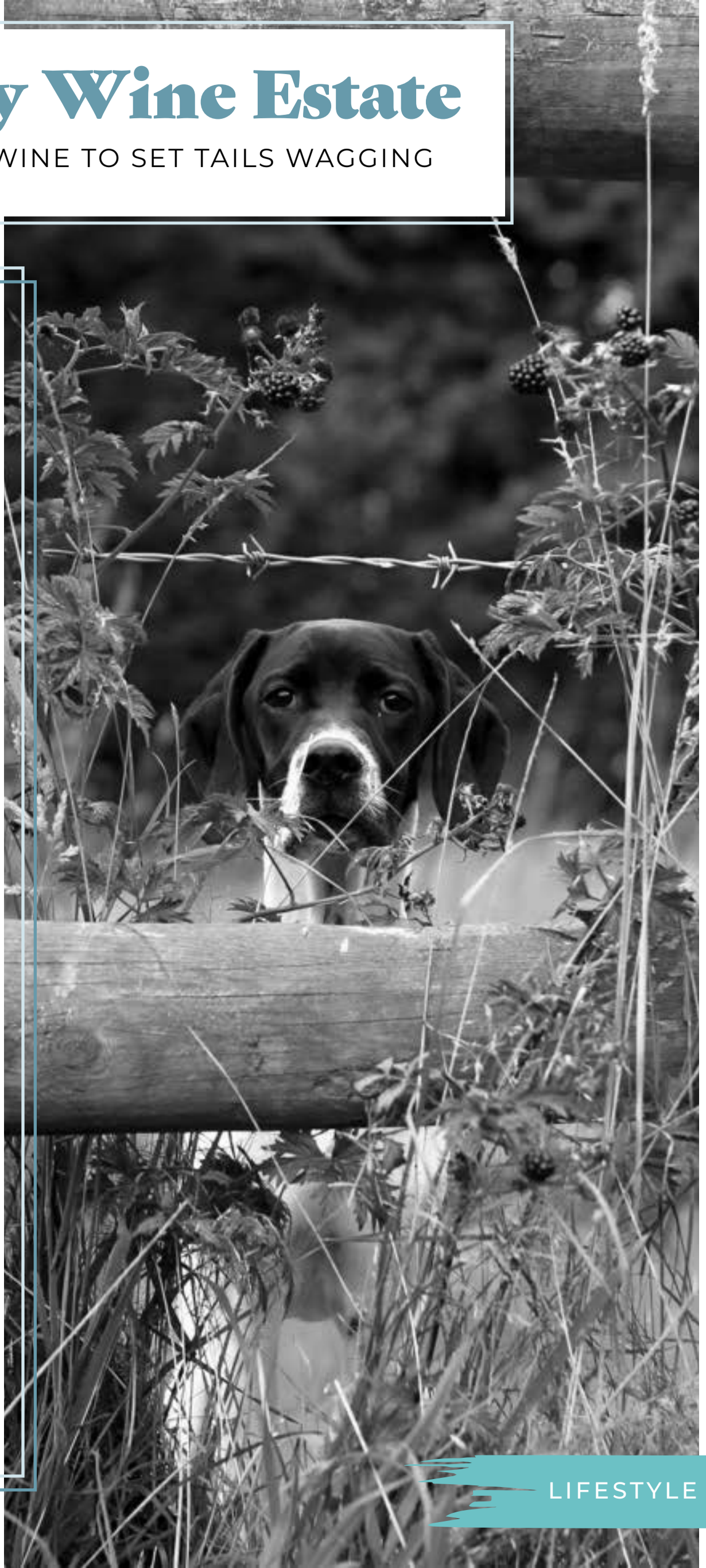
# Rothley Wine Estate

PRODUCES A WINE TO SET TAILS WAGGING

In 2008 Liz Robson planted grapevines to create a hobby vineyard at her home in Rothley, Leicestershire. Orion was the main grape variety having performed well in a trial of six different vines planted in the garden. The Orion grape's first harvest resulted in a bronze medal with a still wine in a regional competition. Next year, Orion as a sparkling wine won a silver medal by UK vineyards Association. In 2013 a still wine made with Solaris and Siegerrebe scooped the East Midlands trophy. This led to much soul searching and Liz retired early to devote adequate time to the vineyard, planting more vines and setting up a winery with new stainless steel tanks and equipment. Wine were named for local history, such as King Richard and Nobel Purpose (William Wilberforce drafted the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act next door)

Running a vineyard full time proved challenging, exhilarating but fun albeit a bit lonely alone in the vineyard, which was being attacked with regularity by rabbits eating the vine trunks (despite vine guards in situ) the squirrels and voracious birds attacking the grapes from an early stage. The solution to these problems – a dog! Not any dog, but an English Pointer chosen for a very specific purpose. After being on the breeders waiting list for a year, an adorable puppy called Mabel, aka Bradgate Until Dusk, joined the vineyard team as a dog with a job.

This noble breed is one of the oldest English gundogs, dating back to the 1701 War of the Spanish Succession. Affectionately called “the Velcro dog” because of their loyal attachment to their handler and also “bird dog” because of selective breeding to find and point at birds but not to attack them (their Spanish ancestors had been bred to point at birds prior to netting them). They can be trained to retrieve, but this characteristic is not strong, unlike German pointers. Athletic, with tremendous speed pointers love to gallop, which arises from some greyhound ancestry.





**“Lively and barking good taste of ripe grapefruit with lime and a hint of sherbet.”**



Obviously, they need plenty of exercise when fully grown and are best suited to an active life outdoors in the daytime (too thin skinned for an outdoor kennel at night). Highly intelligent, they respond well to training but can be stubborn, especially if they are pre-occupied with finding birds or anything else interesting. Unlike most scent dogs who sniff the ground, pointers hold their head high and smell the air for effective bird detection, and also gives a proud head carriage with aristocratic air. Like many English aristocrats, eccentricity is also a characteristic!

#### **MABEL'S JOB DESCRIPTION:**

- To be a deterrent by pointing at, then sending up birds
- To chase rabbits and squirrels off the property
- To be adorable and friendly to visitors
- To be Liz's best friend in the vineyard

- To be a watchdog (not a guard dog)
- To deter ne'er do wells by appearing big and bouncy from a distance
- To be photogenic for advertising & social media
- Ambassador duties

Mabel performed her job well, and this combined with good weather resulted in a bumper harvest of Orion grapes. We made these into a still white wine, but what to call it? Gundog – of course! The label designer drew a silhouette of Mabel from photos we sent to him. This wine has a clear, pale lemon colour. Musky aroma of an autumn forest, think of walkies in the wood. Lively and barking good taste of ripe grapefruit with lime and a hint of sherbet. Tangy, giving a bite on the foretaste, similar to a dry Riesling. Spicy notes of white pepper on the lingering aftertaste. A complex, musky wine that is crisp and refreshing. There are not many dogs who appear on their own wine label!







# The Pointer as a Vineyard Dog

## GOOD ATTRIBUTES

- Able to sense pests before humans can
- Bird Focused Instinct
- Quiet, rarely barks
- Intelligent
- Responds well to training
- Responds to commands from a distance
- Relishes outdoor activities
- Energetic with stamina
- Good watchdog
- Generally healthy
- Loyal and affectionate
- Excellent with children
- Loves other dogs/family pets
- Friendly with strangers
- Playful at all ages
- Easy to care for short-haired coat
- Fine daily shedding of hair; no moulting
- Low in drooling/slobbering
- Gentle and loving
- Attractive & striking appearance
- Easy to house train
- Tolerates hot weather
- Cuddles on the sofa are essential

## NOT SO GOOD

- Poor guard dog (too gentle & quiet)
- Puppies must not over-exercise
- Stubborn about recall when preoccupied or distracted
- Needs other dogs for company
- Cannot live outside in cold UK climate
- Destructive if bored
- Theoretical risk of grape eating
- Risk of dog theft

**“Highly intelligent, they respond well to training but can be stubborn”**







**“There are not many dogs who appear on their own wine label!”**

#### KEY FACTS ABOUT ROTHLEY WINE ESTATE:

- Situated on Westfield Lane between the Rothley Court Hotel and the Great Central Railway station
- Gentle south facing slope on the bank of the Rothley Brook with resident kingfishers. The “terroir” of Charnwood Forest gives a complex minerality to the wines
- Grape varieties grown are: Siegerrebe, Solaris, Madeleine Angevine, and Orion for white wine. Then Rondo, Regent, Fruhburgunder and Cabernet Cortis for red and rose wines.
- 1,000 mature vines produced grapes this year
- 200 newly planted vines should produce grapes in a few years
- Red, white and rose still wines are made and bottled on site in the boutique winery
- White and pink sparkling wine is made at Halfpenny Green Vineyard with the Rothley grapes
- The wines have won silver and bronze medals in regional and national competitions.

The wine estate is small, but determined to succeed in producing fine quality wines with a distinctive Leicestershire identity. Seven wines are sold under the company name of Rothley Wine Ltd and can also be purchased from local retailers, wine bars, hotels and at Ragdale Hall Spa.





# UNLEASH THE CANINE MIND

MENTAL STIMULATION FOR WELL-BEING







## COMPLETELY K9 DOG TRAINING

**As somebody who sees the results of frustration and boredom in dogs every day, I feel its time to get the world of Pet Owners a little more inspired to fulfil more than the physical needs of their canine cohabitant. Mental stimulation is just as, if not more, important.**

### **WHO NEEDS IT?**

Mental stimulation is something that everyone needs! If you work in an office where you're constantly on the go with computers, lights and calls, or you attend seminars/talks you'll know the exhaustion that you feel coming out. On the contrary, some of us can get restless after long periods off work because our minds need to be entertained. Whether you're a human, dog, horse or chicken, mental exercise is a right and a basic need.

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

We often make the mistake of thinking that a good run round the park or a 20 minute lead walk for our pooch is enough to satisfy their energy levels. It's just not the case! Doggy brains are bursting with energy (and potential!), so we absolutely need to ensure that we are fulfilling their needs to release it. This is all the more essential to breeds with super high energy levels or hypervigilance/anxiety – Spaniels, Labradors, Collies, Cockerpoos and Terriers!

If we fail to address these needs, then dogs will find other dog ways of channelling their energy and, unfortunately, many of these are undesirable to human life (barking, chewing, chasing, jumping, digging).



**SO WHERE DO I START?**

My primary response to this is to DITCH THAT FOOD BOWL!

Food bowls are purely for human convenience. Each meal, we pour fifty tiny pieces of training and problem solving opportunity into a bowl for a dog that would inherently thrive and feel more satisfied if it had worked to source it. By repeating this process, we end up with full bellies but over-active minds.

There are hundreds of ways in which to feed your dog and the greatest thing is that it doesn't have to cost a thing! Dogs are natural foragers (hence why Fido the Labbie had the bin lid wrapped around his head last Monday and why Milly the Cockerpoo has a collection of pens/hair bobbles/tissues/dirty socks in her crate).



**NATURAL INHIBITIONS**

Work with them, not against them

Rather than trying to STOP the behaviours that arise from boredom and frustration, it is so much more effective to harness them and find a stimulation tool that gives dogs the outlet that they need.

So now...

Measure out your dogs DAILY allowance of food and feed it throughout the day in more creative ways. You might want to make a list of Fido's top 3 things to do...

**CHEW** – Kong stuffed with dinner, carrot, peanut butter and peas, and frozen over night ready for when the visitors come and you can't keep your eye on him. Lots of lovely endorphins for everyone!

**SNIFF** – Take Fido's food on his walk while he's hungry and sprinkle it in grass, in leaves, on tree stumps. Watch Fido excel in his search! You could even invest in a Foraging Mat.

**BARK** – Start spending some quality time with Fido or enrol onto a Dog Training Class where Fido's brain can really be put to the test and he can learn new things. You will likely enjoy yourselves too!

Each dog is different and will find fulfilment in different ways. Think about what your dog enjoys, what you have access to and what is safe for them. Breeds may also vary – a Labrador may enjoy Sniff and Search games where a Collie may prefer Agility or Shaping exercises. Get to know your dog!





THEY'LL HAVE YOU HOWLING!

# Dog Jokes

Why do dogs wag their tails?

Because no one else will do it for them

What kind of dog doesn't bark?

A hush puppy

When is a black dog not a black dog?

When it's a greyhound

A dog went to the flea circus

And he stole the show!



# High Reward-Value Dog Treat/Training Aid: **LIVER CAKE**

**This is a really great, high-value treat for your dog, which can be used very successfully as a bribery/training aid. I've yet to meet a dog that doesn't like liver cake (even fussy Pointers will do anything for it!). It can be broken down to a suitable size for your dog.**

## **Ingredients:**

1 lb (450g) Lamb, pig or ox liver

1 lb (450g) self-raising flour

3 eggs

1 teasp vegetable oil

A little milk or water

## **Directions:**

- 1.** Crack the eggs into a microwaveable bowl.
- 2.** Add approximately the same volume of water (or milk) and the oil to the eggs and whisk together.
- 3.** Blend the chopped up liver using a food processor/blender (the yuckiest part, especially if you're vegetarian!).

- 4.** Pour the egg mix into the blended liver and then the flour. Hit the blend button until you have a yummy cake-mixture consistency.
- 5.** Pour the mixture back into the microwaveable bowl and cook on high power for 6 to 10 minutes (depending on your microwave's wattage).
- 6. ALTERNATIVELY:** You can pour the mixture into a greased baking tray and pop in the oven for 35 to 40 minutes at 180 oC (350 oF).
- 7.** When baked, it should be 'springy' to the touch. Let it cool before cutting the cake into suitable sized pieces for your pooch.
- 8.** You can freeze the cut pieces and so ration your dog as necessary. Make sure it has fully defrosted before feeding.

**Note:** For dogs with allergies, you can use gluten-free flour and also substitute the liver with tinned tuna or other fish.





**ENTER  
NOW**



**YEAR OF THE**

**PUG**

Forget Chinese Year of The Pig, we're celebrating The Year of The Pug! Enter now for your chance to win a FREE professional photography xperience for you and your perfect pug!

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER!**





5 TOP FACTS ABOUT

# The Pug





## • Pugs are an ancient breed!

Pugs are believed to have originated in China. They are thought to be one of the oldest breeds of dog, recorded as early as 551 BC. Pugs were considered prize possessions by Chinese emperors; some pugs were even given their own palaces, servants and guards!

Ever wondered where the name 'pug' comes from? Well, it means "a dwarf breed of dog resembling a bull-dog in miniature"...

The classic pug's appearance has also changed over the years. Two distinct bloodlines dominated by the 1800's; the earlier being the Morrison Line and then later the Willoughby Line. These are the key foundation to our pugs today!

In the 1800's pugs were seen as highly fashionable and not much has changed in 2019.





## • Famous Pugs!

Pugs have become a much loved family pet over the years and we've seen plenty cross our screens.

Here are just a few familiar names:

Frank - from Men in Black

Otis - from 'The Adventures of Milo and Otis'

Percy - from Pocahontas

Basco - Queen Victoria's favourite pug

Pompey - The legendary pug who saved the life of a Prince in the 1500's

Mops - Marie-Antionette's dog





## • The Perfect Pug Tail!

Did you know that, according to the KC, the perfect pug tail has 2 curls? No? Me neither... after a little bit of research, I found out why!

The reason is a lot less glamorous than I imagined... it's actually purely because the tail bone is usually a wedge shape which brings about the natural curl, which is common in some other small breeds too!

However, not ALL pugs have this.





## • A Grumble of pugs

Another fun fact is that a group of pugs is actually called a Grumble!

Just when I thought pugs couldn't get any cuter... put them together and they create an adorable Grumble!!





## • Why we love Pugs so much

Pugs tend to be a happy-go-lucky breed, fun-loving and full of energy. Although they do also have a stubborn side to them! They are often referred to as “shadows” as they’re often found right beside their owner - this is because they love company and like to stay close to the action.

Pugs are a great breed for families with children; they are rarely aggressive and love to be fussed over!

Pugs are an intelligent breed, but often are too stubborn and lazy to learn new tricks... they also love their naps so a little patience is needed.

The best way to get to your pug’s heart is definitely through his tummy. Pugs absolutely love food.

Pugs can be such a great breed for all sorts of people; families with young children, couples, even elderly people. They are an all-rounded breed who just wants lots of tummy rubs and to be loved!





# WHEN DOG MEETS BABY



## SAMANTHA TAYLOR

Having a baby is a huge life-changing event for both you and your dog. It's not just your world that will get turned upside down; your dog's life is going to be turned on its head too! A baby comes with funny new smells and sounds that will be interesting, intriguing and sometimes frightening for your dog. You are probably wondering how your dog will react to the change and what you can do to prepare for baby's arrival.

### **First Things First** - *you are going to have to plan ahead*

It's likely in the first few weeks after baby comes home, that life will be quite chaotic. You will be tired, your family will be adjusting to a new demanding creature, and your dog will be wondering what on earth is going on.

It will at times be quite stressful for everyone, but if your dog has good basic training\* it will make a big difference. Never underestimate how much on command behaviours like 'sit', 'stay', 'come' and walking nicely on the lead will help when you have a baby to manage too.

If you think about what life will be like and what is going to change for your dog, you can start introducing those changes now. Are you going to be able to stick to your dog's feeding and walking routines when you are also at the beck and call of a new-born? If you can start mixing things up now, so your dog learns not to expect things at certain times – it will help in the long run.

Setting boundaries early is a great idea. Will the dog be banned from the bedrooms or the sofa? Are you going to need them to spend time on their own in another

room? What rules are going to change? Introduce them gradually now and by the time baby comes along your dog is already happy and comfortable with their new boundaries.

You can introduce baby early too! Play a CD of baby noises, gradually introduce the baby furniture, walk them with the pram or pushchair, use baby lotions and creams, and you can teach them the difference between baby's toys and their own.





*Does your dog have a safe space to retreat too? All dogs need somewhere to go where they will be left alone, especially when there are children in the house. You can set up a human-free zone in another room, under the stairs or even in the corner of a room – as long as all the humans know that it is a dog only area.*

*Most dogs will enjoy learning the new rules, especially if you are giving them lots of positive praise and rewards during training. They will have lots of new sights and smells to investigate, which can be interesting and fun. However, if your dog seems worried or nervous about the changes stop immediately and seek the advice of a qualified dog trainer or behaviourist (your vet will be able to recommend one).*





### Bringing Baby Home - *Keep Calm and Carry On*

Even with all the preparation bringing baby home will probably still be stressful for your dog, so try and keep all the humans calm and relaxed. For your dog, the smelly new bundle with its odd noises will be really interesting and quite scary too. Your dog won't know how to behave and will probably want to head in for a good sniff and a lick, so you will need to teach them how to approach the baby properly and gently.

It's perfectly normal for you to feel nervous about introducing them too, but if you are in control, there is no reason to be concerned. Remember to use lots of

positive praise and rewards so that your baby is a positive thing in your dog's life, not something to be afraid or jealous of.

There will be times when your dog wants your attention, and you can't give it, after all, you will be giving a lot of attention to the baby. Having a plan to keep them busy and distracted will be a real help. Make sure they are getting plenty of exercise (you can enlist the help of friends or employ a dog walker) and use puzzle games and toys to tire them out at home mentally.

Having a dog (or dogs!) and a baby can be hard work, but with preparation, time and patience you will quickly work out a daily routine to keep everyone safe, happy and content. After all one day, baby and dog are very likely to become the best of friends!

\*If your dog has specific behavioural issues (separation anxiety, fear or aggression) you should seek professional help before baby arrives.







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We're looking for 101 dogs across the country to take part in our paw-trait Dog-athon! So enter now for your chance to win a FREE professional photography xperience for you and your pooch!

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# EVERY DOG HAS IT'S STAY



There's nothing more idyllic than being surrounded by your family on holiday, exploring new places and sharing plenty of laughter and fun. You don't want to leave any family member behind – and that includes your beloved dog. It's only right that they come on holiday with you and that's why all Forest Holidays locations are pet-friendly.



Your dog will love you for bringing them along to the forest. Here your dog will be in heaven, snuffling through the leaves, collecting sticks, splashing in streams and of course, finding every muddy puddle.

## **Cosy pet-friendly cabins**

Our cabins are perfect for dogs, after a day playing outside they can rest on the enclosed decking

and there's plenty of room inside for your pet's bedding and favourite toys whilst the gentle warmth of the underfloor heating will lull them into happy dreams about chasing forest creatures.

Forest Holidays has 10 UK locations for dogs to explore. Here's a rundown of each location with some top tips on the days out and activities that dogs will love!





### **Deerpark, Cornwall**

Deerpark has trails that cover anywhere between one and ten miles with paths that suit everything from pushchairs to mountain bikes. Ideal for a family walk with the dog, Deerpark has a popular forest walk which starts and ends at the Deerpark Forest carpark. The walk takes in a pretty wooded picnic area which is carpeted with bluebells in the spring.

*Dog's day out: With over 20 acres of gardens you'll have plenty of walking to do at the Eden Project in Cornwall. Dogs can join you for free, although they are not allowed in the biomes.*

### **Blackwood Forest, Hampshire**

Set deep in a 270 hectare beech forest in the rolling countryside of Hampshire, Blackwood Forest is carpeted in bluebells in the spring and bathed in golden hues in the autumn. Situated close by, the South Downs offer miles of beautiful walks for you and your dog.

*Dog's day out: Take your pooch for a walk along the picturesque River Itchen in Winchester, before you enjoy a well-deserved lunch in one of the city's many pet-friendly pubs. For something a little different, enjoy a trip on a glorious steam train at The Watercress Line.*

### **Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire**

One of England's most ancient woodlands, the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire has fantastic scenery to explore with your dog. Whilst your pup might not be as interested in the history of the area or the beautiful River Wye that runs through the wooded valley, they will be very excited at all the wildlife smells, small ponds and waterfalls to discover.

*Dog's day out: Take your dog for a walk through the vineyard at Parva Farm. Enjoy wine-tasting in the shop and browse through the locally produced gifts at the same time.*



### **Thorpe Forest, Norfolk**

Ideally situated beside the banks of the River Thet, close to where the Norfolk and Suffolk borders meet, this delightful corner of England has everything you need for a great family holiday. From the magic of the Norfolk Broads to the excitement of BeWILDerwood, from coastal towns to cathedral cities.

*Dog's day out: For a tranquil but fun day out, explore Gooderstone Water Gardens. You'll find six acres of beautiful gardens filled with ponds and waterways. After you've followed the trail over all thirteen bridges, stop in the café for an ice cream or homemade cake.*

### **Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire**

Our cabins at Sherwood Forest are dotted among 3,300 acres of magnificent pine forest, blending harmoniously into the forest landscape.

*Dog's day out: Visit Creswell Crags for a lovely long dog walk. This awe-inspiring limestone gorge is honeycombed with caves and fissures to explore. Take turns visiting the museum, and then enjoy an ice cream in the café. They even have delicious dog yoghurts, so no one feels left out.*

### **Cropton and Keldy, North Yorkshire**

Although, as you would expect, the Yorkshire Moors are full of wildlife and long walks, amazing smells and rivers and streams, the perfect playground for a happy dog, that's not all they have to offer.

*Dog's day out: The whole family will enjoy a day out at the Ryedale Folk Museum. There are events on throughout the year, as well as animals to pet. From the Iron Age roundhouse to the Tudor manor house, and a seventeenth century cruck house, get a feel for family life as it was in years gone by.*

“YOU DON'T  
WANT TO LEAVE  
ANY FAMILY  
MEMBER BEHIND  
– AND THAT  
INCLUDES YOUR  
BELOVED DOG”







**Ardgarden Argyll & Strathyre, Scotland**

Explore lochs and mountains, castles and coasts and discover a dramatic history and a rich and vibrant culture whether you stay at Ardgarden Argyll or Strathyre; both are set in glorious Scottish landscapes.

*Dog's day out: Walk around the charming town of Inveraray, Inveraray Jail is a fascinating day out for the brave and, when you're done,*

*stop at The Creggans Inn for a lovely meal in the dog-friendly bar.*

**Beddgelert, Snowdonia**

Our newest location sits in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park, an outdoor paradise for dogs and their owners alike!

*Dog's day out: For a day at the seaside, Porthmadog is hard to beat, full of scenic coastal walks and a pretty beach.*

At Forest Holidays half of our cabins are now dog-friendly. You can bring up to four dogs per cabin for £10 per pet, per night. To book a holiday that your family (including beloved pooch) won't forget visit: [www.forestholidays.co.uk/pet-friendly-holidays/](http://www.forestholidays.co.uk/pet-friendly-holidays/)





DISCOVER  
the forest



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The code is valid for breaks booked by 31/12/2019 and taken by 31/12/2020





# Marstenmoor Mastiffs

Emerald, Victoria, Australia

**We bought our first Mastiff, Emma (Tiffma Lady Holly), in 1993 and she was a wonderful companion who also caused us to commence conformation showing. We successfully exhibited her so that she gained the title of Australian Champion which was a lot of fun and the start of a lot more to follow.**

**F**rom the time Emma came to live with us, we became "hooked" with this breed. We became active in the Mastiff Club of Victoria and became aware particularly about certain health aspects of the breed. Emma was only three years old when we had to make 'that' difficult decision. We wanted to learn more about this breed.

Our increasing interest in the breed also led us to want to pursue conformation showing further and ultimately breed better Mastiffs. The majority of the Mastiffs that we have owned have achieved the title of Australian Champion and have gained many other awards along the way. We take showing very seriously, ensuring that our dogs are appropriately trained, and always well presented. An important show is always a good excuse for Gabrielle to buy a new designer suit in just the right colour! We are very proud to be able to say that our home bred boy, Ch. Marstenmoor First Chapt, "Mungo", was the first Mastiff in this country for over one hundred years to be awarded Best Exhibit in Show in all breeds competition. This was in 2002 and is quite an achievement!

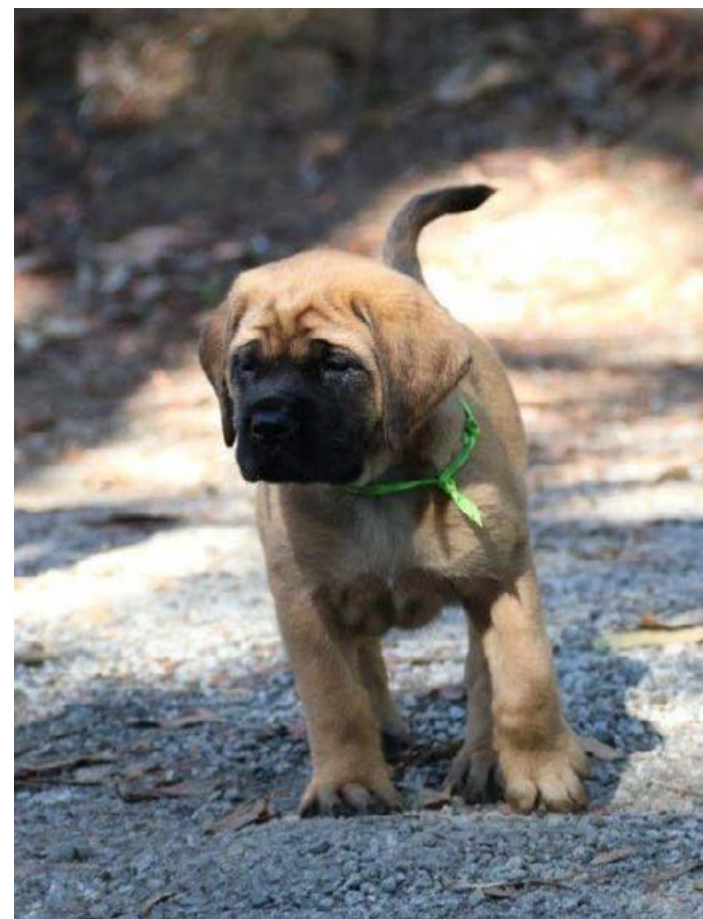
Our first litter registered under the MARSTENMOOR prefix was not until almost eight years after

purchasing our first Mastiff. We breed infrequently and each litter is carefully planned. We have been very fortunate to have had a number of quality puppies from the small number of puppies born. We have exported internationally but mostly enjoy seeing our puppies in companion homes.

We have travelled the world to see Mastiffs and meet Mastiff people. We have attended the Mastiff Club of America National Specialty on three occasions (2000, 2001 and 2003);

Bucks County and Trenton supported shows (USA) on two occasions (2000 and 2003); Old English Mastiff Club Championship show (2007); Mastiff Club of Germany Club show (2008); and Mastiff Club of Netherlands Club show (2008).

We are Committee and active members of the Mastiff Club of Victoria Inc. This is the only club in Australia to exclusively represent the Mastiff.





**W**e are also members of the Old English Mastiff Club (UK); Mastiff Club of America; Mastiff Club of New Zealand; Mastiff Club of Sweden; and Utility Dog Club of Victoria.

In addition to this, Paul was the initial Webmaster for the Victorian Canine Association, and is currently a committee member of the Canine Museum Foundation as well as a Trustee for the Canine Museum.

Our passion for Mastiffs has also now encompassed collecting Mastiff ephemera and basically anything that is Mastiff related. Our collection is extensive and includes many valuable antique bronzes, figurines, lithographs, paintings and books. It also contains some items that are not so valuable but quirky such as a plastic Mastiff phone who's eyes flash when it rings! Paul and the collection were featured in a major newspaper supplement in 2006 (and of course, copies are now in the collection!).



**I**n 2006, a litter was registered under the prefix of YANOOOR which is a joint prefix that we had with Debbie Hobbs of Yangerdook Mastiffs. This litter was very exciting as it was the first litter for our breed in Australia conceived using frozen semen. This was semen imported from America from a dog that Debbie and I had seen at the 2003 MCOA National. The dog is Am. Ch. Madigans Doc Holiday who now has offspring all over the world who have major show awards.

We have exported puppies and semen internationally to some significant kennels, as well as smaller kennels that have recognised the qualities of our dogs and breeding program.

This breed has become our lives and we have times that are rewarding and very special, but others that are heart-breaking and crushing.

This breed is not for everyone.

We feel it is very important that people who wish to purchase a Mastiff be fully aware of the size that they can grow to. Obviously with such a large dog, the feeding and maintenance (worming, heart worming) costs are considerably more than most other breeds. And they do slobber!

Our property is securely fenced. We have invested a lot of money which has been wisely spent and ensures our peace of mind knowing that our dogs cannot leave the property, or that that they can be at risk from other dogs entering.



**W**e ensure that our dogs have the necessary obedience training so that they are always under effective control in public places. This does not mean “off-lead”, but being able to control your dog when you take him/her for a walk where there are people dogs and other animals. Training and socialisation are required – this means time.

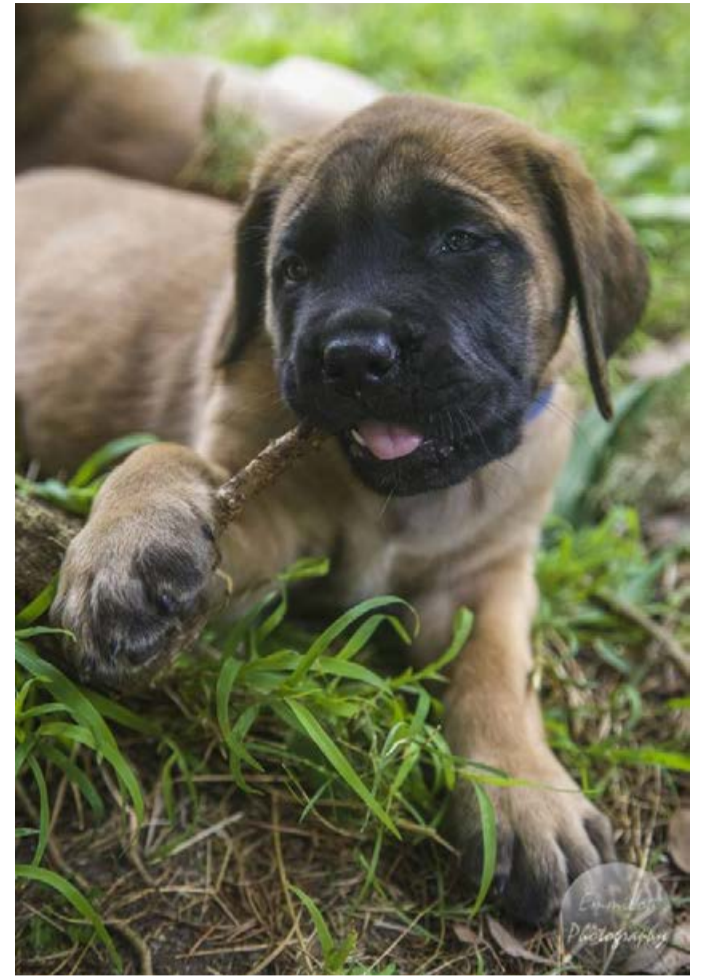
This is a giant breed of dog and needs to be managed carefully especially during the juvenile years of its life. Appropriate diet and exercise are especially important, and we do require our puppy owners to keep us informed of their puppy’s progress.

All our Mastiffs have their own respective paperwork and

documentation and are hip and elbow scored as a minimum. We do require we are given first right to purchase the puppy back if the new owner can no longer keep their Mastiff, but this and much more is covered in the detailed sales agreement.

Puppies go to their new homes with a six-week free health insurance policy. We strongly urge all owners to continue this policy for the life of the dog. Each of our own Mastiffs has pet health insurance.

Our Mastiffs take an incredible amount of time, energy, money and emotion to produce. This is done for love of the breed and not for financial gain. We wish to place these special puppies in the best possible homes available.







# CREATIVITY INCLUDED

## THE XPERIENCE

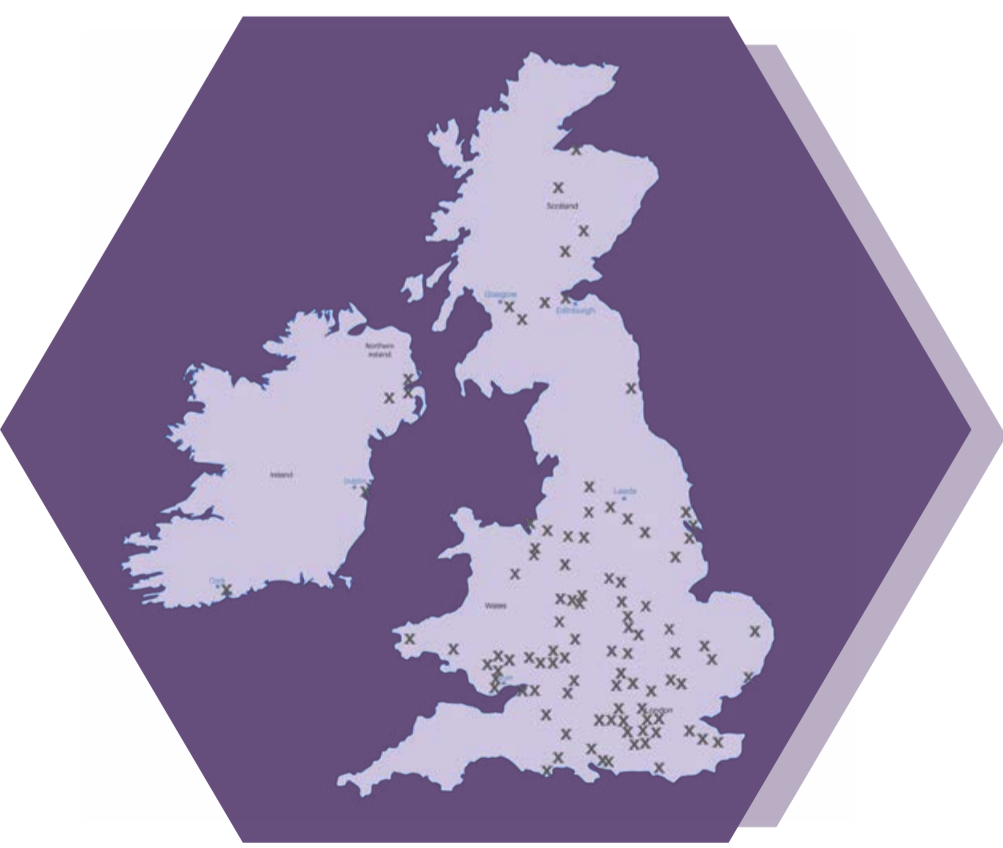
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