

POOCH NEWS

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DOG PARK ETIQUETTE

Heading to the dog park is always a blast for both pups and their owners. However, ensuring a positive experience for everyone involves a bit of dog park etiquette. Here are some casual tips to keep the fun flowing.

First and foremost, the golden rule of the dog park is picking up after your furry friend. No one wants to navigate a minefield of surprises, so always have a poop bag on hand. It's a small gesture that makes a big difference.

Keep an eye on your dog's behaviour. While playtime is encouraged, not all dogs have the same play style. Some are energetic and rambunctious, while others prefer a more relaxed interaction. If your pup is on the boisterous side, make sure to gauge the other dog's comfort level and step in if needed.

Remember, not all dogs are social butterflies. Some may be shy or anxious, so be mindful of their cues. If a dog seems uncomfortable or uninterested in interacting, respect their space. Likewise, if your dog is the shy one, allow them to explore at their own pace.

Sharing is caring, even at the dog park. If you bring toys or treats, be open to the idea of sharing with the other furry companions. It promotes a sense of community and ensures that every dog gets a chance to join in on the fun.

By following these simple guidelines, dog park visits can be enjoyable for everyone involved. It's all about fostering a positive environment where both dogs and their owners can create lasting memories.



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MAKING READING FUN... WITH STORY DOGS

We are so very excited to announce that Aussie Pooch Mobile Dog Wash has teamed up with Story Dogs to sponsor six teams from across Australia!

Story Dogs is all about creating a safe, fun, supportive, non-judgemental environment for primary school aged children who could use a hand with their reading skills.

It's a no-judgment zone where kiddos amp up their focus, boost their literacy skills, and sky-rocket their confidence. Dogs bring the magic, creating a laid-back vibe that helps kids relax, open up, try their best and have a blast reading to their furry buddies!

Story Dogs currently help over 2795 children each week over 388 schools in NSW, QLD, VIC, TAS, WA, SA and ACT.

All of us at Aussie Pooch Mobile are very excited to work with Story Dogs, both nationally and locally. We are excited to be part of the solution to improving educational outcomes for children all over Australia.

Our sponsored teams

Judy and Lulu - Tuart Hill Primary School, WA
Joy and Jedda - Calvary Lutheran School, SA
Jenny and Foxy - Hawker Primary School, ACT
Juanita and Misty - Glenview State School, Qld
Marcie and Dov - East Bentleigh Primary School, Vic
Sharon and Jinx - St Patrick's Primary School, NSW

We can't wait to see the incredible things we'll achieve together and are super proud to be part of this fantastic journey!



Fun Reading 🐾 Reading for Life



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NAVIGATING PUPPY BITING

Puppy nibbling is totally normal for our furry friend—it's just their way of exploring the world and going through the puppy stages. Like how human babies use their hands, pups use their mouths to check things out. Biting is their version of playing and learning the ropes.

During teething, your pup might amp up the biting game, and that's expected. But if it goes overboard, it could signal other concerns. Now, let's dive into what might be triggering that non-stop nibbling, and how we can steer our pup in the right direction:

Tiredness: If your pup suddenly turns into a little shark after a burst of energy, it's a hint they might be tired. Pups don't have a built-in sleep regulator, so it's on us to make sure they get their 18 hours of daily nap time.

What to do?

- Set up a daily routine with designated nap periods.
- Create a comfy spot where your pup can snooze without disturbance.

Hunger: Puppies grow at warp speed, especially in the first 4 months. Keeping up with their appetite can be tricky, especially for those seemingly overnight-growing, long-legged puppies.

What to do?

- Regularly weigh and adjust their food portions.
- Opt for softer textured food during teething periods.

Boredom/attention: Puppies are quick learners, and if they're bored, they might resort to using their teeth to liven things up, especially around kids.

What to do?

- **Mental Enrichment:** Keep your pup entertained with activities like sniffing games, training sessions, puzzles, and food toys.
- **Chewing:** Provide suitable, long-lasting chews to satisfy their instincts and keep them chill.

Remember, while puppy biting is part of the package, excessive nibbling could signal other issues. Addressing mental stimulation, chewing needs, physical exercise, sleep, and routine can create a balanced environment, curbing those extra nips in the bud.

Shop puppy boredom busters and chew toys at AussiePoochDirect.com.au



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TEACHING YOUR DOG HAND SIGNALS

Teaching your dog hand signals is a valuable and effective way to communicate with your pup. Dogs are all about body language so adding hand signals to your training can really level up the communication between you and your dog. Unlike spoken commands, hand signals can be seen from a distance, making them especially useful for dogs that are deaf or easily distracted.

Chances are, if you've been working with your dog for a while, they probably already understand several of your physical cues. In fact you may be using hand signals without even realising it. Watch an agility show, and you'll notice trainers relying more on hand signals than verbal commands. The same goes for hunting dogs - hand signals are the go-to for controlling actions in the field.

By teaching your dog to interpret hand signals, it opens up a world of possibilities. Whether it's turning left or right, speeding up, stopping, sitting, or staying, your dog can learn to do it all without a spoken command.

When it comes to teaching your dog how to follow hand signals it's important that they understand your verbal commands clearly before you begin. If they don't follow and fully understand your verbal commands then trying to add in hand signals may only confuse and frustrate both of you.

Let's dive into a couple of hand signals you can start teaching your dog right away:

- Down command

Extend your arm toward your pet and lower your hand, palm facing down towards the floor. While doing this, say "down," and your dog will follow your hand signal into the down position. Keep doing this until your dog masters the art, and soon, they will learn how to associate the hand signal with your verbal command and it will no longer be needed.

- Stay command

Get your dog into the sit or down position, then extend your arm towards them with your palm facing out - like a traffic officer stopping traffic. Simultaneously, verbally command your dog to stay. Repeat until your dog recognises that the hand signal means to stay.



“Remember consistency is key.”

Use the same moves every time, and make sure everyone in the house is on the same page. Dogs thrive on routine, so the more consistent you are, the quicker they'll pick up the connection between your hand signals and their next move.

Positive reinforcement only - when your dog nails a hand signal, shower them with love, treats, or a good ol' belly rub. It's like their language of joy, making them more likely to show off those moves again.

So, there you have it -, teaching your dog hand signals is a rewarding and practical addition to your training routine. It enhances communication, strengthens the bond between you and your dog, and provides an alternative means of command in various situations. With patience, consistency, and positive reinforcement, your dog will become fluent in the language of hand signals in no time.





Turn those walks
into a bonding
session with your
dog, and you'll be
strutting the
streets like a
dynamic duo in
no time.



STOP YOUR DOG FROM PULLING ON THE LEASH

Had enough of the leash tug-of-war and want to enjoy a nice stroll with your furry friend? We've got you covered with these tricks to make leash training a breeze.

Start Early

The earlier you start using a leash with your dog or puppy, the better. Allowing your dog to get used to wearing a leash is important and it's also best to start at home where they don't have as many distractions.

Some dogs that haven't been on a leash yet, will often panic when they become restrained. Begin by associating the leash with delicious treats or fun toys and making the experience a positive one.

Time To Sniff

Try to combine leash-walking with some off-leash time so your dog has some time to enjoy sniffing and going at their own pace. This sets the vibe that on-leash means cool, calm behaviour. If your dog is not the command-following type yet, find some off-leash dog parks in your area to enjoy.

Steps To Success

- Ask your dog to sit next to your left leg.
- Hold a treat in your hand to get your dog's attention.
- Step off with your left leg, while saying 'heel'.
- As soon as they take off ahead, turn around and start walking in the opposite direction.
- As soon as your dog catches up and reaches the correct position next to your left leg say 'heel' and get their attention with a treat.
- Repeat the turn-around each time your dog surges ahead and correct them by saying 'heel'.
- Initially reward them each time they are in the heel position and walking by your side, it also teaches them to look to you for direction. As they progress, get them to walk for a longer period beside you before they get the treat.
- Enjoy your walk and continue intermittently rewarding your dog for paying attention and walking with you. Once the behaviour is established, rewards can be in the form of treats, play or just simply a 'good dog' when they are doing the right thing.





THE IMPORTANCE OF NAIL CUTTING AND EAR CLEANING

Maintaining your dog's well-being goes beyond baths and cuddles—it involves two often overlooked aspects: nail cutting and ear cleaning, essential for your furry friend's health and happiness.

Some dog owners underestimate the importance of regular nail maintenance. Overgrown nails can cause discomfort and potential health issues, affecting your pup's walking and even leading to joint problems. Our professional dog groomers at Aussie Pooch Mobile specialise in nail cutting and can handle this task with ease (it's even included in all of our services), ensuring a stress-free experience for both the dog and its owner.

Ear cleaning is also crucial, especially for dogs with floppy ears prone to infections and wax buildup. Regular cleaning helps prevent these issues, keeping your dog's ears healthy. While cleaning your dog's ears may seem challenging, professionals, like us, can efficiently and safely handle it, removing dirt, wax, and potential irritants.

Ear infections in dogs can be painful and, if left untreated, lead to more severe health problems. Regular ear cleaning can catch potential issues early, preventing discomfort for your furry friend. Signs of an ear infection include excessive scratching, head shaking, redness, swelling, and an unpleasant odour.

Whether you choose to handle these essential grooming tasks yourself or seek help from your local Aussie Pooch Mobile groomer, prioritising your dog's hygiene ensures a happier, healthier life for your four-legged companion.

USE THE PRODUCTS THE EXPERTS USE

Explore our premium pet products at Aussie Pooch Direct, our convenient online store. Designed for easy access to our professional products, including top-notch grooming products to help with nail clipping and ear care. From our eco-friendly shampoos to health care items, we've got it all. Consult your local Aussie Pooch Mobile groomer for personalised recommendations.

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CAMPING WITH YOUR DOG

Camping in the great outdoors is always a fun holiday for the whole family, including your four-legged buddy. Whether you're hitting the beach or trekking through some forest vibes, your pooch is going to have a blast! Here are some tips to ensure you all have a fun and safe adventure.

Doggy essentials - Pack the must-haves like food and water bowls, a leash, waste bags, and any necessary medications your dog needs. And don't forget to bring their favourite toys for entertainment.

Cozy sleeping setup - Bring a comfy bed or blanket for your dog to sleep on. Familiar bedding can help them feel more at home in a new environment.

Watch out for ticks - these little buggers love hanging out in humid, bushy spots. So, make sure your dog is armed against them. While you're out in the wild, give your pup a once-over regularly by running your fingers down to their skin, feeling for any weird lumps that could be a tick. These pests can set up camp anywhere on your dog, but they're often found on the feet, neck, head, and ears.

Fire alert - with all the camping hype and bushwalks, your dog might not be clued in on the whole campfire thing. Take a leash and always keep them calm around the fire.

Vaccinations and ID tags - Ensure your dog is up-to-date on vaccinations and has proper identification tags with your contact information. This is crucial in case your dog decides to go on an impromptu solo adventure.

Respect wildlife - Keep your dog away from wildlife, and be considerate of fellow campers. Not everyone may be comfortable around dogs, so maintaining a respectful distance is important.

By following these tips, you can have an enjoyable and safe camping experience with your furry friend.

Tips to have
an enjoyable
and safe
camping
experience
with your
furry friend



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UNLEASH ARTHRITIS RELIEF WITH CURCUMIN

Is your older dog not as bouncy as they used to be? Maybe they're giving the ball at the park a pass or struggling to move around. If your dog is showing signs of taking it slow, it could be arthritis, a common issue that often creeps up on our canine pals in their golden years.

As loving pet parents, making sure our furballs have a comfy and happy life is a big deal. While arthritis in dogs isn't something you can wave a magic wand at, there's one natural remedy gaining attention - curcumin.

Arthritis in dogs can make them stiff, have a bit of a limp, and find it tough to get moving. It can mess with their mojo, affect their weight, and even turn them into grumpy old timers. Natural remedies, like curcumin, which is found in turmeric, is getting the thumbs up from pet owners. Curcumin is like a superhero for joint health and it's getting attention for being a game-changer for both humans and dogs.

While scientists are still researching the specific effects of curcumin in dogs, some perks for dogs might include kicking arthritis and joint related inflammation to the curb and giving relief from pain and discomfort associated with these conditions. Plus, it's been looked at for its positive impact on digestive health and immune system support.

Curcupet-K9, Australia's only curcumin supplement for dogs with arthritis, offers a holistic approach to joint health. Scientifically formulated and clinically researched, it's proven to have a suppressing effect on inflammation.

Those small, flavourless tablets are a breeze to conceal in your pet's food and feature an easy to absorb formulation, meaning your pet can start to feel the effects in as little as two weeks.

Choosing natural remedies like Curcupet-K9 showcases a gentler approach to managing arthritis in dogs, ensuring your four-legged friend enjoys a more comfortable and active life.

Chat to your local Aussie Pooch Mobile groomer to see if Curcupet-K9 is right for your dog, or shop Curcupet-K9 online today.



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