

MIRRIBANDI BELGIAN SHEPHERDS

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MIRRIBANDI BELGIAN SHEPHERDS



PUPPY INFORMATION PACK

Congratulations for choosing a Belgian Shepherd from Mirribandi Belgians!

The following information was compiled to help your puppy to grow into a well-adjusted and healthy adult Belgian, or to maintain an adult Belgian in top condition. Please rely heavily on your vet's advice - they are fully qualified to help you every step of the way.

It is our ethical duty as responsible Dogs Qld members and responsible Dogs Australia (previously called ANKC Australian National Kennel Council) breeders to ensure that we advise you of the following details.

After taking ownership of any dog, an owner needs to be diligent in the care and overall well-being of your dog by ensuring its exercise, nutrition, veterinary care, vaccinations and other preventative measures that aid in your dog maintaining its best health.



CONDITIONS OF SALE

It is a condition of sale that your puppy/dog is returned direct to us if you are unable to keep it. If at any time you find yourself in a position that you are unable to care for or keep puppy, please do not hesitate to call us. We will happily take puppy back, and find a new home for it - no questions asked. We love our babies and only want the best for them, for their entire life. We assume that you are planning on keeping this puppy for its entire lifetime, but if things change, we are here for you and will take the dog back.

It is a condition of sale that any and all Mirribandi dogs must have ALL of the following criteria met before being bred from.

- CHEDS hip scored
- CHEDS elbow scored
- ACES eye certified
- DNA Full Breed Profile
- copies of these certificates to be submitted to mirribandi@gmail.com and for publication within the Mirribandi Health Register
- only bred to Dogs Australia ANKC, or similar overseas official registry, registered dogs that are similarly tested
- bred under Dogs Australia ANKC conditions and that all puppies born will be Dogs Australia ANKC or overseas official registry registered.

It is our aim to encourage newcomers to ethically breed Belgian Shepherds, and we will mentor any who ask for assistance in undertaking this exciting venture into breeding quality dogs.

If you cannot abide by these conditions, STOP the transaction before the puppy/dog comes to live with you. These conditions are non-negotiable, and are in place for the wellbeing of the dog, and for the future generations of Belgian Shepherds.



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OUR EXPECTATIONS

Our expectations of you are for you to continue on with the socialisation of your puppy that we have undertaken thus far at Mirribandi. We have had many visitors meet your pup, and you will be wanting to show your new puppy off to all your friends and family. Please remember to do so in a Parvo safe environment until at least 10 days after pups second vaccination. From day 1, have your puppy meet lots of other breeds of dogs and children of all ages, ensuring every meet and greet is done without stress and duress for either your pup or the other dog/child.

We expect you to take your puppy to puppy preschool, and then along to at least beginners level obedience course.

We expect you to keep in touch with us for any query you may have in the future, and so we can enjoy watching your puppy grow and mature over the next 14+ years, which is a good innings for a Belgian Shepherd.

We expect you to send us a copy of any health breeding certificates for your Mirribandi dogs, and for their pre-breeding certificates to be published Publicly on the ANKC Dogs Australia ORCHID health database (or similar overseas health database)

We expect you to love and care for your Mirribandi puppy. We wish your puppy a long and happy life and we welcome you to bring your dog back to visit any time you are nearby to Mirribandi, or pop in via email or facebook messenger.

To continue on with our Puppy Culture training, we want you to continue with your socialization of your puppy with the outside world, keeping in mind hygiene and limiting disease until the vaccination kicks in 10 days after the second vaccine.



PUPPY GUARANTEE

As per your Puppy Sales Agreement, we warrant that both the sire and dam's health for breeding has been evaluated by obtaining certifications recommended by the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Qld or by the appropriate body in the country of origin for imported frozen semen.

The puppy/dog is expected to be free of hereditary crippling health conditions. However, no guarantee of such is or can be made, or intended herein.

In case the dog would have any genetic disease by 2 years of age which is sufficiently serious after getting checked by two licensed veterinarians, one selected by us, to authorize the euthanizing of the dog, we agree to:

1. Replace the dog with one of equivalent quality from the first litter bred by the Breeder, or at the Breeder's option. (Excluding shipping and transport)
2. Refund the paid price, minus the non-refundable deposit.

We strongly encourage you to have the puppy seen by your veterinarian within 72 hours of picking up the puppy.

The dog may be returned to us for any reason within 72 hours after the purchase, provided that the dog has not been damaged in any way. You will then be entitled to a refund of the paid price, less the non-refundable deposit. We will not reimburse veterinary or shipping costs.

The return of the dog shall include all of its registration documents, with ownership transfer adequately signed.

Any health guarantees are **VOID** if **Bravecto, Simparica and Nexgard** tick and flea preventative treatments and those with similar core ingredient formulas are ever used. These products are known to cause neurological damage or death to this breed, which can be avoided by using more natural tick protection products or alternate chemicals such as Advantix.



PREPARING FOR YOUR PUP'S ARRIVAL

Have you prepared your home?

Make sure there are no gaps or holes in fences, no gates without proper locks. Also remember steps and stairs: can the puppy get under the house, or can he escape into the front garden or onto the street?

Whether the puppy is to live in the house or in the yard, he needs an area to call his own. Two spots are ideal, one inside and one outside and a good supply of blankets and bedding will be necessary.

Further on is an article on Diet Advice – our recommendations. A change of diet usually causes diarrhoea, so if you change the puppy's basic food, do it gradually.

In addition to food and bedding, he will need bowls for food and water, a collar, lead and brush. A daily brush not only keeps the coat in good condition but is part of the socialising and bonding process.

A small, light collar and a light leash are essential in the early weeks to facilitate lead training. As the puppy grows, a heavier collar and/or lead and additional grooming equipment will probably be necessary.

Until puppies know how to behave, are reliably toilet trained and have gone through the 'exploring by using their teeth' stage (at about 6 months of age), it is better to keep them closely supervised or contained in a 'dog proof' environment. This means no access to:

- carpets
- chemicals
- exposed electrical wiring
- expensive furniture

Make sure they have easy access to the garden and that they can't escape. If you're not sure if the garden is escape proof, only take them out on their lead.

Creating a routine

During the first few months, puppies really benefit from a good routine, so get into the habit of feeding your puppy at regular intervals. Take them outside as soon as they wake up, after their mealtimes and every hour or two.

Be sure to schedule in 'play time', and 'quiet time'. Your puppy needs to learn to how to settle quietly, as well as how to keep themselves occupied with a chew or their toys.

Home Alone training

Your growing puppy will sleep a great deal, and this is the ideal time to get them used to being separated from you (and other pets) for short periods every day, so that they do not become too dependent on having constant company.

If you do not get your puppy used to being left alone while you are in your home, they may suffer from 'over-attachment' and separation anxiety when you go out.

Try not to return to your puppy when they're whining, crying, barking or misbehaving in any way, as you will be unwittingly rewarding the undesirable behaviour, which might make things worse in the long run. Either wait until the behaviour has stopped, or create a noise diversion to distract the puppy and then enter the room.

Do not greet the puppy straight away. Do something else first (put the kettle on for example), and then say hello (calmly and quietly) to the puppy. This prevents problems later on with attention-seeking behaviour and overexcited greetings.

Out Of Bounds Areas

It is strongly recommended that you keep your puppy away from stairs and steep drops, as running up and down stairs can damage a puppy's delicate growth plates, causing long-term damage.

You should lift them in and out of cars, and be careful not to play fetch games on slippery floors or encourage them to jump about or twist themselves, for the same reason.



PUPPY CARE

Arriving at home.

Introduce your new puppy to your family and other pets slowly and gently. Take notice of how your puppy is feeling as they will communicate any discomfort. Your puppy may seem quiet and apprehensive when you first arrive home, arriving at their new home can be overwhelming for your new puppy. This is due to the fact they are experiencing a new environment for the first time and may be missing their litter brother and sisters. Allow them to explore their new home at their own pace. Limit loud noises and try to spend as much time as possible with your puppy.

The first few days and weeks are critical when developing a lasting bond with your puppy.

Children and puppies are a great match, provided they start out on the right foot. If introducing a puppy to children, try to keep the children calm and let your puppy approach the children, not the other way around. Introduce babies in a gentle, positive manner, holding them safely out of reach. Arrange a 'safe zone' for your puppy such as a cushioned crate, where they can retreat to it if they feel threatened or overwhelmed. Remember that you should never leave your puppy alone with a young child.

Wind down before bedtime and teach your puppy to do their business before bed so they will stay asleep for longer.

Remember, if your puppy is sleeping in a crate, they might not yet be able to hold their bladder overnight, so they will have to be able to be let out after a few hours for a toilet break. Hint - pop a bell on your pup's collar, and when you hear them stirring in the nighttime, rush them out to toilet.

The first night at home with you might be the first time your puppy is away from their mother. Separation anxiety is not uncommon and if your puppy whines or tries to leave their bed, you could try a Snuggle Puppy or place your puppy's crate next to your bed, so the puppy does not feel alone. Try to resist putting your puppy in your bed as this will be a hard habit to break as they grow older and can be unsafe for them. Instead, you can place their bedding close to yours until they settle. Provide a snuggly toy for your puppy to cuddle with while they adjust to being away from their mother and other siblings. Use an object that has the familiar scent of their mother and littermates and include an item with your scent on it, so they learn to feel safe with you. It may take a couple of nights at home for your puppy to settle in. Soft bedding is a must for all puppies. Your puppy needs a cushioned and cosy bed and free from drafts. Your puppy's bed will be one of the key elements that help them feel comfy in their home, so choose bedding they can grow into. A crate offers your puppy their own safe haven. Crates also limit destructive behaviour and are helpful for creating a routine for toilet training, plus they can be used on car trips. Your puppy needs to be able to comfortably stand up in a crate and **MUST** have fresh water available in the crate. Do not crate your puppy for long periods.

Your puppy will want to explore every nook and chew on everything in sight, including you. Your job as a puppy parent is to support your puppy's every need and teach him how to interact with the world around him. The sleepless nights and constant attention can be exhausting but the puppy months are gone in a flash. Cherish every moment, as before you know it, you'll be celebrating your puppy's first birthday!

Puppies are curious creatures, and your puppy will surely find a way into every nook and cranny of the home. Make sure that all toxins are locked up or placed out of reach. Some common threats include house cleaning products, medication, chocolate and coffee, rodent poisons and even grapes.

Your puppy is going to be a sweet sleeping beauty one minute and a raging lunatic the next. When

those puppy zoomies kick in you want to make sure there aren't sharp table corners or flights of stairs in the area that could cause your puppy harm.

Belgian puppies will go through two fear periods during puppyhood, the first one is usually around 8-11 weeks of age, and the second fear period is usually around 6-14 months of age. Fear periods are a common developmental milestone. Puppies are particularly sensitive to trauma during this period and a frightening event during this period will leave a lasting impression on your young dog's psyche and influence its behaviour for the rest of its life. It is crucial for puppy parents to recognise when a fear period is starting and to steer clear of anything unfavourable or upsetting while a puppy is going through this period. Fear periods are normal and temporary. They are not an indication that you have picked the wrong puppy or have been given a puppy with a bad temperament. They are simply a developmental stage that your puppy needs help with through training, socialisation and habituation. It is your role to get them through this without pandering to their irrational fears, but to give them the strength to realise that their fears are just that, irrational.

Belgian Shepherd puppies are endearing, however be prepared to commit time and patience to integrate them into your household, allowing them to develop into a well-adjusted and well-socialized Belgian Shepherd that will give you and your family a lifetime of love and devotion.



BRINGING UP PUP - FROM ADOLESCENT TO ADULT (Extracted from Dogs Qld website)

Behaviour

People too often misinterpret a puppy's adolescent behaviour as a permanent problem, leading them to rehome their pup. But you can handle this passing phase with a few helpful tips, Stephanie Hollebrandse writes.

From the age of six to 18 months, puppies start to think for themselves – they'll test their independence and question your authority. Where they once obeyed your command without question, your pup is now more likely to indignantly ask 'what will you do if I don't?'

Adolescence is a critical time in your relationship with man's best friend.

Here are some helpful tips to get through this time with your very own rebellious puppy teenager.

Be prepared

Adolescence will generally set in somewhere between six and 18 months. During this time pups will grow more confident in exploring their own world and potentially become independent of their owners.

Animal Behaviourist Dr Joanne Righetti says "The dog may appear to stop listening to commands; a previously perfect recall may be forgotten."

"They may start to push the boundaries, like jumping on the couch, pulling washing off the clothes line, digging, escaping and barking."

When this happens, it's important you only give a command when you mean it and when you're prepared to follow through. If you've called your pup to come and it doesn't, go and get it right away. It's also wise to add a short obedience lesson to your daily routine, practising commands such as 'sit', 'down' and 'stay' on a regular basis. It's crucial to be prepared for this time in your puppy's life.

"This is the period that most dogs are given up to shelters as owners cannot cope. If people understand that this is a stage pups go through, they are more likely to cope," Joanne adds. Joanne suggests a good way to deal with adolescence is to get together with other dog owners experiencing similar behaviours. Let the dogs run off steam while you share the problems you're up against – much like a canine adolescent support group.



Be smart

Being consistent with your training will also help your puppy feel secure in its role. Be sure to use lots of discipline and praise. While your pup is likely to be less responsive during this phase, when it does respond it will be aiming to please.

The use of interactive toys will nurture this positive response, while also keeping your pup entertained. A stuffed Kong will help it idle away the hours when left at home alone, ultimately preventing household problems such as destructive chewing, excessive barking and hyperactivity. "Adding mental stimulation, such as training treat balls, will help to keep your dog focused," Joanne says. "If you have the resources to do so, it's also beneficial to hire a dog walker or use doggy day care on the days you're not able to be with your puppy. Being around people will also help to promote mental stimulation."

There are lots of warning signs that puppy adolescence is approaching. Being aware of these signs and getting some advice will stand you in good stead to deal with the situation.

Andrew Biggs has owned and operated Hanrob Dog Hotel and training facility, a family-owned business, since 1981. "Learning to read your pup's triggers will allow you to understand how much daily exercise it requires, what toys it prefers and how to put basic training in place to avoid any further misbehaviour," Andrew says.

In addition to regular exercise and mental stimulation, grooming sessions are a good way of keeping your pup calm. "It's all about knowing what makes your dog tick and giving it what it needs on a daily basis," Andrew adds.

Be patient

Setting expectations from day one with your puppy will put you in the best position possible when adolescence sets in. For instance, giving it food at the same time each day and assigning 15-20 minutes a night to play time will help to avoid further problems. And try to be patient. "If it starts to ignore commands it learnt at puppy school, go back to the basics and teach them again," Andrew says.

"Whether it's jumping at the gate or refusing to come when called, go back to everything you taught in those early stages and train it again." Most importantly, this time in your puppy's life is something to enjoy. "Don't crush the young dog out of them," Andrew says.

Dr Joanne Righetti says to remember that adolescence is simply a stage in your puppy's life. "Dogs are learning all the time and if owners don't teach them how they would like them to behave, especially during adolescence, chances are unwanted behaviours will last a lifetime," Joanne says.

So, if things get tough, step back and remember why you chose your special pup to begin with. Take the time to understand each other and you'll get through this troublesome time. From here, look forward to the fun times ahead, because there will be many.



In summary

1. The signs
2. Ignoring previously learnt commands, such as 'come'
3. Digging and escaping
4. Destructive chewing and excessive barking
5. Hyperactivity

The solutions

1. Give a command once and follow through immediately. If your pup refuses to come, go and get them straight away.
2. Get together with other dog owners experiencing similar behaviours and let the dogs run off steam.
3. Using interactive toys, such as a treat filled Kong, will help your pup idle away the hours when left at home alone.
4. In addition to regular exercise and mental stimulation, grooming sessions are a good way of keeping your pup calm.

Get active

Providing your dog with regular exercise and activities is key to getting through adolescence. To find out more about what sports, clubs and training are on offer, visit the activities and events section on the DOGS QLD website.



TOP TRAINING TIPS FOR PUPPIES

<https://dogsqueensland.org.au/owners/behaviour/top-training-tips-for-puppies/>

There's nothing quite like the fun and delight of a new puppy. Choosing a four-legged family member and bringing them into your home is an exciting time. Right from the start, thoughtful care and management is really important; your actions in the first few months will influence your puppy's behaviour for life.

Raising a puppy is fun and rewarding. Putting some serious effort into the early stages will provide enormous benefits in the longer term. Early socialisation combined with consistent supervision and training should result in a friendly, well behaved four-legged companion for life.

Training should be fun

Training provides mental stimulation for your dog and enhances your bond and trust. Make sure training is a lot of fun for both of you!

Socialise your puppy

Socialising is simply a term for activities that introduce your puppy to a wide range of positive experiences in a safe environment so that they learn how to be a confident and relaxed dog. Puppies that have negative experiences or are isolated are more likely to be fearful as an adult.

Up until about 18 weeks of age is the most important developmental period in your dog's life. During this time it is crucial to socialise your puppy by exposing them to as many people, places and 'things' as possible – other animals, children, trucks, skateboards, veterinarians, slippery floors, loud noises etc.

Handle your puppy

Teaching your puppy to enjoy being handled and touched everywhere on their body is very important. Begin by rewarding your puppy with their favourite treats every time you touch/handle them in different areas. This will also assist in building trust between each other. For example gently touch your puppy's tail and give them a treat, touch the puppy's foot and give them a treat. The aim is for the puppy to learn to enjoy this intrusion into their personal space.

Enjoyable alone time for your puppy

New puppies need lots of companionship and playtime with you, but it's also very important for them to enjoy spending time on their own. Preparing your puppy for inevitable periods of time being left by themselves is important; puppies need to learn how to occupy their time when home alone right from the start. Often there is a temptation to let your puppy follow you around all day, but this is not good for your puppy as they may eventually develop a dependency on your company and become anxious and destructive when left alone.

A puppy pen may be used for confinement when you cannot supervise your puppy. This will help keep them out of mischief and prevent them from destructive chewing, digging mistakes and toileting in the wrong place.

Safe chew toys for your puppy

Puppies like to chew and if you don't provide them with chew toys they are more likely to chew inappropriate items, like your furniture. Chew toys need to be made of materials that your puppy is unable to bite off or destroy easily, as these can pose a choking hazard.

Ensure all toys are of suitable strength/size for your puppy and rotate the chew toys regularly to maintain your puppy's interest. There are plenty of interactive & food dispensing toys on the market now.

Teach a reliable Recall

This seems to be a behaviour that many people struggle to teach well. It will always be easier to teach a puppy that has no history of not coming back when called than an older dog who has learnt (been taught) the art of not coming back! It will take you time to build trust with your dog that it is well worth their while coming back to you.

Firstly we need to find what it is your dog loves!!! Then we can use this for our training.. For most puppies/dogs it will be a high value treat like chicken, cheese or Cabanossi. Most dogs that aren't interested in training treats are either getting too much food for their everyday meals or the treats you are using are not high enough value to your dog. There will also be some dogs that will value a toy or game of tug more than treats, so we can use this in our training too.

Now we need to start rewarding your dog when he offers the behaviour of coming to you as often as possible. Once he is offering this behaviour easily we can start programming this action with a recall word & then the reward. By only putting words to the right action we create very clear information for our dogs. We'll need to practice this as often as possible before gradually adding in distractions remembering to reward generously. Practice is the name of the game! Remember when you are in an unfenced environment be sure to have a lead or long line on your dog to be sure of his safety.

Teaching Tricks

Puppies & dogs love to learn tricks. It doesn't matter what you teach as long as you are both having fun together. I believe trick training improves your bond & relationship. Dogs can learn hundreds of different tricks. Some tricks may be easier for one dog than another. If you're having trouble teaching a particular trick just move on to teaching something different. There is no end to how many tricks you can teach, it all comes down to how creative you are. The favourite ones seem to be 'shake hands', 'beg', 'roll over', 'speak', 'crawl', 'fetch' and 'play dead,' just to list a few. We all want to have a dog that we can show off to our friends and visitors so they know how clever they are.

Continue training

Problems often arise when puppies become adolescents from 6 to 18 months of age. I find that many people do not continue training after their puppy completes Puppy Classes and this often results in problems including jumping up, pulling on the lead, barking, food bowl aggression, chewing and digging. I have developed an interactive, online course www.petlovers.com.au to help people and offer support during this important phase of their dog's development. Just five to ten minutes of training and teaching tricks a day can make a huge difference to your dog's behaviour and help prevent problems.

5 SECRETS OF OBEDIENCE TRAINING

<https://dogsqueensland.org.au/owners/behaviour/5-secrets-of-obedience-training/>

Master the five key commands and you'll strengthen your bond with your dog for life

We wouldn't expect a child to know how to behave appropriately without being taught. The same principle applies to dogs. In addition to basic obedience training, it is also important to teach your dog the household rules. Decide on the rules before bringing your dog home and ensure that all members of the household consistently maintain them.

House rules can include whether the dog is allowed up on the couch or on your bed, and whether some rooms of the house are off limits. When teaching your dog basic obedience, some commands are more important than others.

1. Come (recall)

The 'come' command (also known as recall) is the most important command and one that people have the most difficulty with. Dogs that reliably 'come' are much easier to manage.

When it comes to the recall, dog owners often expect too much. Many say: "My dog won't come back when we're at the park." But the dog park is likely to be one of your dog's favourite places. All those other dogs, people and new smells are very stimulating. Why would your dog want to come back to you when it means the fun has come to an end and you're going home? It is up to you to outwit your dog. Make it think that you are much more interesting than the excitement at the park.

Tips

Start in a place where there are few distractions, like the backyard. What motivates your dog – treats or toys? Use this knowledge to your advantage.

- Walk away from your dog. Turn back and call your dog's name in a loud, excited voice to get its attention.
- Say "come" while holding out your dog's favourite reward. When your dog comes to you, reward it immediately.
- Repeat this exercise, rewarding your dog each time. You want to teach your dog that coming to you every single time is much more rewarding than not coming at all. This process is called 'proofing' the desired behaviour.

Once your dog reliably comes back, continue to proof the behaviour in other situations and places (try it inside or at the park), gradually increasing the level of distractions, such as other people and dogs.

When you're at the dog park, ask your dog to 'come' several times and reward it each time. When you call it and leave, you don't want it to associate 'come' with "we're going now, the fun is over". With lots of practice your dog will learn that it's rewarding to come when called.

2. Give (or 'leave it')

Teaching your dog the 'give/leave it' command can be a lifesaver. Dogs (especially puppies) love to explore things with their mouths and this can pose a danger if they find something that can hurt

them. Common household items such as rat poison, cleaning products, fertiliser, clothing and certain foods can cause harm so it's important that you can tell your dog to 'give' or 'leave it' and know that you can safely retrieve the item.

Tips

When a dog has something it values, such as a favourite toy, it's not likely to give it up easily. It's up to you to outsmart your dog.

To teach your dog the 'give/leave it' command you need to use something it likes better than the object you want it to give up – a favourite treat for example – to serve as a distraction. Wave the treat in front of your dog while saying "give". Once your dog drops the item, reward it immediately. Repeat this exercise on a variety of items.

You need to teach your dog that it's more rewarding to give up the item than it is to hold onto it.

3. Sit (say please)

'Sit' is the most common command taught to dogs, and it has many useful applications. I recommend that 'sit' be used to teach your dog manners – to 'say please' when they want something. For example, you can ask your dog to sit before it comes into the house, before dinner and before giving it a pat.

You can then reward it with the thing it wants (to come inside, its dinner or a pat).

Tips

'Sit' is probably the easiest command to teach. Small treats work best.

- Hold a treat in front of your dog's nose and move your hand (with the treat) over the dog's head towards its rear while saying "sit". Your dog will try to follow the treat and will naturally assume the sit position.
- Once your dog sits, reward it immediately with the treat. Repeat this exercise many times, in different locations and situations.
- Once your dog knows how to sit, use the command to teach your dog how to 'say please' for all the things it wants.

4. Drop (stay)

'Drop' is a very important exercise. It is a submissive position and can be used to teach your dog to remain calm. Teaching your dog to drop when people come to the house, for example, prevents it jumping all over your guests. Ask your guests to ignore your dog. If they call or acknowledge the dog, it will want to stand up and come for attention.

Ask them to only show the dog attention when it is calm. This rewards good behaviour rather than the jumping up. The 'drop' command can also be used to get your dog to stay. Your dog should know it has to stay there until it is given a release command (such as 'free').

Tips

To teach your dog to 'drop', first ask it to sit. Once it is in the sit position, use a favourite treat to lure it into the drop position.

- Hold the treat in front of your dog's nose. Slowly lower the treat until you are holding it just in front of your dog's front paws. This should cause your dog to lower its head until it falls into the drop position.
- Once your dog drops, immediately reward it.
- Repeat this exercise several times and in different locations.
- Start increasing the time you expect your dog to hold the stay position.

5. On Your Bed

If you are happy to allow your dog in the house but would rather it didn't roam, add this command to the repertoire.

You can also move your dog's bed to different locations in the house (ideally where the action is) so you can spend more quality time together.

Tips

Place your dog's indoor bed (or folded blanket) where you want your dog to sleep and rest. This command is easier to teach to a dog that already knows how to drop.

- Place treats on the bed. Say "on your bed (or mat)" while allowing your dog to eat the treats. This helps to create a positive association with the bed/mat.
- Ask your dog to 'drop' while on the bed. Once it has dropped, repeat the command 'on your bed' and reward it for remaining on the bed.
- Gradually increase the time you expect your dog to stay on the bed.

As responsible dog owners it is up to us to show our dogs the ropes. Obedience training is an ongoing process and should continue throughout a dog's life. Training your dog also improves the bond between you and your pet – well-trained dogs are a pleasure to own and can be included in more family activities.

Kate Mornement is an Animal Behaviourist.

Visit www.petsbehavingbadly.com.au for more information.



TOTAL RECALL - TRAIN YOUR DOG TO COME EVERY TIME YOU CALL

<https://dogsqueensland.org.au/owners/behaviour/total-recall-train-your-dog-to-come-every-time-you-call/>

It's the most important thing to teach a dog, but isn't always the easiest. Kate Mornement demystifies recall training.

Of all the basic obedience commands people teach their dogs, the recall – the ability to have your dog come to you on command – is by far the most important and often the most difficult to train.

A reliable recall, meaning your dog will come to you every time, has many benefits. It can be used in off-lead parks to avoid confrontations between dogs and can even be a life-saver in dangerous situations such as when your dog encounters traffic or snakes.

So why is a reliable recall so difficult to train? Why won't dogs just come when called? The key to understanding this is to look at the situation from the dog's point of view. The most common situation where we expect our dogs to obey a recall is when the dog is off-lead during a walk or at the off-lead park.

From the dogs' point of view, this is often the highlight of their day, or week, depending on how often they are exercised away from home. There are so many exciting things to see, like other people and dogs, not to mention enticing smells to explore!

Then we decide it's time to go home and we call our dog: "Rover, Come!" We're ignored, so we try a little louder "Roooooooooooooover, COME!" Our command falls on 'deaf' ears as Rover continues to explore and play, oblivious to instruction. What happens next? The more obliging dogs eventually wander back to their owners and - clip - on goes the lead.

The more mischievous dogs, often with a case of selective hearing, continue on their way as their owners give chase. This usually turns into a game but eventually they are caught and – clip – the lead goes on.

A similar scenario plays out every time the dog is taken to the off-lead park and, over time, the dog learns that 'come' means 'play time is over, we're going home'. Is it any wonder that so many dogs ignore the recall command? As owners we often place unrealistic expectations on our dogs.

Make it worthwhile

As an animal behaviourist dealing with problem behaviour, I often explain to my clients that animals do what is most rewarding for them. For example, in the case of a dog ignoring the recall command at the off-lead park, it's more rewarding for the dog to continue playing and exploring than it is to obey the recall command, be put back on lead and be taken home.

Dogs are continually weighing up the costs and benefits of their behaviour. People also do this – how many would continue to go to work if they stopped getting paid? Once the reward or incentive is gone the behaviour declines or stops altogether.

So now that we understand a little more about why so many dogs disobey the recall command, how do we go about training them to obey? In theory it's simple. We must be more exciting and more rewarding than all those people, dogs and other distractions at the off-lead park.

We must make it more rewarding for our dogs to come to us when called than to ignore us and keep exploring. In practice however, this can be difficult.

As with any training, it's very important to choose a reward that is reinforcing for your dog. What motivates your puppy or dog the most? Is it food obsessed? Will it jump through hoops for a special toy or game? Or is affection your dog's favourite reward?

Whatever you choose make sure it's a special treat, something that's only on offer during training sessions, rather than something your dog gets on a regular basis. Using a variety of different rewards adds an element of surprise.

Start young

Ideally, training a reliable recall should begin from a very young age, as soon as you bring your puppy home. Decide what the recall command will be called; either 'come' or the dog's name is commonly used.

If you have an adult dog you can still train a good recall, however it may not be as reliable as it would be if you had trained the behaviour from puppyhood.

This is because a dog's previous experiences contribute to its current behaviour.

If your adult dog has always had an unreliable recall this makes it more likely to continue to have an unreliable recall – the behaviour (disobeying the recall command) has been consistently reinforced to the point where it becomes a habit.

A dog that was successfully recall trained from a very young age, on the other hand, has formed the habit of obeying.

Begin with the basics

Start training the recall inside in a room or space where there are few distractions and keep training sessions short (a couple of minutes at the most). Avoiding distractions in the early stages of training new behaviours will help your puppy stay focused and learn faster.

Call your puppy to you from a metre or two away using the cue you have chosen (that is, 'come' or the puppy's name). Use high value treats and lots of praise and attention to reward your puppy for coming to you. Repeat this many times until your puppy comes to you every time.

Start to gradually increase the recall distance between you and your puppy. Reward the puppy with a high value treat every time it succeeds. Again, repeat many times until the puppy succeeds every time. This is establishing a reliable recall.



Same trick, different place

Practice the recall training in different areas of the house and gradually introduce some distractions, such as other people, animals and toys.

Once the pup is reliably returning on your recall, start recall training outside in the backyard on a long-line. Begin at a very short distance with no distractions and progress to a long distance with several distractions. Repeat many times, rewarding your dog for every successful recall.

Once this is mastered, practice the recall in the backyard off-lead, following the same steps outlined above. Repeat over and over until the recall is reliable.

Next, practice on a long-line at the off-lead park. Again, start in an area where there are few distractions such as other dogs and people. Then, as you progress and if your dog's recall is reliable, gradually introduce distractions.

Once you are confident in your dog's ability to reliably obey the recall command, you can practice off-lead in a safe and secure area. Repeat many times, in different locations and at different times of the day.

Keep up the treats

Always reward a dog for a successful recall. While it isn't necessary to have food treats with you at all times, it's important that you have them often enough to keep reinforcing the desired behaviour.

If you stop rewarding the behaviour altogether, your dog may find other things (such as continuing to play with other dogs) more rewarding than obeying the recall. This could result in the command being ignored.

If your dog obeys a recall under high distraction, such as when there are lots of other dogs and people around, ensure you give an extra special reward. This lets your dog know that it did a really good job.

If you call your dog and your dog ignores you, don't continue to call it over and over, and don't give chase. Wait for your dog to be less distracted and try again.

When your dog obeys the recall command, try to avoid putting it on the lead and leaving the park straight away. Instead, reward it for obeying a recall by allowing it to go off again and play for a minute or two.

Repeating this several times will help your dog to associate the recall command with freedom (a positive), rather than 'it's time to leave' (a negative).



Troubleshooting

If, at any stage of this recall training process, your dog begins to ignore the recall command, consider what the possible reasons could be.

Is the environment too stimulating? Are the rewards you're using rewarding enough? How long has it been since your dog's last off-lead romp.

Once you've established the reason, go back a step or two in the training to the last step your dog was previously successful at, and continue through the stages again at your dog's pace.

Once you have succeeded in training your dog in a reliable recall there are several things you need to consider. Individual dogs are motivated by different things.

Some are more dog-orientated and some more people-orientated. Some breeds have been selected to have strong hunting, herding or scenting drives, while others were selected primarily to be companions.

In addition, the environment is constantly changing, as are the choices our dogs are faced with. Ultimately we can never guarantee that we will always be more rewarding to our dog than the things it encounters while off-lead. All these things must be weighed up when deciding when and where it is safe to let a dog off lead.

The main thing is to teach your dog that all good things come from you, and that every time they obey the recall command they are handsomely rewarded.



DEALING WITH ANXIETY

<https://dogsqueensland.org.au/owners/behaviour/dealing-with-anxiety/>

When you finally go back to work after settling your new pup in, separation anxiety can rear its ugly head.

Dr Diane van Rooy explains how to avoid it developing and how to deal with it.

Remember when you brought your little puppy home for the first time? You took a week off work so it could settle in; you made sure it was exposed to everything and it was well socialised. You took the time to play games, and would always take it for a walk when you got home from work, no matter how tired you were. You thought it was sweet when it jumped all over you when you walked through the door, or followed you around the house.

Now, a feeling of dread hangs over you as you arrive home each day.

Just what destruction will await you? More scratches on the windows? More chew marks on the doorframe?

Another note from the council telling you that the neighbours have been complaining about your dog barking.

You try to stay calm as your brain calculates just how much the latest episode will cost. You try not to get angry or frustrated when your dog looks at you, guilt written all over his face. But you are only human, after all.

How has it come to this?

Owning a dog is supposed to be a fun, wonderful experience. But, sadly, this scenario does occur and can lead to a permanent break in the bond between owner and dog – often resulting in punishment, putting in a shelter or euthanasia.

Why is my dog doing this?

One likely reason for such behaviour is separation-related distress (also known as separation anxiety).

Common symptoms of separation anxiety are barking, whining, howling, pacing, chewing at doors and windows, self trauma, escape attempts and loss of house training. These behaviours occur when the dog doesn't have access to family members.

Get a diagnosis

Don't just assume your dog has separation anxiety. All the signs can also be caused by other medical and behavioural conditions. These other conditions must be ruled out by your veterinarian, so gather as much information as you can.

Make the most of technology

Use your computer's webcam to see what your dog is doing while you're not there. Set up a video camera and record its behaviour. A dog having the time of its life chewing up its bedding and playing with the pieces is very different to a dog in a state of panic, but the end result can look the same.

Put it on record

If you don't have access to a webcam or video recorder, and barking is the main symptom, set up a tape recorder. No one knows your dog better than you and you will probably recognise the alert

bark ('someone is daring to walk past my yard') as opposed to the highpitched bark, howl or whine of distress.

Assess the frequency

Consider how often the problem occurs. Is it every day, only on stormy days or just since the neighbours started renovating? A number of dogs with separation-related distress also have noise phobias or other anxiety disorders.

Is age the cause?

Is your dog showing any sign of senility? While separation-related distress can occur in dogs and cats of any breed and at any age, it is more common in older pets.

On the road to recovery

Once the dog's condition is diagnosed, the next stage is treatment – and the good news is that separation-related distress can be successfully treated. With severely affected dogs, the best results are achieved with a combination of behaviour modification & medication.

Your veterinary behaviourist can design a plan that suits your situation and your dog. The aim is to teach your dog to be able to relax independently. Some dogs are just too anxious to learn without the help of medication.

Pheromone diffusers and sprays are also an option, while the pheromone collar will soon be available in Australia.

There are other general things you can do to make a difference:

Avoid punishment

There is absolutely no evidence that dogs experience guilt or spite. Your dog is not getting even with you for leaving it; it is not thinking about what will occur in several hours time when you get home. It is not even thinking rationally.

That guilty look is your dog trying its best to appease you. Punishing a dog for something it did six hours ago will only add to its anxiety. You use timing and consistency in training all the time, but it's hard to keep that in mind when you're feeling just as stressed as your dog.

Make it feel at home

Leaving the television or radio on during the day may help. If your dog is always better when left inside, consider installing a doggy door and allowing it access to the house.

Keep up the walks

We all know how important exercise is for a dog, both physically and socially. People with depression have seen improvements with regular exercise, and we are seeing similar results with anxious dogs. However, try to avoid the association with you arriving home by delaying the exercise for 30 minutes or so.

Treat it to a massage

Anxious dogs are tense dogs and massage allows them to physically relax.

Change the relationship

Some dogs with separation-related distress are overly attached to one owner. They will shadow you from room to room, and they get distressed if they can't get access to you, even when you are home. You need to change this relationship. By all means, give your dog as much TLC as you want, but only when you initiate it; don't reward your dog for demanding it.

Should you get another dog?

Only get another dog if you really want to have two dogs, not as a way of treating this problem. It does help very occasionally, but even a pack of dogs probably wouldn't make much difference to the dog that is overly attached to a particular person. You may just find you now have another set of problems.

Can it be prevented?

All behaviour is the result of genetics, the environment and the dog's previous experiences. You can do everything right and still end up with a dog with separation related distress. What we can do is try to give our dogs every chance to become independent and confident about being alone. The key to minimising the likelihood of this type of behaviour is to make exciting things happen when your pup is alone.

Treat your dog

Give a nice meaty bone, toys or a Kong® packed with treats just as you are leaving.

Keep departures and arrivals low key

Acknowledge your dog but don't go overboard making a fuss. When you arrive, don't immediately play games or take it for a walk. Wait until you are both settled. We don't want our dogs thinking that all the fun occurs only when you are present or and that your arrival is the best time in the day.

Time your praise and attention

Give your dog lots of attention and praise when it is relaxed and well behaved, not when it is jumping all over you.

Plan ahead

If you know there will soon be a major upheaval in the family's routine, try to prepare your dog with gradual changes.

If you will be returning to the workforce after a long stint at home, leave your dog at home for varying times in the days or weeks leading up to your start date. Give it a chance to get adjusted.

You and your dog deserve to have the relationship you've always dreamed of. Seek help if needed. It may take some time and effort but things will improve.

Tricks & Treats

<https://dogsqueensland.org.au/owners/behaviour/tricks-treats/>

The key to effective training is using treats the right way to reward your dog's tricks, says Kate Mornement.

Obedience training is one of the major keys to successfully bonding with your dog. A well-trained dog is a pleasure to own and, as a result, tends to be included in more activities and spend more quality time with its owner.

Well-trained dogs are less likely to be surrendered to animal shelters because of behavioural problems and, in the unfortunate event that an owner has to surrender a beloved pet, they are more adoptable than untrained dogs. In other words, a well-trained dog could be expected to live a richer life in terms of human companionship and experiences.

Over the years, reward-based training has increased in popularity because most dog owners prefer to reward their dogs rather than punish them, but it is also very effective. Dogs, like us, are more likely to repeat behaviour if there's something in it for them – if it's rewarding. Behaviourists call the rewards 'reinforcers'.

What are reinforcers?

Simply put, 'reinforcers' are rewards that teach a dog to repeat desired behaviour by creating a reinforcing a positive association with that behaviour.

Our different personalities and temperaments mean that we are motivated by different rewards. For example, the motivation for some people finding a new job might be the money they will be paid, while others may be motivated by the challenges the job will provide or by social interaction with their colleagues. In these examples, the money, challenges and social interaction are the reinforcers.

Similarly, dogs differ in their motivations and what they find rewarding. While the majority of dogs are motivated by food, some may be more motivated by play or by the opportunity to interact with their owner. Even within these groups there can be differences in the degree of the reward. For example, a dog motivated by food might be more motivated by a piece of cooked chicken than a piece of kibble.

Similarly, a dog motivated by play might be more motivated by a new squeaky toy than by a tennis ball it plays with on a regular basis. Because the chicken or the new squeaky toy are novel, the dog values them more, so they are more rewarding. Meanwhile, the kibble and tennis ball are familiar, less exciting, of lesser value and therefore less reinforcing.

Of course, there are exceptions to the rule. Those dogs that will do anything for a piece of kibble or a game with their old tennis ball prove that different dogs are motivated by different things and some are more easily pleased than others.

Find your reinforcer

When training a dog, it is important to first consider what motivates it so that you can find out what will be the best and most effective reinforcer. Once this is established, use the knowledge of what motivates your dog to your advantage to get the most out of training.

Another important consideration is that any dog's level of motivation for a particular reinforcer may change throughout the day. For example, food treats will be less reinforcing after a meal, therefore they are a less effective reinforcer for a dog motivated by treats after it has eaten.

When you are working training into your regular routine, figure out when your dog would be most driven to earn the treats, toys or affection – usually this will be after a period without access to the reinforcer or to similar items – so that your dog will be highly motivated to work for the reinforcer.

Types of reinforcer

Three types of reinforcers commonly used in reward-based training include treats, toys and affection.

Treats

By far the most widely used reinforcer is food or treats. Most dogs are motivated by food because it satisfies the very basic need to eat and satisfy hunger.

It's important to choose a treat that is particularly rewarding to your dog. Try a variety of treats to see which one is your dog's favourite. Small pieces of cooked chicken, hot dog pieces or liver treats are irresistible to most dogs.

Once you have established your dog's most rewarding treat, don't feed it to your dog regularly – only use the reinforcer during training sessions to maintain its high value.

Toys

Dogs love to play and, for dogs motivated by toys and games, you need to establish what sort of toys are the most rewarding.

Does your dog prefer playing tug? If so, a durable tug toy will be the best reward. If your dog is more into fetch, a new fetch toy might be the best.

Again, it is important that the reinforcing toy is only used during training sessions to maintain its high value and effectiveness. Use other toys for normal play sessions.

Affection

Some dogs are people pleasers and are not particularly motivated by food or toys. These dogs love nothing more than praise and affection from their owners.

Training these dogs can be quite convenient, as you don't need any treats or toys on hand. All you need is your voice and hand, and to find out what kind of affection your dog prefers. Is it a scratch under the chin or massaging the ears?

Once you have figured out your dog's most rewarding form of affection and established that it is a reward for good performance in training, you will need to hold off on that type of affection outside of training.

Of course, you still need to show your dog affection – just as an owner who rewards with food treats still needs to feed their dog outside of training sessions – just not with that particular scratch under the chin or rub on the belly.

It's all in the delivery

When using reinforcers to reward a desired behaviour it is important that the reward is delivered during or immediately after the behaviour. If you wait too long between the desired behaviour and the reward, the dog may not make the connection between the two, and its learning can be hindered.

This is where a 'bridge' can be useful. A bridge is simply a noise (such as the click delivered by a clicker) or a word (such as 'good' or 'yes'). The bridge is given during the behaviour and bridges the time lag between the behaviour and the delivery of the reinforcer.

Reinforcers are most effective in training new behaviours when they are certain, quick and strong. Once the dog knows a new command and reliably performs it, food and play reinforcers can gradually be reduced or even phased out, but verbal praise should always be used to maintain desired behaviours once they've been established.

Kate Mornement is an animal behaviourist and owner of Pets Behaving Badly.

www.petsbehavingbadly.com.au



SOCIALISATION ADVICE

Socialisation is a term that is often used in dog training books, in dog magazines and by breeders and trainers. But what does it actually mean and how will it affect you as a new puppy owner?

Like human children, puppies are not born with the social skills that they require to live with their family, be that a canine family or a human one. The term "socialisation" in simple terms means the learning process that a puppy must undergo in order to learn key life skills to ensure that it is happy and confident in its environment, and can communicate effectively within its social group. We ask a huge amount from our dogs in their role as a companion animal, as not only do they need to understand humans and the human world, they also need to become fluent in the language of dog.

This involves having pleasant social interactions with adults, children, vets, adult dogs and other animals, as well as careful exposure to different situations in the environment like traffic, crowds, travelling in the car, vacuum cleaners and any sights and sounds it will have to cope with in life. It is so important that this is done thoroughly and correctly when your puppy is still young and he is young enough to happily accept new things.

Puppies that have been socialised effectively in these early weeks are far less likely to react negatively to new situations, noises, people, dogs and animals than their counterparts, who have not had these important early experiences. A well socialised puppy is far more likely to integrate easily into your life, therefore making your life together much more enjoyable and rewarding.

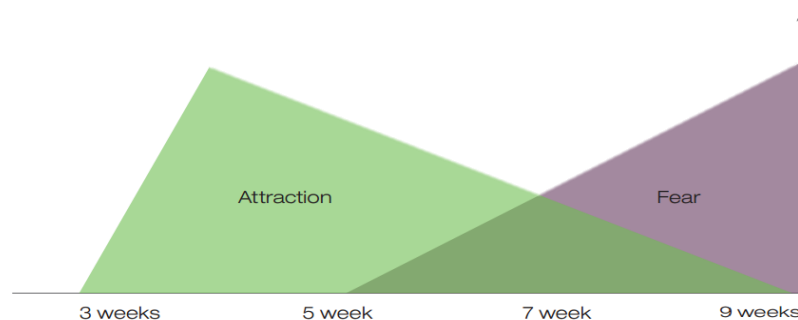
There are two parts to socialisation and both are equally important. The first is teaching the puppy to be social with people and other dogs, while the other (called habituation) is about teaching all the things we want the puppy to ignore and not be worried about (noises, traffic, household objects etc.).

Being a companion is the hardest job we ever ask a dog to do as our expectations are so high. We want dogs to get on with everybody and everything, and to go everywhere with us when we want, but be happy to be left alone without complaint when we don't, to be accepting of loud noises, strangers, other dogs... The list is endless. It is a sad fact that one of the major causes of death in dogs under two years old is euthanasia, as a result of behaviour problems. Most of these behaviour problems arise from fear (fear of strange noises, fear of being left alone – and indeed aggression nearly always arises from fear – fear of strange dogs, fear of strange people or fear of strange situations). In addition, far too many dogs are ending up in rescue centres. Behaviourists and trainers up and down the country are seeing dogs with problems that could so easily have been prevented if the first 16 weeks of that dog's life had been properly managed, and they had been prepared for the life they were going to lead.

Some breeds need far more socialisation and habituation than others – with more reactive breeds (such as those bred to guard, some terriers etc.) needing more – and earlier – socialisation than others. Therefore, it is important for breeders and new owners to know how reactive their chosen breed is so they can focus their socialisation accordingly. The Belgian Shepherd Dog, bred originally for herding and guarding the flock, is one such breed.

Socialising this litter began when the puppies were a few days old. Gentle handling and checking the progress of the litter were all important steps in the first few days of your puppy's life. The puppies were introduced to noises, different surfaces, different play items as well as different play and feeding locations around the house – all of this habituation and novelty contributed to the puppies' early development. The early ground work that has been put into the litters' social and emotional wellbeing has a direct impact on their ability to be fit for function as a family dog.

It is imperative that you continue this when your new puppy comes home. From around five weeks and onwards an important transition takes place in the puppy's ability to take in new situations as his natural fearfulness increases.



It is therefore so important that new owners don't miss this valuable window of opportunity for

Rural Lifestyle	City Lifestyle
Farm animals	Heavy traffic
Farm machinery	Crowds of people
Horses with/without riders	Emergency sirens
Road walking	Public transport

their puppy to experience new things – which will close at around 14-16 weeks. This time also coincides with the puppy's vaccinations, so a balance must be struck so not to miss out on this important learning opportunity. This can be achieved by taking your puppy out and about in your arms, while not allowing them to come into direct contact with other dogs until their vaccinations have taken place. Getting out and about with your puppy is key to them accepting everyday things, such as traffic and busy places, as part of normal life. It is important that you think about what life as part of your family will entail for a puppy – for instance, if you live in the inner city spending a significant amount of time socialising your puppy to farm animals may not be of great benefit, as it is unlikely they will encounter them in their day to day life:

The same also goes for all the different people your puppy is likely to meet such as: people with beards, people wearing hats, people wearing high visibility clothing, babies, children, people with pushchairs/prams, elderly people, people with walking sticks and people in wheelchairs to name but a few, or anyone else you are likely to meet.

Puppy Preschool

Vet surgeries often hold 'puppy preschool' for their new clients, but these should be treated with some caution. Well managed puppy preschools can be great social interaction for puppies of all ages and sizes. Well managed preschools should:

- Match puppies up according to their size so that the bolder puppies don't intimidate the more nervous or smaller ones, and thereby create negative experiences for the smaller puppies, and make the bolder ones 'social bullies'.
- Manage any off-lead play carefully and if necessary, separate puppies that get a bit too boisterous so that they can calm down and re-join the party once they are calmer.
- Discourage any kind of anti-social behaviour, such as biting that gets out of hand, very rough play and also show the owners how to discourage this.
- Show owners how to handle and groom their puppies – and have others do this too.
- Be fun positive experiences for puppies and owners.

The Puppy Socialisation Plan

Until now there was no definitive plan for effectively socialising your puppy, which was resulting in rescue centres seeing increasing numbers of dogs coming to them with behavioural issues that could have been avoided with proper socialisation. In order to counteract this, a puppy socialisation plan has been developed for both breeders and new owners to follow as a step by step guide - it is called the Puppy Socialisation Plan! It is an effective plan for breeders and new owners to prepare their puppies as best they can for life as family pets. It is simple to complete, and can be tailored to suit you and your lifestyle, so it is highly recommended that novice breeders and new owners follow the Plan.

It is critical that this is done from birth up to 16 weeks of age, otherwise important learning and development phases have passed. The Plan covers everything from getting used to household noises, to getting out and about and meeting new people and other dogs. Therefore, you need to plan and incorporate some extremely important life lessons during the early stages of your puppy's development, so that you end up with a well-balanced and sociable dog.

You can find The Puppy Socialisation Plan located at - <http://www.thepuppyplan.com/>

Visit this page <http://www.dogstardaily.com/training> which we have just discovered. There are some interesting articles and free books to download which may be of use to you.

Remember, you are the leader of the pack – and to establish yourself as leader, you need to consistently

- *Be firm,
- *Be gentle,
- *Expect immediate action with each command,
- *Reward with praise and treats,
- *Correct show showing control (never by hitting, which is confusing for the dog),
- *Lead with your hand.



SOCIALISATION CHART	Tick a box for each encounter						
PEOPLE							
Men							
Women							
Babies							
Young children							
Teenagers							
Elderly people							
Disabled people							
Loud, confident people							
Shy, timid people							
People in uniform							
People wearing hats, crash helmets etc.							
People with beards							
People wearing glasses, sunglasses etc.							
Delivery people e.g. postman, milkman							
Visitors							
Joggers							
AROUND THE HOME							
Washing machine/tumble dryer							
Vacuum cleaner							
Lawn mower							
Kitchen noise							
TV/Radio							
ANIMALS							
Friendly large dogs							
Friendly small dogs							
Domestic pets e.g. rabbits							
Livestock							
Cats							
Horses							
OUTSIDE THE HOME							
Traffic							
Motorbikes							
Bicycles							
Buses							
Trains							
Crowds							
Fireworks							
Umbrellas							
Car travel							
Different surfaces (gravel, slippery floors, grass etc.)							
GENTLE HANDLING							
Head							
Ears							
Mouth							
Tail							
Paws and legs							
Grooming (short periods)							
By family and friends							
By strangers							

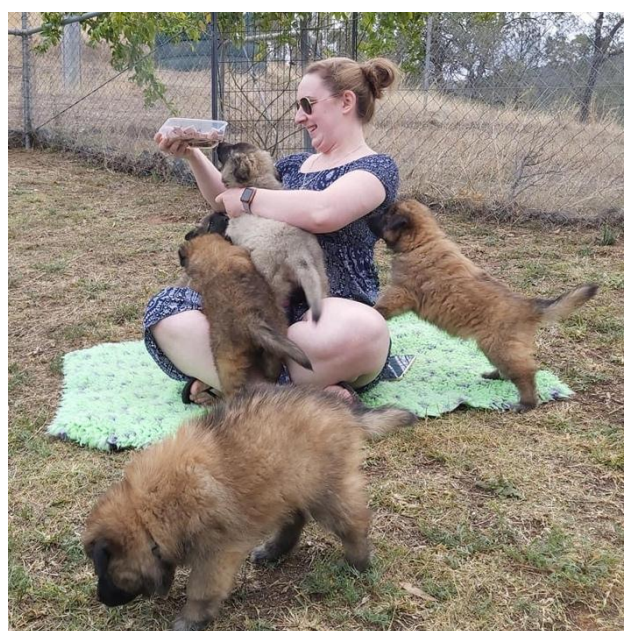
PUPPY CULTURE

Your puppy was raised at Mirribandi using the foundation principles of Puppy Culture. The above link has some interesting items in it for you to absorb.

We invite you to buy your own Puppy Culture video for follow up use at home.

<https://www.shoppuppyculture.com/pages/the-learning-center> Go to the Store, and look for DVDs and Books for Puppy Owners.

Even though we have poured a vast amount of time into your puppy with Puppy Culture protocols and training sessions, this is just the beginning. We now hand the reins (or leash!) over to you to take over from where we left off. Your puppy is not trained, but has commenced on a lifetime learning curve:-)



EXERCISE ADVICE

An important part of a dog's life is exercise, not only for fitness, but also for mental stimulation. Indeed, exercise times and feeding times are often the most exciting parts of a dog's day, and your puppy will grow to keenly anticipate them.

Small beginnings

Puppies need much less exercise than fully-grown dogs. If you over-exercise a growing puppy, you can quickly overtire it, and more importantly damage its developing joints, which may cause early arthritis. A good rule of thumb is a ratio of five minutes exercise per month of age (up to twice a day), until the puppy is fully grown, i.e. 15 minutes when three months old, 20 minutes when four months old etc.

Exercise Requirements

Until a puppy has completed its course of vaccinations, there is a risk of infection. Therefore, it is usually better that exercise is restricted to within the confines of your garden. Exercise in the garden also provides an excellent opportunity to start early training, and to get your puppy used to wearing a collar. Make sure your puppy has a number of safe toys, and always accompany them in the garden. This way, you can engage your puppy in suitable levels of activity, and start to reward good toileting behaviour, which can usually provide all the puppy's exercise needs during this time. Make sure you have many friends over to visit however to continue with your pup's socialisation!

Remember, even if your pup cannot walk on the ground until covered, he/she can be wheeled around Bunning's in a shopping trolley or carried wherever convenient. If the opportunity arises, take your puppy to other safe environments where there is no risk, and it is able to mix with other animals and people, such as private gardens where only vaccinated dogs have access. Socialising at an early age is a vital part of your dog's development.

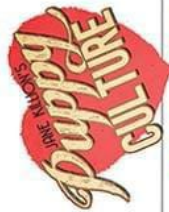
It is important that puppies and dogs go out for exercise every day in a safe and secure area, or they may become frustrated. Time spent in the garden (however large) is no substitute for exploring new environments, and socialising with other dogs. When you go out, make sure your puppy is trained to recall, so that you are confident the puppy will return to you when called.

You should never exercise your puppy on a full stomach as this may contribute to bloat or stomach dilation which can sometimes prove fatal.

All dogs require regular exercise to remain fit and prevent them from becoming overweight, which may also lead to health problems. You should remember however, that exercise needs to be introduced gradually, and that a young puppy will not have the same exercise requirement as an adult dog.

The duration and frequency of exercise should remain consistent and any increases should be gradual. For the majority of dogs, exercise is an important part of their life and so they will take as much as you can give. A dog will also enjoy play, whether with you or on its own, and so toys play an important part in a dog's life.

Dependant on breed and temperament and mobility, a dog will normally be capable of walking to the same capability as its owner, however as a dog becomes older, exercise should be reduced and your dog should be allowed to walk at its own pace.



EXERCISE GUIDELINES FOR PUPPIES

PUPPYCULTURE.COM

	8-12 WEEKS	12-16 WEEKS	4-6 MONTHS	6-12 MONTHS	12-18 MONTHS	18 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS
Sustained and Continuous Walking	50-200 feet at a time. - Break up with sniffing and noodling around. - Formal heel/leash walking training limited to 2 minutes.	- Gradually increase duration and length. Puppy should be able to sustain 100-200 feet by the time the puppy is 16 weeks old. - Let the puppy volunteer to keep going and stop. - Let the puppy show reluctance to go further. - Keep formal training under 2 minutes per session.	- Gradually increase duration and length. Puppy should be able to sustain 200-400 feet by the time the puppy is 6 months old. - Agree to keep going during walks as "sniff and stroll" but you can increase sustained walking to up to 20-30 minutes on a relatively level, soft surface by the time the puppy is a year old if the puppy volunteers to go farther.	- Walks on pavement should be kept short, but duration of walks on dirt or turf can be increased and more "sniff and stroll" activities can be added. - Agree to keep going during walks as "sniff and stroll" but you can increase sustained walking to up to 20-30 minutes on a relatively level, soft surface by the time the puppy is a year old if the puppy volunteers to go farther.	- Walks on pavement should be kept short, but duration of walks on dirt or turf can be increased and more "sniff and stroll" activities can be added. - Agree to keep going during walks as "sniff and stroll" but you can increase sustained walking to up to 20-30 minutes on a relatively level, soft surface by the time the puppy is a year old if the puppy volunteers to go farther.	Hikes and walks can be gradually increased to as long and as rigorous as you and your dog both like. After a dog's tissue is still soft and pliable, which about the age of 18 months, you should be gradual and you should back off if your dog appears tired or reluctant.
Sniff 'N Stroll	Informal "sniff and stroll" sessions can be up to about 10-15 minutes.	Can be increased to 15-20 minutes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Stiff and strolls can be gradually replaced with more sustained "walks" but remember that sniffing is the puppy's way of seeing the world, so be a patient puppy and give him an opportunity to sniff and stroll from time to time.
Noodling and Kibble Trails	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Puppy can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.	Your dog can go out in a safe yard and explore at his own pace or do a "Kibble Trail" as long as he likes.
Running	- No directed running except for very short bursts in play. - Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.	- No directed running except for very short bursts in play. - Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.	- No directed running except for very short bursts in play. - Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.	- No directed running except for very short bursts in play. - Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.	- No directed running except for very short bursts in play. - Puppy can run as much as he likes on his own.	Running and endurance training can gradually be introduced at this time.
Jumping and Impact Activities	- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height. - No more than one or two obstacles in a row. - Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but... - Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised. - Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs. - Consider carrying puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.	- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height. - No more than one or two obstacles in a row. - Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but... - Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised. - Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs. - Consider carrying puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.	- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height. - No more than one or two obstacles in a row. - Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but... - Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised. - Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs. - Consider carrying puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.	- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height. - No more than one or two obstacles in a row. - Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but... - Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised. - Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs. - Consider carrying puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.	- Bars on the ground to halfway to wrist height. - No more than one or two obstacles in a row. - Wobble boards and unstable surfaces, but... - Carpet all indoor stairs and never allow puppy to go up and down stairs unsupervised. - Put up gates at top/bottom of stairs. - Consider carrying puppy if he needs to do more than one or two stair steps.	- The height can be changed to allow height between 12-18 months corresponding more to the puppy's size. - Platform work for rear end awareness can be continued at this time. - This is also the time when we see the most spiral fractures because the puppies have the tendency to get up on high couches and beds without being taught not to. - Be extra vigilant about not letting puppies up on high furniture without very close supervision! - Stairs are always a hazard and should have good traction - carpet indoors, non-skid surface outdoors. - Although the puppy may start doing stairs with good traction at this time, you should still supervise and don't let him run down the stairs with other dogs.
Swimming	- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket. - Wading and playing on the shoreline. - Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water. - Retrieval/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water. - No formal training should be required to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.	- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket. - Wading and playing on the shoreline. - Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water. - Retrieval/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water. - No formal training should be required to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.	- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket. - Wading and playing on the shoreline. - Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water. - Retrieval/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water. - No formal training should be required to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.	- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket. - Wading and playing on the shoreline. - Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water. - Retrieval/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water. - No formal training should be required to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.	- Puppy should ALWAYS wear a life jacket. - Wading and playing on the shoreline. - Climbing on and off low platforms and rafts in shallow water. - Retrieval/tossing toys in shallow water parallel to shoreline, never into deep water. - No formal training should be required to swim if they volunteer to do so, but never forced.	- Competition swimming behaviors can be introduced and dog can swim for as long as he volunteers to. - Life jackets are always a must.
Chasing	Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.	Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.	Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.	Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.	Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.	Roll balls and drag toys on the ground in gentle circles.
Tugging	- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line. - Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.	- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line. - Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.	- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line. - Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.	- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line. - Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.	- Keep the toy low so the puppy's neck is in a straight line. - Don't pull on the toy - allow the puppy to tug against you.	You can start to hold the toy higher but generally it's best to let the dog tug on the toy rather than you pulling on it.
Fast Turns	- No fast turns or sudden stops. - No fast weaves or lure coursing. - Slow shaping of weave poles - discontinue if the puppy starts speeding up or really "weaving".	- No fast turns or sudden stops. - No fast weaves or lure coursing. - Slow shaping of weave poles - discontinue if the puppy starts speeding up or really "weaving".	- No fast turns or sudden stops. - No fast weaves or lure coursing. - Slow shaping of weave poles - discontinue if the puppy starts speeding up or really "weaving".	- No fast turns or sudden stops. - No fast weaves or lure coursing. - Slow shaping of weave poles - discontinue if the puppy starts speeding up or really "weaving".	- No fast turns or sudden stops. - No fast weaves or lure coursing. - Slow shaping of weave poles - discontinue if the puppy starts speeding up or really "weaving".	Full weave pole training and other activities that involve twisting and turning can be introduced.
Free Play with Other Dogs	10-15 minutes for formal "play dates". - Have a designated area for play dates and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults). - Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and keep bags of small dog food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play. - You may have to enforce rest periods by pulling puppy away for naps.	10-15 minutes for formal "play dates". - Have a designated area for play dates and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults). - Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and keep bags of small dog food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play. - You may have to enforce rest periods by pulling puppy away for naps.	10-15 minutes for formal "play dates". - Have a designated area for play dates and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults). - Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and keep bags of small dog food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play. - You may have to enforce rest periods by pulling puppy away for naps.	10-15 minutes for formal "play dates". - Have a designated area for play dates and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults). - Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and keep bags of small dog food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play. - You may have to enforce rest periods by pulling puppy away for naps.	10-15 minutes for formal "play dates". - Have a designated area for play dates and adults in the household (so long as the puppy is not harassing the adults). - Keep bags of small dog treats on hand and keep bags of small dog food down to interrupt rough or overly fast play. - You may have to enforce rest periods by pulling puppy away for naps.	Always be vigilant when your dog is playing and interacting with other dogs, especially if you have a lot of body slamming or the play just gets too crazy.

PUPPY TRAINING ADVICE

Bringing your puppy home for the first time is naturally a happy and exciting occasion, but it can be a little daunting too – there is so much for both you and your puppy to learn! The information below should help you on your way to raising a happy and well-trained dog right from the start.

Important training tips:

Start as you mean to go on. If you are always consistent you will avoid confusing your puppy.

Puppies have a very short attention span so train for short spells on a regular basis

Keep it short and keep it simple, but most of all keep it fun. Puppies respond better to cheerful voice tones rather than to threatening orders. Gentle play builds trust and a strong bond between you and your puppy as well as making training fun. Patience is the KEY ingredient in dog training. If you try to rush things you will only get frustrated and confuse your puppy. Keep it interesting: cultivate a range of different rewards incorporating play, fuss, praise, treats and toys. This will stop both of you from getting bored.



TOILET TRAINING

Toilet training puppies the easy way

Toilet training is obviously a crucial part of your puppy's early learning. Getting it right is relatively simple, and will make those first weeks so much more enjoyable for you both. However, like all things, bad habits learnt early on can lead to problems that may take weeks or even months to resolve.

Initially, you will have to build your daily routine around your puppy's needs. Fortunately, these are quite predictable when they are very young, and with careful supervision you should quickly establish when it is the right time to go outside and minimise any accidents.

Like babies, puppies have poor bladder control, and need to go to the toilet several times an hour when they are awake. They will also usually need to be taken outside first thing in the morning, last thing at night, after each meal, waking from a nap, and after any exercise, play or excitement. You may find it useful to keep a record of when your puppy sleeps, eats and goes to the toilet so that you can identify any patterns that emerge. One tip is to use a food timer to remind you when it is time to take your puppy outside to relieve itself. If you find that your puppy needs to "go" every 20 minutes then set the alarm as soon as he has gone and take him outside the moment the alarm goes off.

Always go with your puppy into the garden and establish a regular spot. Puppies are creatures of habit, so as long as you introduce the garden to the puppy as its toilet area early on, you should be able to avoid most accidents. Decide on a cue word or phrase to use when the puppy is actually going to the toilet, so that the puppy will start to associate the word with the action and should learn to go on command. By accompanying your puppy into the garden each time, you will be there to attach cue words and praise to any successful actions. We mark the behaviour with a word such as "Toilet" or "Busy Busy Busy" (our favourite) or as our Japanese puppy owners say "One Two, One Two". It does not take long for pups to get the link between the command and the performance. Toileting on command is very useful when travelling or in inclement weather when time outdoors is limited.

If toilet training is not going quite as well as planned, some common reasons for why your puppy is struggling are as follows:

- Feeding

- You are feeding the puppy too much.
- The puppy food you are giving is unsuitable or you are giving too much variety for a puppy of their age.
- You are not feeding at regular times.
- You are feeding at the wrong times (which could mean your puppy needs to go to the toilet during the night).
- You are giving foods which are too salty, causing your puppy to drink more.

- Training

- Punishing your puppy for accidents indoors may make it scared of going to the toilet in front of you – even outside. Expecting your puppy to tell you when it needs to go to the toilet is unrealistic. It is far better to go outside at regular intervals. Leaving the back door or outside access open for your puppy to come and go as it pleases

can cause confusion – particularly when that access is closed. Do not leave your puppy too long on its own so that it is forced to go indoors. Leaving your puppy alone in the garden means that you are not there to praise and reward, or to reinforce the idea that the garden is the correct place to go. Try to avoid using the words “good boy/girl” when your puppy is going to the toilet - you don’t want your puppy going to the toilet every time it is praised. Puppies can exhibit submissive or excitable urination when greeting you on your return home. Toning down greetings can help prevent your puppy from becoming overexcited. Young puppies will not be able to go through the night without needing to go to the toilet. If they do wake you up, it really is worth getting up to let them out.

- **Environment**

- Being surrounded by lots of absorbent or grass-like surfaces, such as rugs and carpets, may confuse your puppy. Ammonia based cleaning products used around the house can smell like urine to your puppy, and lead to unwanted accidents. If your puppy does have an accident inside, the scent will still be apparent to the puppy for a long time afterwards, even if you have thoroughly disinfected the area. Specialist cleaning products specifically designed to mask the odour are available.
- Beyond the garden, many owners can be disappointed that their young puppy does not initially toilet when first venturing out on walks. Often, your puppy will only relieve itself the second you get home. This is because the puppy has not yet associated going out for a walk as an opportunity to go to the toilet, so will wait until they return home to their garden, which they know is a good place to go. To break this habit, get up a little earlier in the morning (when you have plenty of time) and take your puppy out on a walk before it has had a chance to visit its usual spot. Stay out with your puppy for a reasonable length of time until it has been to the toilet, and then give plenty of praise. If you are not successful, make sure the puppy is whisked into the garden to relieve itself or you will run the risk of a large puddle indoors!
- Remember, patience and consistency is key. All puppies take different amounts of time to learn, so don’t worry if your puppy seems to be taking longer to get the hang of things. Your patience will pay off and you will both get there in the end.



TRAINING YOUR DOG

A trained dog is a happy dog

Housetraining aside, every puppy also needs to be taught good manners and have constructive lessons in basic control and social interaction. This includes:

- Responding to its name.
- Learning how to greet and behave politely around other people and dogs.
- To come back when called.
- To walk nicely on the lead.
- To sit down and stay on command.
- To allow itself to be groomed and examined by you and your vet.

Dog training classes

Most owners can benefit from attending good training classes, and training in the company of other dogs is very useful, because of the realistic distractions it involves. Ideally, you should start your classes as soon as your puppy's vaccinations are complete, but classes can be invaluable for older dogs too, and continue throughout the dog's life.

There are lots of schools of thought on dog training and it is naturally important that you find a class and training instructors with the right approach for you and your puppy. Dog training can be lots of fun and very rewarding. After all, a trained dog is a happy dog, and a happy dog makes for a happy owner too.

Finding the best dog training club

Before enrolling with a dog training club, it can be beneficial to go and visit several classes first (without your puppy) to make sure you have made the right choice. Things you may wish to consider include:

- Do you like what you see – are the trainers friendly, are people happy and enjoying training their dogs?
- Are the dogs happily focused on their human family?
- Are the instructors giving lots of encouragement and information to all attendees?
- Are the instructors maintaining a controlled, safe environment for all?
- Are instructors treating everyone fairly and meeting the needs of the whole group?

You can find training classes by using the Google search engine for your nearest obedience club, and in Queensland by scanning through <https://www.dogsqueensland.org.au/Club>

Obedience training is highly recommended for pets as well as show prospects, as is Puppy Preschool. Dog Obedience Clubs can be located through your State Canine Association or via your local vet, or we can help you to locate your closest training school. Training is essential for baby puppies right through to adult dogs. It's never too old to learn.

We recommend that you train your own dog, rather than sending the puppy away to a training camp. That way, you also learn the obedience commands, which are so necessary to ensure that the dog does what YOU want it to do, and when.

Training builds strong bonds between owner and dog - an experience not to be missed! We shall be expecting your elated phone calls telling us that your puppy is TOP of its obedience class - it is a Belgian thing, and I regret that I can't even claim good breeding practices for that attribute!!

Our Mirribandi puppies and dogs can compete in all Dogs Australia ANKC dog sports including Lure Coursing, Dancing With Dogs, Obedience, Jumpers, Agility and Herding trials etc.

It helps the credibility of the breed and Mirribandi when pet owners join their state Dogs Australia ANKC canine council and earn sport dog titles for their dogs. This displays what a versatile breed the Belgian Shepherd is. A title proves it, rather than just us saying it is so.

Home training can begin as soon as you take your puppy home. Have a good idea before puppy arrives home what the house rules will be, and never change your rules to suit the moment. A dog needs consistency to learn and behave in an acceptable manner. Dogs have no gift of logic, and cannot determine when something is OK for now, but is unacceptable later on.



As soon as you get your puppy home, you can follow on with the baby learning they did at Mirribandi with us beginning to teach your puppy to walk on lead, to sit and drop. There are all sorts of tricks by showing puppy what to do, offering lots of praise, and a food reward for every time puppy gets it right.

The experts tell us that if you want your dog to play fetch, that you will have better results if you teach your puppy this trick before 12 weeks of age.

It is important to remember that you are the leader of your pup's pack, and at no time is puppy allowed to get away with anything less than what you consider is acceptable. To reinforce this concept to the puppy, it is advisable that you always walk through the doorway first before the pup, that puppy hops off the bed or the couch when you ask, that you always eat first then feed the pup, that puppy never mouths or bites you, and that you will never allow puppy to growl at you.

There are many other tricks of the trade to raise a puppy into happy and well-adjusted adult dog. Many excellent books have already been written on the subject and are well worth reading, so instead of reinventing the wheel, we would like to encourage you to read all you can about training dogs, and take puppy out to Puppy Preschool and at least go to a basic obedience course. Learn all you can to train your dog in a manner that suits you and your dog - and it is our experience to guide you to look for training establishments that embrace positive methods of training - food rewards, clicker training, lots of voice encouragement and praise - rather than the old style of check chain jerking to pull the dog into line..... Positive training works wonders with our happy and willing-to-please Belgians :-)



HOW DO I ENCOURAGE MY DOG TO STAY HOME AND NOT NICKING OFF?

It can be very dangerous if your dog tries to escape while you are away from home and they are alone. Your dog is in danger of being injured, causing a nuisance, or even being taken.

Preventing door dashing

- Practice getting your dog to sit at every possible door and reward them generously every time they do so (see also: how do I teach my dog to sit?)
- When you are ready for your dog to move, say 'let's go'. Alternatively, say their name and offer a reward as soon as you have moved through the door or gate to keep their attention on you, rather than the exciting things on the other side of the door or gate
- This takes practice and patience, but keep working at it - ultimately you want them to remain seated until you invite them to go through with you
- Regularly check your garden for escape opportunities
- Remember dogs can squeeze through small gaps and love to dig and jump

Could your dog be bored or lonely?

Escapist tendencies may arise from a lack of attention or interesting activities for the dog on the other side of the fence.

- Set aside time every day to play with and exercise your dog
- You shouldn't leave them alone for long period(s) of time
- When out for a walk, allow your dog the freedom to explore whilst remaining under control
- Have toys and games available to occupy your dog in the house to prevent boredom

Think about how you call your dog to return

- Think about how you will call your dog to ask them to return to you. Learn how to teach your dog to come back to you and how to teach your dog to respond to their name
- Chasing your dog while calling them may make them think it's a game
- Consider a more gentle approach and offer food or play rewards which will motivate your dog to return to you happily every time they are called
- If your dog's recall is not yet reliable, keep them on a long line or lead for safety

Please note: there are many different ways to train your dog. This is just one method of teaching. If you are ever in doubt, please seek professional advice.

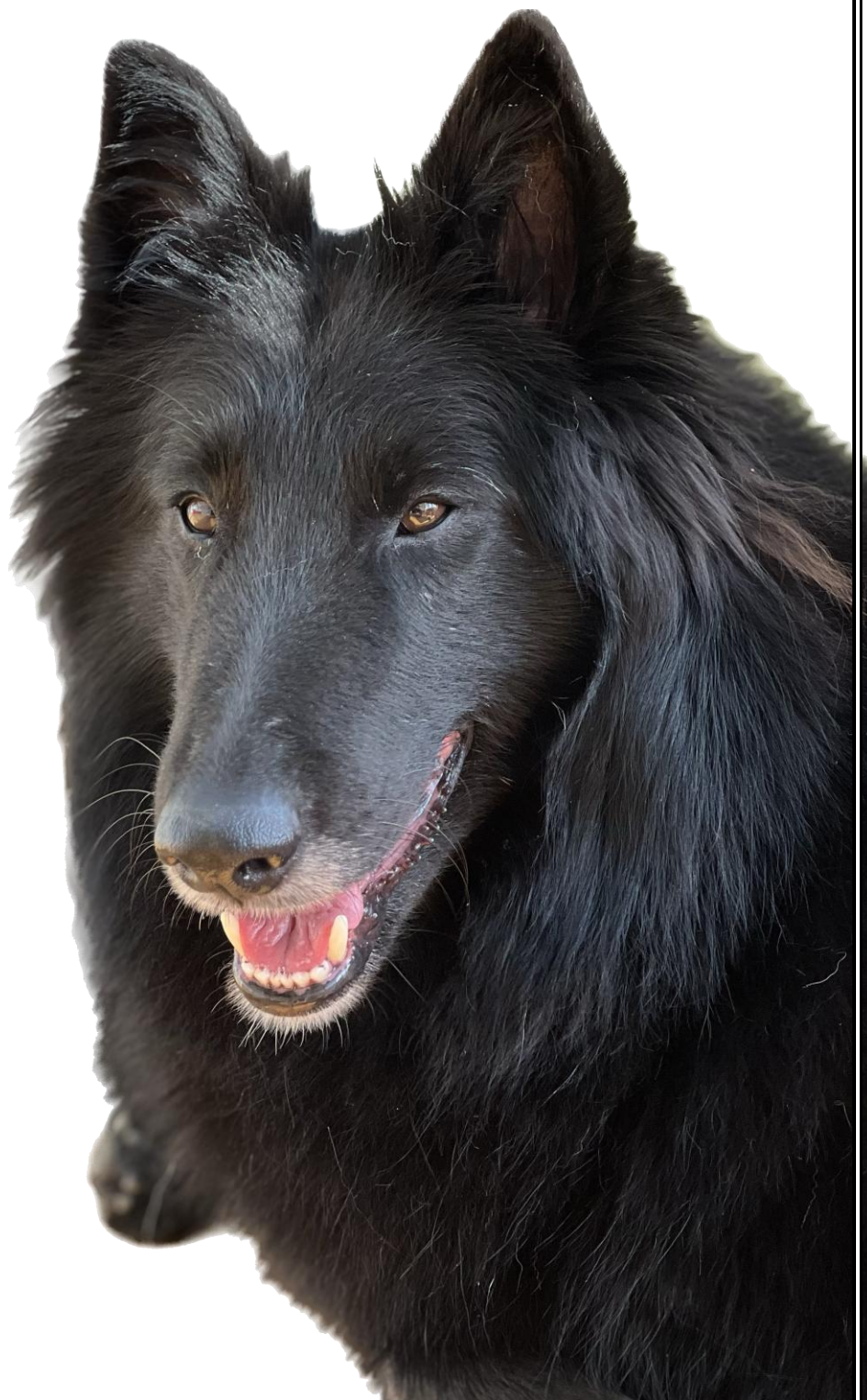


EXERCISE

Up to 12 weeks of age, keep training times to a minimum of 1-3 minutes of training per day. If you are keen, you can undertake a maximum of 6 minutes per day of 1-3 minutes per session, but ensure you allow 30 minutes good solid rest between sessions. Preferably let the puppy sleep on it.

Between 12 weeks to 5 months, you may increase to a total of 15 minutes training per day, rest between sessions of 15 to an optimal 30 minutes with sleep.

An adult dog is best trained with Power Training of 2 minute sessions, with 15 minutes of rest in between.



OFF LEASH DOG PARKS by Tate Animal Training Enterprises

Let's have an open discussion about dog parks. They can be a tricky place to navigate sometimes and we tend to find ourselves telling clients to avoid them but on the other hand understand the benefit and place they have in the community IF we used them correctly.

If we owned an off leash exercise park, we would create an area with loads of dog to owner engagement activities and ask that people follow these guidelines...

When should I take my dog to an off leash park?

👋 WAIT until your dog is 100% bonded with you. Why? So they prefer to listen and respond to you more than chase other dogs or balls being thrown by other people.

👋 WAIT until they have a proofed recall. Why? So you can successfully call them away from danger in an off leash environment. (Road, possible dog fight, crocodile e.t.c.).

👋 WAIT until they are emotionally mature around 1.5 years of age. Why? So they don't learn poor behavioural traits from other unruly dogs.

👋 With rescue dogs, WAIT at least a few months before attempting a trip to the dog park. They need time to adjust to their new found freedom and form a solid relationship with their new family. A dog park can be far too overwhelming for a dog that's been contained to a kennel for a period of time.

Believe it or not, most dogs don't need or want to socialise with unknown dogs. They get their social fix from you, your family and familiar doggy friends. The idea of utopian dog parks with pooches making instant friends of all shapes and sizes is fundamentally flawed.

How do I best utilise the dog park for the benefit of my dog?

Once you have met the above criteria, choose times when the park isn't over crowded.

👋 Practise obedience training

🎯 Play a game of fetch

🐕 Meet up with a known dog friend for a social outing

What do I do for exercise in the mean time?

👋 On lead walks

👋 Obedience training on lead in a regular park or at home.

👋 Scent detection/nose works in the back yard

👋 A play date with a known doggy friend in a contained space.

👋 Join a local dog training school.

👋 Join one of hundreds of online dog training courses at the moment! Teach your dog a new skill.

Oh and last but not least.... Pick up your dog's 💩💩💩💩💩💩 please. 😊

CHILD PROOFING YOUR DOG

Taking care of a dog is an excellent way of teaching a child to take responsibility, express empathy, get some exercise and to have fun. Dogs can also significantly help to raise children's self-esteem.

But it is the responsibility of adults, especially parents, to make sure that these valuable child/dog relationships are nurtured and that everyone is happy living together. When introducing either a new puppy or a new baby into the family, it is important to follow the steps below to make sure there are no issues.

Belgians have a natural affinity for children of all ages. However, some children your dog may encounter during its life might not be as well-mannered as others..... Teach your puppy right from the start that they must not growl if approached while eating.

Take the food bowl, or the bone, away from the dog, praise when dog happily accepts this, and give the food back. Teach puppy that blowing in its face does not warrant a reaction or biting back. Do not let the puppy play nibble your hands or feet under any circumstances. Teach puppy that a gentle tug on its tail is play, not war.

Teach puppy to be comfortable and tolerant of anything you might think a badly-behaved child might inflict on your darling Belgian.

DOG PROOFING YOUR CHILD

If you have young or naughty children within vicinity of your dog - don't take your eyes off the dog - make sure the dog is safe, and make sure the children don't poke its eyes, pull its tail, or harm the dog. Most dog attacks are provoked.....

Teach your own well-mannered children a healthy respect for your dog - pat the dog, not pull its fur etc. And it is advisable never to leave the dog unsupervised with a young child - mainly for the dog's sake.....

Most dog biting incidents happen in the home, however with these simple steps we can avoid any problems.

- Never let children ambush or force themselves on the puppy. If they want to play, the puppy should be invited over, but if the puppy doesn't want to go to them, do not let the children force the issue. Children should be made to understand the importance of having 'quiet time' with the puppy, and to give it space, peace and quiet when the puppy needs time out
- Toddlers and young children often unwittingly encourage puppies to chase and play bite them, so you should only let them interact under your supervision. Keep them apart (use a child-gate or playpen) if one or the other is over-excited, and never leave them alone together
- However, even older children (and some adults!) can be excitable and inconsistent with puppies, over-stimulating the puppy one minute, and then telling it off the next. Children (and puppies) are not known for their patience, so both need to be taught how to be gentle with each other

Interacting with your puppy and other's dogs

- Your children should be taught that the puppy is not a toy or doll, and should not be disturbed when resting or sleeping, nor should it be picked up too frequently as this can make it grumpy and snappy
- Most puppies dislike close face-to-face contact, unless they have instigated it themselves, so keep faces away from the puppy's face

Always remember:

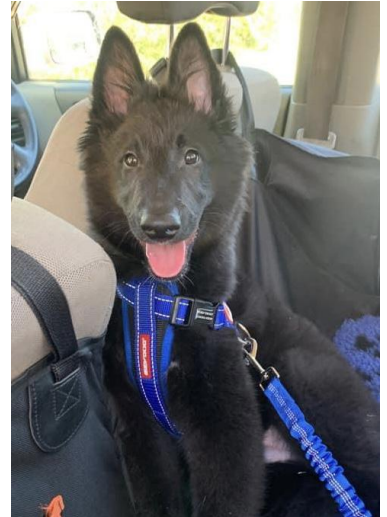
- Children have to be 10 years old or over to be legally responsible for a dog outside their homes
- When interacting with other dogs, children should learn to ask the dog's owner permission before petting their dog



TRANSPORTATION

All young critters including young humans can be motion sick until used to the movement of travel. Take your puppy out for short car trips, but do not feed for several hours before each trip. Lengthen the time in the car. Make sure that at the end of each car trip that there is treat for your puppy – a snack, or a run in the park, or a good pat. Ginger biscuits are said to be good to settle a car sick tummy – but this defeats the purpose of travelling on an empty stomach.

We recommend your dog always be restrained when travelling in the car – a dog harness that attaches to the seat belt is an excellent restraint, and so is a cargo barrier to keep dog in the back of the car and not hurtling towards the windscreen in case of collision. Or a securely mounted dog crate.



NEVER EVER TRAVEL WITH YOUR DOG ON THE BACK OF A UTE.

We cannot stress the importance of this. It is downright dangerous, no matter how secure you think your dog's collar is or how tight the chain or rope is. Sadly, we have had too many of our pups die in the hands of new owners due to falling off the back of moving utes and breaking necks. Or worse, slipping off the side, and being strangled to death. Imagine being these owners and knowing that you could have saved the life of your pet by having the dog travel IN the ute with you. Another alternative is to invest in securely mounted ute back dog crates.

Queensland legislation does not specifically address the transportation of unrestrained dogs, however s.18(2)(f)(iii) of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 prohibits a person from transporting an animal in a way that is inappropriate for the animal's welfare.
(http://kb.rspca.org.au/Is-it-legal-to-have-unrestrained-dogs-on-ute-trays-or-trucks_501.html)



DIET ADVICE

Feeding your puppy sensibly and correctly is vital to its health, development and general wellbeing. As a guide, it is recommended that you feed your puppy as follows -

6 -12 weeks old - 3 feeds per day (morning, after work, evening)

3 - 6 months old - 2 feeds per day (morning, evening)

Adult dogs - 1 feed per day

Below you will find details of your puppy's current diet:

Your Puppy's Current Diet

Number of Meals (per day)	Current Meal Times	Type of Food Given	Quantity (per meal)
Three	Morning, noon, evening.	Pet Mince Direct meat/cartilage/bone mix (of which there are many varieties, and we alternate often); chicken wings & necks; soft raw meaty bones. Egg (once a week)	Adjusted according to appetite and Body Condition Score (see BSC info below)

Little and often

Like all infants, puppies grow very rapidly (up to twenty times faster than an adult dog), and so require a specially formulated diet to aid their physical development. A high energy growth food is recommended and needs to be fed at evenly spaced intervals to avoid over stretching your puppy's small stomach.

Meals should be split during the course of the day and ideally a young puppy should go approximately four hours between meals.

It is better not to leave food down (so pop uneaten food back in the fridge after 20 minutes) and try not to change your puppy's food too regularly as this could cause havoc with its digestion and toilet training regime. Make sure that water is always available to your puppy, so never take its water bowl away.

Quantities

The quantity of food should be approximately the same for each meal. Young puppies, particularly those of a large or fast-growing breed, can sometimes need more food as puppies than they require as adults. Increases of food should always be gradual and a good idea is to increase the amount on a weekly basis from 8 weeks until the puppy is 16 weeks old. Typically, by the time a puppy reaches 16 weeks, it will need roughly the same amount as when it is an adult.

Puppies can be greedy or picky with their food so it can sometimes be difficult to gauge how much to give them. Care should be taken not to over or underfeed your puppy. Puppies can often appear 'chubby', particularly after they have eaten, but under normal circumstances they should have a defined 'waist'. If in any doubt about your puppy's weight or diet, consult your vet when you next visit for a puppy check-up.

There are many varied feeding regimes to choose from: dry complete diets, semi-moist or pouch, tinned food (with or without biscuit mixer), dog biscuits (kibble) raw food, and home-made food. Each food category has different qualities, and finding the right balance for your puppy is extremely important. We encourage a completely raw food diet for your dog.

The most suitable diet should be easily digested and produce dark brown, firm, formed stools. If your puppy produces soft or light stools or has wind or diarrhoea, then the diet may not suit your puppy or it might have some kind of digestive problem or infection. If the condition persists for more than two days, consult your vet for advice.

Please remember that stability in the diet will help maintain good digestion. Any change in diet should be made very gradually over at least a week to avoid upset and you should try a new diet for at least ten days before making any further changes.

What to feed – Raw food is best.

Lots of raw meaty bones, chicken carcasses, chicken wings, chunks of raw meat, and minced meat. Always freeze raw for 2 weeks at -15°C before feeding to your dog to minimise parasites & bacteria. Add to this a mix of raw vegetables and fruits, kefir (non flavoured), bone broth.

Balancing daily is not always an absolute must, especially if feeding DIY you can balance the dogs meals over the space of a week or two. Adding fish, eggs, vegetables, fruits, supplements... whichever you decide to add to their protein based meals. Nutritionally your dog will get what they need over time, the proteins you feed will have different nutritional values to them.

- Chicken and turkey are both lean white meats that will help muscle to be built up, whilst being gentle on the gut...
- Lamb and beef are both packed with essential amino acids, vitamins and minerals for strong healthy bones, shiny coats and good skin.

So for a truly balanced diet make sure you are feeding as many proteins as possible, varying cuts of meat also and over the course of a week or two, your dogs will be getting the good things they need.

Puppies should be grown slowly to avoid getting too big too quickly which can cause environmental skeletal issues later on.

Never feed cooked bones to your dog. Avoid feeding weight bearing bones – leg bones, including chicken legs. Feed bones from everywhere else except for legs and weight bearing bones.

Check the ingredients – always avoid artificial colours and flavours and preservatives in your dog's food. Attempt to avoid foods containing grains, rice, potato, legumes and pulses (peas and the like) as fillers in the food – they make your dog poop bigger quantities and are just fillers to make you feel like you are feeding them adequate amount. They have no nutritional value for your dog. Feed them raw where you can.

Other good options are Dr Billinghurst's BARF Diet (trade mark) dog food - raw meat and bone meal with minced vegetable served in patties packed in a sausage roll packet - e-mail address for stockists bigdogpetfoods@bigpond.com or phone 0408717399. Canine Country Pet Food also has a good BARF style mix available www.caninecountry.com.au. Costco has a range of BARF in stock that is said to be excellent.

Resources

Raw Feeding For Dogs Made Simple (UK)

- facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rfdmsuk/> see Guides
- Web site <https://www.rfdmsuk.co.uk/>

Kibble (biscuits)

We no longer use kibble, and strongly advise raw food options are more natural and better for your dog.

RAW

Today there are so many more options of raw food outlets available right across Australia, that sourcing is no longer an issue like it was a mere 5 years ago. So, look up your local stockist of raw dog food, and check out what delivery options you have in your area from a wider area than local pickup, and get your dog onto a full diet of raw food.

We recommend 80% meat, 10% bone and 10% offal in a meat mix – ask your local raw food supplier what they have that fits this. They may also sell “Complete” which should be these same proportions, but with a little more vegetable added to complete the mix to that recommended by Dr Billingham in “Give Your Dog A Bone” for nutritional value, not added as a filler.

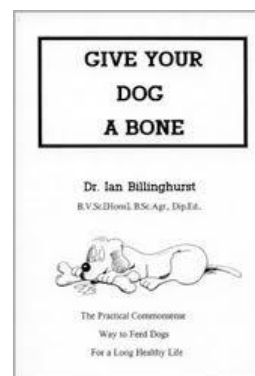


Home-made food (raw fresh or frozen meat)

Before the advent of commercial dog foods, it was quite common to feed dogs raw or cooked fresh meat. Many people still consider that there is no substitute for feeding raw meat; these diets are sometimes referred to as BARF (Bones and raw food diet). Just meat on its own however, is not enough, and dogs need other ingredients and supplements to maintain a completely balanced diet. Puppies in particular, need a balanced and nutritious diet whilst they are growing up, as even a slight imbalance may harm their

development and growth. Additionally, home-made foods obviously necessitate a fair degree of pre-planning and preparation. However, there are a number of manufacturers now providing pre-packaged complete BARF diets, which make the feeding regime easier to administer. If you are interested in feeding a natural diet, a couple of excellent books to purchase and read are "Give Your Dog A Bone", "Grow Your Pups With Bones" and his newest "The BARF Diet", all are by Dr Billingham, an Australian vet.

We strongly endorse feeding a natural diet where possible. Always freeze raw for 2 weeks at -15celcius before feeding to your dog – to minimise parasite and bacteria.



Pet Body Condition Score (BCS)



Lightly run your fingers over your knuckles as you make a fist. If you imagine those knuckles were your dog/cat's ribs, this would be too thin.



Put your palm up, fingers extended facing the ceiling. Run your fingers over the base of your fingers- this is too heavy.



Turn your hand over, palm down and feel over your knuckles. When your pet's ribs feel like this, it's just right- healthy lean BCS 5/9!

RAW FEEDING

© Designed by Boo 2016

80% MEAT

BRISKET
FILLETS
HEART
CHEEK
LUNG
TRACHEA
OFF CUTS
GREEN TRIPE
FISH & EGG
(2-3 TIMES A WEEK)

FREEZE SALMON AND
WILD PREY FOR AT LEAST
2 WEEK TO KILL PARASITES

(O Zn P K B) (SMELLY)

OPTIONAL FRUIT AND VEG

BLACKBERRIES
BROCCOLI
COCONUT
PEAS
PINEAPPLE
CUCUMBER
AND MORE

FACEBOOK/DESIGNED BY BOO

QUANTITIES

WEIGHT:	FEED:
5KG	125G
10KG	250G
15KG	375G
20KG	500G
25KG	625G
30KG	750G
35KG	875G
40KG	1KG
45KG	1.125KG

DO NOT FEED

- SALT
- ONION
- GRAPES
- RAISINS
- WALNUTS
- AVOCADOS
- CHOCOLATE
- APPLE SEEDS
- ANY FRUIT PITS
- GREEN TOMATOES
- MACADAMIA NUTS
- XYLITOL - SWEETNER
- CAFFEINE - TEA - COFFEE

FEEDING GUIDE

80% MEAT, 10% BONE, 5% LIVER, 5% OTHER OFFAL

- FEED 2 - 3% OF THE DOG'S IDEAL BODY WEIGHT PER DAY
- INCREASE FOR TOO THIN, DECREASE FOR OVERWEIGHT
- ADJUST ACCORDING TO ENERGY LEVEL
- BEGIN RAW FEEDING BY GIVING BLAND MEAT LIKE CHICKEN
- THEN VARY MEATS OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEK
- TREATS COUNT TOWARDS DAILY FOOD INTAKE
- 3 MEALS A DAY IF UNDER 12 WEEKS
- 2 MEALS A DAY FOR DOGS OLDER THAN 12 WEEKS
- IF ALSO FEEDING DRY KIBBLE LEAVE 6 HOURS BETWEEN OR ON DIFFERENT DAYS TO AVOID BLOCKAGES: RAW DIGESTS SLOWER

POO CONSISTENCY

HARD & WHITE =
TOO MUCH BONE



BONE FIRMS POO

JUST RIGHT!



SOFT & BLACK =
TOO MUCH OFFAL



OFFAL SOFTENS POO

RAW POO

KIBBLE POO

FACEBOOK/DESIGNED BY BOO

10% BONE

POULTRY CARCASS
LAMB, PORK RIBS
POULTRY WINGS
POULTRY NECKS
PIGS TROTTERS
POULTRY LEGS
POULTRY FEET

BONE BROTH



WEIGHT BARING BONES CAN CHIP TEETH
TOO MUCH BONE CAN CAUSE CONSTIPATION



5% EXCRETING ORGANS PLUS 5% LIVER

LIVER
BRAIN
KIDNEY
SPLEEN
PANCREAS
TESTICLES

TOO MUCH OFFAL CAN CAUSE DIARRHOEA
TOO MUCH LIVER CAN OVERDOSE ON VITAMIN A

OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

TURMERIC
GOLDEN PASTE



FISH OIL



COCONUT OIL
1 TBSP PER 30LBS WEIGHT



APPLE CIDER
VINEGAR

KEY

- A VITAMIN A
- B VITAMIN B
- C VITAMIN C
- D VITAMIN D
- Mg MAGNESIUM
- K POTASSIUM
- Ca CALCIUM
- O OMEGA
- Zn ZINC
- Fe IRON
- P PROTEIN
- F FIBRE

BENEFITS

- MORE NUTRIENTS ABSORBED
- NO GRAIN OR WHEAT
- BETTER ZINC ABSORPTION
- CHEWING BONE CLEANS TEETH
- LESS FOOD INTOLERANCE
- LESS SMELLY POO
- SHINY COAT
- POO BIODEGRADES QUICKER
(NO PRESERVATIVES)
- SMALLER POO
(SMELLS A BIT LIKE CHICKEN)



From The Balanced Canine Sydney.

Feeding a healthy whole foods diet to your dog is no different to feeding yourself a healthy diet.

- ✓ You already know what healthy food looks like.
- ✓ You know processed foods aren't healthy.
- ✓ You know you feel better when you eat real food.
- ✓ You know you would never live on a packet food day in and day out because apparently it is all you need to "survive".
- ✓ You know the basics of what a natural diet of a dog looks like and you know that doesn't come from packet.
- ✓ You know healthy food improves health & well-being long term.
- ✓ You know healthy food improves mental outlook.

🤔 Take a step back today and have a think about how we understand what a healthy diet looks like for us but somehow we ended up feeding completely the opposite to our dogs:

- ✗ Synthetic vitamins & minerals.
- ✗ Many kibbles are mostly plant matter with as little as 25% animal protein even some of the most expensive ones. You could be feeding a mostly Vegetarian diet to your dog.
- ✗ Cheap calories in large amounts from carbohydrates such as rice, sweet potato, potato & grains.
- ✗ High carbohydrates i.e. 20-60%, whereas a dogs natural diet is under 10%.

👉 Our fresh food pyramid is a only guide, just like in humans, there is no one way to consume a healthy diet, every individual is different and whilst something might be healthy, an individual may not be able to consume it for various reasons but professionals such as myself can help you find a way forward.

💰 Don't think you can afford to feed a healthy diet to your dog? Think again! This is just because you don't have the know how. I can make a balanced kilo batch for under \$3! How awesome is that. Finding suppliers is the absolute key!



FEED & WATER BOWLS

Choose ceramic or stainless steel, rather than plastic bowls, as some plastics can contain contaminants which are harmful to dogs long term.

TREATS

Ensure that any shop bought dog treats, dried liver and pigs ears are made in Australia. If sourced from overseas, there is a good possibility that they arrive into Australia already contaminated.

Giving treats is a good way to reward your dog during training and encourage the behaviour you want. There are a wide variety of prepared and natural treats on the market which vary hugely in quality. Some commercial treats have lots of sugar, colourings, milk products and fat in them, so always check the ingredients label. Good quality prepared treats have been developed with dogs' dietary needs in mind.



However, all treats should be given sparingly, and never comprise more than 15% of your puppy's total calorie intake. If you use treats regularly, reduce the amount of main meal food your dog is receiving in order to avoid obesity. Some chew treats have proven ability to help prevent dental diseases, but again check the label to ensure you are getting a genuine product.

Human chocolate is poisonous to dogs and can cause liver damage and even be fatal, so never give your dog any chocolate, or leave any lying around where it might be found and eaten. Be especially careful at Christmas and Easter time.

Avoid giving your puppy any sweet biscuits or sugary treats which are bad for its teeth as well as its waistline, and can cause sugar 'highs' and 'lows'. Stick to prepared which tend to be much more popular.

Always remember that table scraps contain calories so they should be taken into account as part of the daily diet. Better still; don't be tempted to feed table scraps at all.

Food sensitivities and intolerances

Like humans, some dogs are sensitive or intolerant to certain foods, and this can cause a variety of problems. In extreme cases, they may develop colitis (slime and blood in their stools). Always consult your vet if you notice your dog displaying any of the following symptoms:

- Lethargy.
- Aggressive or hyperactive behaviour.
- Chronic skin and ear problems.
- Light to mid-brown loose bulky stools or diarrhoea.
- Slime or jelly being passed with stools and flatulence.
- Bloating and weight gain or loss.



Very Thin Body Score = 1



Thin Body Score = 3



Ideal Body Score = 5



Overweight Body Score = 7



Obese Body Score = 9

Feeding tips

- Clean fresh water should always be available. Dogs eating wet food (i.e. canned) will receive moisture through their food and therefore require less water than dogs eating dry food. However, whatever the diet, water should always be made available.
- Do not refill half empty bowls, but ensure that fresh food is always provided at each meal time. This is particularly true in the hot weather when food left in bowls can attract flies and other insects.
- It is better to stick to one variety of complete puppy food, so you don't need to add anything to the diet. Always remember that over-supplementing can be harmful to your puppy.
- If your puppy does not eat all of its meal in one go, you may be offering it too much. Not all puppies eat the amount recommended by the pet food manufacturers. Puppies' appetites can vary enormously, with some eating much less than the recommended amounts, whilst others scoff their meal down as if it was their last!
- Never change your puppy's diet abruptly (unless under the direction of your vet). If you want to change its diet, do it gradually over a period of a few days to a week or longer if necessary.
- Avoid feeding your puppy before travelling in the car, as this can encourage car sickness.
- Do not feed your puppy an hour before or after exercise or play, as this could lead to stomach dilation and torsion (also known as bloat), which is a life-threatening condition requiring immediate veterinary intervention. For owners of breeds which are thought to be susceptible to this condition, you should seek advice from your breeder, vet and/or breed club on further precautionary measures.
- Leave your puppy in peace while it is eating from its bowl. Taking the bowl away while it is eating causes anxiety and this can lead to food

aggression. If you want to be sure that your puppy is comfortable with you approaching it during mealtimes, add a little food to the bowl while it is eating, so it sees you as an asset, rather than a threat.

- Although tempting, maybe avoid feeding your dog from the table or your plate, as this encourages drooling and attention seeking behaviours, such as begging and barking.

What NOT to feed

Cooked bones, chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamias and onion are all toxic to dogs. So are the seeds off your palm tree, and your oleander shrub. For a full list – visit this site, which we recommend that you bookmark for easy reference. <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poisons/>



POTENTIAL TOXINS/POISONS

(This list is by no means complete and always consult your vet if you puppy ingests anything it shouldn't)

FOODS

- Salt
- Alcohol
- Avocado: contains persin which is in all parts of the avocado. Ingestion causes gastrointestinal irritation, vomiting, diarrhoea, respiratory distress, congestion, fluid accumulation around the tissues of the heart and even death.
- Chocolate: contains theobromine (a methylxanthine) which is toxic to dogs. Toxicity is dose related meaning that the overall effect of chocolate ingestions depends on the size of the dog, the amount eaten and the type of chocolate.
- Coffee or caffeine products: In large enough doses, caffeine can be fatal for a dog and there is no antidote. Symptoms of caffeine poisoning include restlessness, rapid breathing, heart palpitations and muscle tremors. This also includes tea.
- Cooked bones: can splinter and cause gastrointestinal obstruction or laceration.
- Fat trimmings: Fat, both cooked and uncooked, can cause intestinal upset, with vomiting and diarrhoea. It can also lead to your pet developing pancreatitis.
- Grapes, Raisins, Sultaninas and Currants: The toxic substance within grapes and raisins is unknown but it can lead to kidney failure.
- Onions, Garlic and Chives: These contain a substance that can cause gastrointestinal irritation and lead to red blood cell damage and a form of anaemia. Garlic and chives contain the same substance but at a lesser volume.
- Green tomatoes and raw potatoes: These contain a substance that causes violent gastrointestinal problems.
- Xylitol (artificial sweetener): Causes insulin release in dogs which can lead to liver failure. Initial signs of toxicity include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination. This sweetener is used in candy, gum, toothpaste, baked goods and some diet foods.
- Yeast dough: can rise and cause gas to accumulate in your dog's digestive system. This can be painful and cause the stomach or intestines to rupture. The risk diminishes after the dough is cooked and the yeast has fully risen.

MEDICATIONS

- **Nexgard, Simparica & Bravecto – DO NOT USE THESE** (Advantix is a safer chemical option)
- Aspirin, Paracetamol and Ibuprofen.
- Antidepressants – can cause vomiting and lethargy with certain types leading to serotonin syndrome.
- ADHD medications – act as a stimulant and dangerously elevate heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature.
- Anti-cancer drugs.
- Anti-diabetics – cause a major drop in blood sugar levels causing disorientation, lack of coordination and seizures.
- Cold medicines – acts as a stimulant causing elevated heart rates, blood pressure, body temperature and seizures.
- Vitamin D derivatives – cause life-threatening spikes in blood calcium levels in pets that can lead to kidney failure.
- Diet pills.
- Muscle relaxants – can impair the central nervous system and lead to death.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

- Ant baits: These contain boric acid which is toxic to dogs if eaten in a large amount. Ant baits have a sweet smell and taste to attract ants but it also appears to attract dogs.
- Antifreeze (ethylene glycol): Antifreeze is a common cause of poisoning in small animals. Dogs will seek out antifreeze as they find its smell and taste appealing. The signs of antifreeze poisoning has three phases: Phase 1 includes a drunken appearance which occurs within 1 hour of ingestion. Phase 2 is heart failure which occurs within 12-24 hours of ingestion. Phase 3 is renal failure, vomiting, depression, renal pain, hypothermia, coma and death.
- Fertilisers: Fertiliser products generally contain varying amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) compounds. They may be in liquid, granular or solid form and contain additives such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. Since fertilisers are usually a combination of ingredients, the effects of ingestion may vary. In general, they cause mild to moderate gastrointestinal irritation which may present signs such as vomiting, diarrhoea, hypersalivation and abdominal pain. Symptoms can be more severe if a larger amount is ingested and they may also be caustic, causing irritation of the lining of the gastrointestinal tract.
- Lead: Lead is not a common toxicological problem but it may occur from ingestion of lead-containing dust or paint when grooming their contaminated coat. The signs of chronic, low level, lead poisoning include vomiting, abdominal pain, anorexia and diarrhoea while the acute signs are convulsions, blindness and tremors.
- Rodenticides (rat or mouse bait): These are a common cause of dog poisoning. Most rodent poisons use anti-coagulants that kill the animals by causing uncontrollable bleeding. These baits are designed to attract animals so consider the use of them very carefully and try to use alternatives where possible. Signs of rodenticide ingestion appear one to four days after ingestion, they include depression, weakness, coughing and staggering. Most people don't realise that eating a poisoned rodent can also poison your dog.
- Insecticides: These usually contain organophosphates and carbonates which are highly toxic to dogs. Signs of ingestion include vomiting, diarrhoea, hypersalivation, muscle tremors and seizures.
- Molluscicides (snail and slug bait): Molluscicides come in a variety of forms and may be mixed with other toxins. Ingestion can be fatal and there is no antidote. The effects of ingestion include anxiety, elevated heart and respiratory rates, uncoordination, severe muscle tremors and death.

What to do if your dog is poisoned.

- Don't panic. Rapid response is important, but panicking can interfere with the process of helping your pet.
- Take the time to safely collect and have at hand any material involved. This may be of great help to your vet, as they determine what poison or poisons are involved. Also, collect in a sealable plastic bag any material your pet may have vomited or chewed.
- If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects. Sometimes, even if poisoned, an animal may appear normal for several hours or days after the incident.
- Do not try to make your dog vomit unless instructed to do so by your veterinarian.

GROOMING ADVICE

All dogs benefit from regular grooming, whether they are a short haired breed or one with a long or fluffy coat.

Reasons for grooming – Remember ‘CHAIR’

Cleanliness – keeping your dog’s coat clean by removing dirt and dead hair helps encourage new hair growth, and reduces the amount of hair deposited on household furniture

Health – grooming helps to stimulate new coat growth, and prevents the formation of knots or matting which may lead to skin irritation

Appearance – most owners take a pride in their dogs looking smart, and regular grooming will certainly help your puppy to look its best

Inspection – regular grooming is also a great way to check for parasites, or any suspicious lumps and bumps

Relationship – grooming is part of dog’s socialisation activities. Regular grooming helps create a bond between you and your puppy, and accustoms your puppy to being handled. Do remember that grooming should include checking ears, nails, teeth, and eyes etc. on a regular basis.

Getting started

It is important to groom your puppy at a height which is comfortable for both you and your dog. For many dogs it may be advisable to groom them on a table and custom-made grooming tables are available. But any sturdy table or work bench with a non-slip surface will suffice. Remember: never leave your puppy unattended on the table for even a short moment.

Start the grooming experience at an early age as part of your puppy’s socialisation programme and routines. Keep the sessions short to start off with – just a couple of minutes, gradually increasing the time spent on the table. Always make the experience positive, rewarding with praise and suitable treats. Any struggling should be dealt with firmly but kindly, as your puppy may be frustrated, mischievous or even afraid. Use a soft gentle brush.

Build up the experience and your puppy will come to accept the grooming routine and also being handled on the table. This will help with other activities such as veterinary visits.

Finish the grooming if your puppy shows signs of getting bored or tired, so that each session ends on a positive note.



Gripsoft Slicker brush



Dog coat types

It's worth bearing in mind that factors like neutering, age, poor diet and poor health can dramatically influence your dog's coat.

Belgian Shepherd Dogs have a double coat – a dense coat with soft undercoat concealed by a longer, harsher topcoat. I would recommend a quick brush through every day (and also a tick search), this only takes a couple of minutes, followed by a longer groom once a week.

I use different brushes as I have both long and short coats. I

recommend a pin brush, and a slicker brush

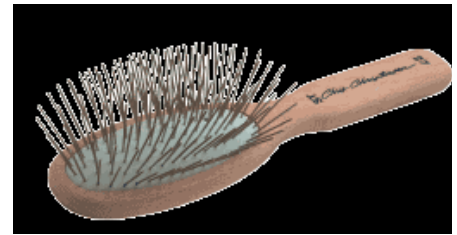
<http://www.chrissystems.com>. Also available at

www.plushpuppy.com.au I also use a coat detangler such as

diluted Plush Puppy OMG when shedding is occurring. I

thoroughly recommend a good blaster dryer, such as the K-9 or an AEOLUS, especially during shedding.

Chris Christensen Pin Brush



You might find the following article useful, copied from

<https://www.plushpuppy.com.au/breed-grooming-article/belgian-shepherd>

Grooming a Belgian Shepherd with Plush Puppy products

05 Apr 2013

These striking herding & guard dogs, are long well established, dating back as far as the 1890's for their first written standard. A good working medium sized dog that proportionately should fit within a square, he must carry a coat that suits his open air life and able to resist a variable climate such as his native Belgium.

Calm and alert, this vigilant and fearless dog is highly prized as the watchful guardian of any property. He is keenly sought for his readiness to leap to action - not a lazy dog at all. He is ever aware and shows sharp interest in all his surroundings - I love the way they virtually check out the whole of our booth in 2 seconds flat when they come to visit with their owner. Don't you just love intelligence in a dog? Both coats of the Groenendael & Tervuren are much alike, colour being the noticeable variation. Both coats must be dense and of good

texture with the undercoat providing protective covering. Herding breeds are invariably dogs who must withstand the elements and be able to do their job.

These are dogs that would have had to earn their keep and their workability was often dependant on ability to work in all weathers and in this case, likely more often than not, wet and cold conditions. The golden rule for all coats that have to retain texture is not to use a conditioner. The temptation when faced with a dry or dehydrated coat is to reach for the conditioner. We are so conditioned (no pun intended) to thinking how we would correct our own hair instead of stepping outside the square and not relating to the human situation. The way to keep a coat hydrated without softening or changing texture is to oil the coat. However one mustn't make the coat greasy either. I recommend **Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil**.

This fabulous oil is sourced from Evening Primrose Oil and Calendula Oil and other natural niceties. It is not oily as such, being top quality natural plant oils and is applied by diluting in water to gain even dispersion throughout what is in this case, a fairly weatherproof coat. Just spraying the oil onto this coat is not going to do the product or the coat justice. You need to get right down to the skin with the oil to keep the whole coat hydrated and gleaming with healthy vigour. It is best to thus dilute the oil at a ratio of 1 tspn to 1 gallon/4 litres water - this will give you enough mixture to thoroughly saturate the coat of a good medium sized breed. Apply this after you have shampooed the coat, using for the Groenendael, **Plush Puppy Whitening Shampoo** diluted 5 parts water to one part shampoo again for easier dispersion and to minimise rinsing time on this rather thick coat or the Plush Puppy All Purpose Shampoo for the Tervuren, at the same dilution.

The Whitening Shampoo is a toning shampoo and will not lighten but instead deepen the tone and give a pearly sheen to the black coat. This will also assist in offsetting any unwanted reddish tones too. (You can also use a regular application of **Plush Puppy Sunshade** along the topline to protect against sun damage & fading during the week.) The All Purpose is the shine shampoo and will give good lustre and vibrancy to the Tervuren coat. So, having shampooed and rinsed, apply the oil as specified above and leave in - do not rinse out.

Your standards also require the ornamentation around the neck to be long and abundant described as like a collarette. Thus you are seeking to build and make much ado with this area as also the tail, the back of the forearm and the breeches. The procedure is that after applying the Seabreeze Oil mix, apply **Plush Puppy Puffy Dog** which is a strong holding product to the areas described for maximum lift and volume. If a softer less voluminous effect is desired, then use **Plush Puppy Quick Fix Spray** for a light hold and for an overall volumising effect to the whole of the coat, especially good for when out of coat, use **Plush Puppy Volumising Cream** by using 1 tspn to 1 cup water and applying generously. The Volumising Cream will give a more coated effect whereas the Puffy Dog or the Quick Fix will give more lift to the coat - you can use the Volumising Cream in conjunction with either of the other two - they just do different things and sometimes you need to do them all. For texture to the coat, you can add extra harshness by using **Plush Puppy Ruffy Tuffy Coat Spray**. I go through bucket loads of this when Belgian Sheepdog people are around.

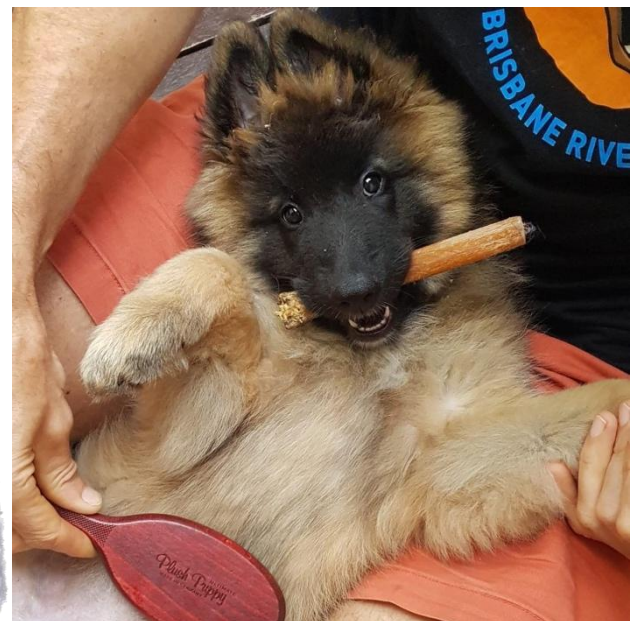
They just love this. Spray lightly to the coat and wait a couple of seconds to allow it dry and then keep reapplying as before, until the level of harshness is achieved. This is not a sticky obvious product and one that is very popular for this purpose. Coats tend to go through various stages- especially trying for those of us who own double coated breeds where the coat is ever changing as it graduates from just perfect to the about to blow situation - then we go through the naked stages and then not enough to show stages to start the cycle yet again. How frustrating when that all important show is looming. It's those times I envy those with the shorter coated breeds or those that just don't shed that all important undercoat. Thus the need to be versatile and adjust your grooming techniques to suit the situation. For extra boost to a less than abundant coat or when out of coat is to switch to **Plush Puppy Body Building Shampoo** diluted 3 parts water to one part shampoo for maximum body and a 5 to one dilution for a less needy situation. You can use the Puffy Dog, Ruffy Tuffy and Volumising Cream also on show day for that extra bit of texture and lift too.

Sometimes when it's borderline to going or staying home as the coat is not quite grown back enough, you need to lift the coat back up after the dog has slept on it all night and flattened out what looked like a spectacular blow dry the night before. Just spritz the 1tbspn to 1 cup Volumising Cream mix over the whole of the coat, add a touch more Puffy Dog to the ruff and blow dry quickly to fluff the hair back up. Finish with the light spray of Ruffy Tuffy and a light last minute spray of **Plush Puppy Shine & Comb** to the topline area, the pants and the front of the dog. The Shine & Comb gives just that extra bit of good natural looking sheen to the coat without weighing down the hair. Hold at least 12 inches/30 cms away from the coat when applying. I don't mind a pleasant smelling dog either without being too artificial and smelling like a room deodorant. Plush Puppy Odour Muncher is a clean smelling deodoriser with a light fragrance. It minimises odours and gets rid of that slept in a crate all night smell. I do believe judges use not just sense when judging but a lot of their senses including their olfactory senses and love a clean nice smelling dog.

The other thing to keep in mind with a double coated breed is to blow dry using a pin brush such as the **Plush Puppy Pin Brush** which has secure pins, without knobs that tend to rip the coat to bits, and is one of the best I have used. Blow dry everything up and forwards towards the head till 7/8ths dry and then use just the air of the dryer to finish off with the coat coming back into its natural fall. This method also assists in reducing unwanted wave. A good wide toothed Poodle comb is beneficial also to be able to work the coat through from root to end to avoid any chance of matting or felting as the coat ages. I often see coats that have only been half dried and/or not worked through from the skin to ends. Maximise everything you have with these coats. These wonderfully confident natured dogs have a lot of grace and power. They have the ability to work with great skill in a pretty full on job yet remain calm. Your dog not only watches out for the flock but also is protective of and devoted to his master.

These are dogs ready to go and work at an instant. I love the subtly hidden energy they reflect when at ease. I like the way they take in all that is happening yet don't lose focus and I admire the relationship they have with their owners. Just because you have a working dog never diminishes his right to look glamorous or well presented with as much devotion as the more labour intensive coated breeds. It is wrong to dismiss these coats as being natural and therefore assume you don't naturally have to do a thing to them. Imagine a gorgeously proportioned dog with a beautifully presented coat routine and I will show you a winner every time.

CHERYL LECOURT



Knots and matts

A knot occurs where the coat is slightly tangled but it can be removed by careful brushing or combing out. Mats are formed when dead, loose undercoat hair becomes trapped by the top or guard hair, and starts to clump and twist together. If this matted coat becomes wet, the matting tightens and becomes almost solid. Do not attempt to remove matts unless trained in the procedure. Otherwise, refer to a professional groomer.

Toe nails

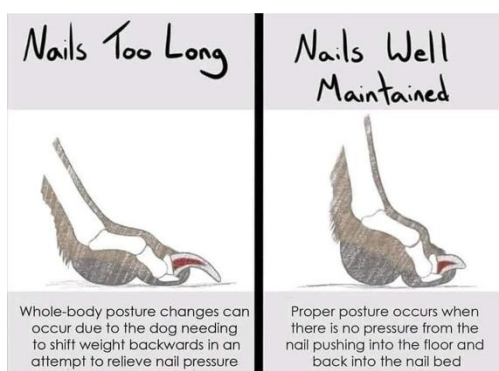
Depending on the surfaces that your pup runs on, you may need to clip toenails. Our show dog's nails are trimmed weekly for appearances more than anything - only a fraction of nail is taken off each time. Our stay-at-home dogs may see a toe nail clipper every couple of months if they are lucky. The terrain they run on here keeps nails at a reasonable length - but the dew claw nail (the one up higher on the inner front legs) definitely needs trimming because of its remote location to the ground. Dogs exercised on asphalt roads may never need nail trimming (except of course for their dew claws). If you start puppy off by including looking at his nails in your weekly grooming routine right from the start, toe nail clipping may not be the dreaded experience that some dogs make it out to be.

If you can hear your dogs' nails clicking when they walk on a hard surface like your kitchen floor, then the nails are too long. Nails must be kept short or the toes will be pushed out of shape and cause skeletal problems and make the dog uncomfortable, like you wearing ill-fitting shoes.



I lie the pups on their backs, and just snip off the overhang growth of nail - I don't cut off any more than the overhang, even if the nails are really long - the cuticle can be sensitive, and can bleed profusely if it is cut, so best to avoid this. Rather than cutting off a lot in one go - you are better to snip off a little every few days until the nails are back to the optimum length. Cuticles retreat to a shorter length with frequent nail trimming – a good thing. If puppy struggles at first, I ask an assistant to tickle puppy's tummy to distract its attention from the nail clippers and to offer treats for good behaviour. Talk soothingly, and happily, and plenty of praise when puppy is good.

As an alternative to nail clippers, some owners use a nail file, and others use a "Dremel" electric or battery-operated gadget fitted with a grinder. Others choose to visit the vet for a pooch pedicure - some vets will clip nails for free for clients, and others will charge for the service. Many of the mobile dog wash companies include a nail trim with a deluxe dog wash too.



Bath Time

When we had town water on tap, we would wash our show dogs only when they were muddy or dusty before a show. We used commercially available dog shampoos, and only bother with a conditioner when the coat is just about ready to shed and needs a special lift. Now that we only have tank water.... we very rarely wash the dogs at all, but use a big cold blowing hair dryer (made especially for use with cattle and horse show preparation) to blow all the dust, mud and prickles out of the dog's coat, wipe the coat over with a dampened dog towel, and re-blow till the coat is shiny and clean.



It is better to limit washing your dog till when a batch is essential to avoid removing the natural oils from the coat.

Never use a people hairdryer on your dog as the heat can burn your dog's skin and coat.

We use the Fido's Free Itch Concentrate shampoo in the hydro-bath, and find it excellent to assist in flea and tick control. Aloveena and Petway are excellent brands of gentle shampoos for those who feel the need to wash their dogs.

Never use a people shampoo on your dog, but only a quality dog shampoo. People shampoos strip the oils from the hair, whereas a dog needs to retain natural coat oils, and specific dog shampoos cater for this.



A healthy diet is all the care the coat needs to be lustrous and glossy. Feed 'em right, and the coat will fix itself, as they say! Even if you have plenty of water on tap, it is not necessary to wash Belgians frequently - they are not a breed that has a doggy smell, and they only need a bath if they are muddy or dusty, or if you want to treat your dog to a full beauty treatment!

New pups fit neatly into the laundry basin at wash time. You might like to wash your big dog in the bath, shower, or put up with cold water and wash dog in the yard with the hose. In winter we towel dry the

washed beasties, and in summer, they shake themselves and run themselves silly to dry off.

Hint - A warm water bath will help a moulting coat to fall out quicker.

Really, a Belgian's coat is low maintenance - except for moult time.

When it is tick season, or a flea appears, we bath the dogs in a flea shampoo - usually Fido's Free Itch Shampoo. It smells great, and works well too. **NEVER USE BRAVECTO, SIMPARICA OR NEXGARD.** They are known to cause seizures and death in dogs. If you must use a tick prevention – pick Advantix or a similar base chemical product. I am now adding a teaspoon of Diatomaceous Earth powder mixed well (to avoid inhaling) into the dogs dinner each day. Human grade. It helps to repel ticks, but your routine must always include daily body inspections to pluck off any ticks before they can cause trouble.



Coat Trimming

A Belgian is a working dog, and does not require coat trimming for the show ring or at home. The only trim that you may wish to do is to stop our dogs from sliding too much on polished wooden floors by trimming the fur between the pads of their paws with blunt ended scissors.

NEVER clip or shave a Belgian all over, even in the heat of summer, or in tick season. Clipping removes any insulation properties that a double coat provides, making the dog hotter than if it was still fully coated, as well as making the dog look unsightly and prone to sunburn and possible subsequent skin cancer. Nature looks after its own, and in summer, your Belgian will not grow the thick blue-black woolly undercoat (or cream undercoat in the Tervueren), as it will in winter. Burrs cling to a clipped coat more than they do to the coarse guard hairs in a natural coat.



Before

After

Grooming Help

At Mirribandi we love grooming Belgians - and welcome you to bring your Belgian back to us for a grooming demonstration and brush out.

Care of the ears and eyes

- Check your puppy's ears to see if they are clean. You can remove excess dirt from the inside of the ear flap with damp cotton wool. Never probe inside the ear as you may perforate the ear drum. Any odour is usually a sign there is something wrong and your puppy should be taken to a vet. If our dogs get waxy ears, we use "Leo's" brand ear drops that you buy over the counter from the vets, or from the vendors that trade at the dog shows. Put in a few drops, massage the outside base of the ear and the dog shakes out all the dirt and the liquid drops. Fabulous stuff! We don't need to pluck hairs out of Belgians ears nor worry about ear dampness like drop-eared breeds.
- If needed clean the eyes with clean, damp cotton wool using a separate piece for each eye. A wet cold teabag dripped into the eye is a great wash out for mucky eyes (you can use this tip for yourself too). Very refreshing.

EXTERNAL PARASITES

A parasite is something that lives on another animal (the host) and gets its nourishment from the host. If left unchecked, the parasite causes disease or even death. The most common external parasites found on dogs are fleas and ticks.



- Fleas are very small, brownish black, extremely agile creatures. Excessive scratching and self-biting can be symptoms of flea infestation. Even if no fleas are to be seen the presence of shiny black specks like coal dust (flea excreta) is a sure indication of the presence of fleas (dab the specks with a damp piece of cotton wool and if it goes pink it confirms the presence of fleas; these are the remains of a digested blood meal from the host).
- Ticks are largish grey pea shaped parasites that can be 3 to 4mm in length. They attach themselves to other animals in order to have a blood meal. The paralysis tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*, causes tick paralysis. Tick paralysis is a serious and potentially fatal condition requiring urgent veterinary attention. It is important to be aware of paralysis ticks and to actively protect your dog or cat by:
 - ✚ Avoiding the tick habitat – During the tick season, don't take your dog walking in bush areas or scrub areas known to harbour ticks. Keep lawns and shrubs short and remove compost material from backyards.
 - ✚ Applying tick control products – There is now a wide range of proprietary powders, sprays, 'spot-on' treatments and anti-flea and tick collars available. A dedicated pet care professional will be happy to advise on suitable products. My personal preference, which has served me well over the years, is Advantix. **NEVER use Bravecto, Symparica or Nexgard, as adverse side-effects have been reported in dogs given these products.** Advantix is a safer option.
 - ✚ Searching your dog every day for ticks – The most essential preventative measure is a thorough search of your dog's skin and coat at least once a day even if tick control products have been applied.
 - ✚ Being aware of the symptoms of tick paralysis – If any signs of suspect paralysis are seen, a tick or a crater left by a tick is seen, then search and remove ticks as quickly as possible and take your pet to the vet immediately.

Other skin problems

- Ringworm is a fungal disease, affecting the skin, nails and hair. Circular lesions appear causing hair loss, which become scaly and crusty. Ringworm is contagious and is a zoonotic condition (transmissible to humans).
- Dermatitis causes irritation, hair loss and inflammation and is a result of sensitivity to the environment.
- Alopecia can range from a thinning of hair to total hair loss and can be caused by a number of factors such as skin parasites, hormonal imbalance, infections, stress or poor nutrition. Seek veterinary advice for any skin problems.

Professional grooming

Some owners opt to use professional trimming and styling. Most coated breeds will require full grooming about once every four to six weeks but even short coated breeds can benefit from a 'wash and brush' up more regularly to remove dust and dirt.

WORMING ADVICE

Worming your dog throughout its lifetime is important, and you should talk to your vet about a suitable worming programme for your puppy at the earliest opportunity. Regular worming not only protects your dog's health, but helps to prevent the spread of infection and potentially hazardous health risks to other animals and humans too. Worm infections carried by your dog do not always display obvious symptoms, so an adequate treatment schedule is vital.

Ensuring your pet is worm free not only protects your dog's health, but helps to prevent the spread of infection and potentially hazardous health risks to other animals and humans too. Worm infections carried by your dog do not always display obvious symptoms, so an adequate treatment schedule is vital.

For those using conventional wormers, worm counts mean that you are only worming when necessary – due to a positive test, thus helping reduce the resistance to the ingredients in conventional wormers and limiting the chemicals entering your pets.

Natural worming programmes? Faecal worm counts are an essential part of a natural worming programme. Pesky parasites find their way into most pets lives therefore it is essential that we have a targeted worming programme to help protect them from infestation. So whether you chose to worm or not, worm count testing plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy pets.

Using worm egg counts can also reduce the resistance that develops through the continual use of chemicals which can lead to conventional wormers being less effective and the worm burden increase in the Animals.

Some worming treatment has been carried out prior to you receiving your puppy and a record of this is provided in the chart below. Do discuss this further with your own veterinary surgeon.

Date Wormed	Product Used	Amount Given
At two weeks old.	Drontal puppy suspension	According to directions for weight
At 4 weeks, 6 weeks and 8 weeks.	Ecovet All Wormer Tablets	According to directions for weight
Date next treatment due:	Your puppy will be wormed at 8 weeks, and is due at 10 weeks and then at 12 weeks then 3 monthly.	

Signs aren't always obvious.

Dogs can appear healthy even when they have worm infections. Detecting an infection can be tricky, particularly as worm eggs are too small to be easily visible in your pet's faeces. In addition, your dog may be more at risk from some worm infections than others depending on where you live. It is therefore extremely important to keep your dog's treatment regular and up-to-date.

Specific signs will be described for each worm, but remember that not all worm infections will be obvious in your dog, so some more general signs to look for include:

- The presence of visible worm segments that could stick to your dog's bottom and become itchy. This can cause dogs to "scoot", whereby they drag their bottoms along the ground with their back legs. Doing this also means that your dog will be rubbing its infected bottom on your floor or carpet, which is naturally unhygienic.
- Weight loss.
- Vomiting.
- Diarrhoea.

- A dull, lifeless coat.
- A change in appetite (it may be either increased or decreased depending on the worms present).
- A lack of energy.
- A pot-bellied appearance (most commonly seen in puppies).
- Breathing difficulties and coughing.
- General changes in behaviour.

You should seek advice from your vet if you see any of the above signs in your dog. Many of these symptoms may be indicative of other illnesses. Your vet will be able to investigate the problem and provide appropriate advice and treatment.

Worming Products

There are a wide variety of worming products available from a number of different sources. These products vary in activity spectrum (the worms they treat or prevent), how you administer the treatment (spot-on / injection / oral medication), dosage instructions and speed or duration of activity. Always check with your vet before initiating a worming regime. This way you can be confident that you are using the most appropriate products, and following the best treatment for the needs of your dog and family.



Natural Worming Products

- **Neem Leaf:** Give twice a day for one week to eliminate most worms, though not effective against tapeworm. Use 150mg daily for small dogs. 250mg for medium dogs and 500mg for large dogs.
- **Crushed, raw, organic pumpkin seeds:** Warriorbullz sell these already done for you to save you time. 1 tsp per 5kg dog weight daily.
- **Fur and / or feathers:** Although they may help to cleanse the gut there is **no science** to show they are an effective dewormer, although they are a great natural source of fibre.
- **Fermented veggies:** Can use sauerkraut or kimchi BUT be careful it contains no harmful ingredients such as onions. Start slow and low with just a bit and build up to 1-3 teaspoons a day per 10kgs dog weight.
- **Pineapple:** Contains bromelain naturally so may help expel worms. Only feed the flesh not the skin or core. Give 1 tsp per 5kgs dog weight, per day.
- **Papaya:** Contains papain naturally, another enzyme which can expel worms. Give 1 tsp per 5kgs dog weight, per day.
- **Veggies:** Watercress, greens, cucumber and fennel can help aid digestion & help with worms. Add 1 tsp per 5kgs dog weight, per day
- **Food grade diatomaceous earth: Also known as DE,** this MUST be mixed well into food with added water if necessary. 1 tsp for every 10-20kgs of dog weight.
- **Grapefruit seed extract:** 10-15 drops per 10kgs dog weight into the food. Note: must be GRAPEFRUIT SEED EXTRACT, not grape seed extract as this is toxic to dogs.
- **Cooled chamomile tea:** 1-3 teaspoons depending on the dog's size, daily.
- **Wormwood:** Shake well, 1ml directly into the mouth or food for 2 consecutive days of the m9nth. Safe for pregnant & nursing dogs.
- **Verm-X Liquid Only:** As per dosage on the bottle.

- **Raw, organic Garlic:** Chop the garlic and leave to sit for 15mins to release the beneficial compounds before feeding. Do NOT use in pregnant or lactating dogs or those on blood thinners. Don't give garlic to puppies under six months. Puppies eight weeks or less don't produce new red blood cells so never give them garlic. For puppies aged six months to a year, you can be cautious and feed half the regular dose. See the [Garlic blog](#) for more information

How Often Should You Worm?

All animals are at risk from acquiring worm infections. However, some animals will be at higher risk than others depending on factors such as their lifestyle and area in which you live. Children are at increased risk of disease from worms; if you have a young family or your dog often comes into contact with children, you should pay particular attention to regular worming. Again, always consult with your vet with regard to the most appropriate treatment schedule. My recommendation is that your puppy is wormed every two weeks until twelve weeks of age, then monthly until six months of age. After six months of age your dogs should be wormed every three months.

Worming avoidance - Control Check List

As well as following a worming plan following consultation with your vet, there are also many other practical things you can do to help prevent the spread of worm infections among your pets and family. These are as follows:

- 'Poop scooping' - make sure you pick up your dog's faeces immediately on a walk and remove it from the lawn or surrounding outdoor environment daily - bag it, and put it in designated poop bins, double bag it, and put it in with the domestic waste, or check with your local council.
- Ensure you and your children wash your hands after handling / stroking your dog.
- Wash all food including fruit and vegetables before eating them.
- Don't allow children to put dirt in their mouths.
- Throw away any food dropped on the floor / ground rather than eating it.
- Cover children's sandpits when not in use.



Worming

Heartworm

The dog heartworm, *Dirofilaria immitis*, is prevalent in areas with large numbers of mosquitoes and a warmer climate. Any dog not on heartworm prevention could have a one-in-ten chance of being infected with heartworm. Heartworm is quite simple to prevent. If your dog is infected with the disease, however, treatment becomes complex and often dangerous, particularly in the later stages of the disease when the heart, lungs and other organs may be severely damaged. Furthermore, surgery may be required to remove the adult worms.

When you consider how dangerous heartworm can be, and the complex treatment plan the disease often requires, the importance of heartworm prevention becomes very obvious. Heartworm is easily prevented and the preventatives are effective and very cheap - certainly much cheaper than treating the disease. In Australia, it is recommended to use heartworm preventative all year round as it is impossible to reliably estimate a "mosquito season". There are many options available, an annual vaccination, oral and topical monthly and daily preventions - **talk to your vet about what they recommend for your puppy at the first visit.**

Dogs should start heartworm prevention by three months of age.

Diatomaceous Earth

🐾 Diatomaceous Earth is often known as DE for ease. It is not only low cost, its also suitable for several uses. It is not Earth coloured though, its white.

⚠️ It is absolutely critical that you use the **FOOD GRADE**.

!/? DE is a non-toxic natural substance, made from crushed fossils of freshwater organisms and marine life.

🐾 We love **FOOD GRADE DE** because of its multiple uses but also its deadly impact to insects, whilst being safe for use in animals.

🐾 **FOOD GRADE DE** can kill fleas, ticks lice or mites. It doesn't poison insects or paralyse them, it dehydrated them swiftly so they die, it does this to any larvae too

🐾 **Internal Parasites:** Mix **FOOD GRADE DE** into food well to eliminate roundworms, whipworms, pinworms & Hookworm. If you have a positive worm result use **FOOD GRADE DE** for 14-28 consecutive days (14 for low count, 21 for medium, 28 for high) in this manner before retesting.

⚠️ Not effective on heart or lungworm, please consult a vet for help with these types.

🐾 **External Parasites:** Dust your dogs skin with **FOOD GRADE DE** if they have fleas and brush through. You will need to wash all soft furnishings or dust those too and may need to repeat the process daily for a few days to be sure they are all gone.

⚠️ Avoid the face & ears of your dog when doing this, keep your dog out of any room your are 'cleansing' with DE to avoid them inhaling it as it may irritate their airways with it not being mixed in with food. Bathe your dog in a herbal flea shampoo afterwards.

Diatomaceous Earth

🐾 **FOOD GRADE DE** can also be used as:

🐾 **Detoxification** - Can help to remove heavy metals from the body. Can also help to kill off virus and bacteria such as e-coli, endotoxins, drug residues and much more.

🐾 **Food supplement**- source of magnesium, silicon calcium, sodium, iron, potassium, copper, zinc, phosphorous, selenium

🐾 **Cholesterol support** - some studies indicate **FOOD GRADE DE** can help to lower bad cholesterol

🐾 **Chemical-free deodoriser** - use it on your dog or rugs, dust over and brush out. ⚠️ Avoid the face & ears of your dog when doing this, keep your dog out of any room your are 'cleansing' with DE to avoid them inhales as it may irritate their airways with it not being mixed in with food. Bathe your dog in a herbal shampoo after if necessary.

🐾 **Safe Garden Pest Control** - it will repel or kill bugs like ants, caterpillars, cockroaches, snails, spiders, bed bugs, termites, fruit flies and beetles. Simply mix with water and spray where required.

⚠️ Do not forget the golden rule - you must only ever use **FOOD GRADE diatomaceous earth**

🐾 **Internal doseages:**

🐾 Small dogs & pups ½ teaspoon
🐾 Up to 20kg 1 tsp per day
🐾 Over 20kg 1 tablespoon per day

VACCINATION ADVICE

We recommend yearly health checks at the vet, and Titre Tests every 3 years to avoid over vaccination.

There are a number of common infectious diseases that dogs are susceptible to throughout their life. Some of these diseases are life threatening and young puppies are particularly vulnerable, so it is important that your puppy is vaccinated against them. Further vaccination as adult dogs may **not** be required if titre levels confirm immunity levels.

Please ensure your pup undertakes a further booster shot as per the table below, and then a titre test 4 weeks later. This will help to ensure that your dog continues to be healthy and happy throughout its entire life. Titre testing every 3 years to check immunity is way better than over vaccinating.

Your puppy has been vaccinated at six weeks of age; this is recorded below and also in your puppy's vaccination certificate, which you should take with you for your puppy's first visit to a veterinary surgeon.

Vaccination Given	Age of Puppy	Date Administered
1 st	6 weeks of age	As per vaccination card
2 nd	10 weeks of age	As per vaccination card
Next Vaccination Due:	As per vaccination certificate – or titre test and possibly never have to vaccinate again if titre levels are good.	
Please seek the advice of your puppy’s veterinary surgeon for information on future vaccination.		

First vaccinations

Normally, your puppy can receive its first vaccination from approximately six weeks of age although this can vary depending on the normal practice of the treating vet. The vet has commenced your puppy on a course of vaccinations against the **canine distemper, adenovirus and parvovirus (core C3 vaccination)**. Some of these diseases can be fatal, so it's highly recommended to titre test to check that immunity levels are high enough to protect your dog. If the titre shows immunity, then no need to revaccinate. To safeguard concerns from those who were used to annual vaccinations, a now outdated concept, you can titre test every three years to double check immunity levels, and only do booster shots if and when immunity falls below acceptable.

Puppies are not necessarily immune to diseases till 10 days after their second vaccination. Never put your puppy on the ground outside of your own yard unless you know it to be a safe disease free area. Until 10 days after the second vaccination, carry your puppy everywhere that non-vaccinated dogs can walk including all footpaths and parks. Parvo can stay in the ground undetected for well over 7 years, and will kill puppies that are not vaccinated, or not yet immune. Parvo is currently rampant in most areas of Australia, but easily avoided by this simple precaution.

Keeping a record

Once a puppy is vaccinated, the vet will issue a vaccination certificate showing a record of exactly when the puppy was vaccinated and which product was used. This should be kept safe, as you may need to show them at boarding kennels, dog-training classes, etc... If you change vet, they may recommend a slightly different regime, and it will be useful to see what vaccination your puppy has had in the past.

Useful references

Guidelines for the vaccination of dogs compiled by the Australian Veterinary Association can be found at

<https://www.ava.com.au/policy-advocacy/policies/companion-animals-health/vaccination-of-dogs-and-cats/>

Vaccination and socialisation

Until your puppy is fully vaccinated you should prevent them from being exposed to dogs that could be infected or areas that infected dogs could have had access to. Puppies are most receptive to new environments and situations at this age, so keeping them confined to your house and garden may be counterproductive. During these important first weeks at home, you could take your puppy out to different places in your arms or the car to get them used to different situations and noises, as well as letting them meet new people, as per mentioned in the “Puppy Plan” which can be viewed at www.thepuppyplan.com.

What is titre testing?

A titre test is a type of blood test that can detect if your dog has antibodies to a disease, and to what degree. Antibodies are made when a virus or a bacteria triggers a response from the immune system, which could be from natural exposure or from a vaccination. Since a titre test can check for immunity, it has been suggested that it can be used to determine if a booster vaccination is required, rather than giving annual vaccinations regardless of the level of immunity. We use Dr Jaime from Primal Paws <https://www.primalpaws.com/> for our titre tests. Dr Jamie travels Australia, so send her a message to ask when next in your area. Cost at May 2020 is \$80 per test. Local vets are charging up to \$300 for the same service.



TEETHING

Puppies shed their baby milk teeth much the same as human children do. Teeth usually start shedding teeth at about 3 months. At this time, puppy chewing can become quite intense. To help puppy cope better with the discomfort of teething, try giving puppy BIG raw bones to chomp on, dried pigs ears and lots of rubbery toys to chew, and under no circumstances allow puppy to chew on you.

Puppy's ears may droop while teething, and if they were erect before, they will stand again after the teeth are cut. Your puppy will try to mouth you - it is a normal puppy thing - but it is advisable NEVER to let puppy chew your fingers, no matter how cute it is when they are just babies. Cute babies grow into big problem dogs if allowed to bite all and sundry....

Full dentition for a dog is 42 teeth, and the correct bite is scissor, but level bites are acceptable according to the breed standard. Missing teeth (sometimes hereditary) or poor bites (under or over shot) are not desirable in a show dog or breeding dog, but rarely (usually never) does it ever cause any health or wellbeing issues.

Cleaning Teeth

Because we feed our dogs plenty of RAW meaty bones, chicken wings, necks and carcasses, we don't have to clean our dog's teeth. Their teeth are always gleaming white - even on the older dogs. But if you don't feed your dogs a similar diet to us, then you might find that you have to brush your dog's teeth to keep them clean. Speak to your vet about your options. Moo Tubes (dried trachea) are great for cleaning teeth. Give a couple of times per week.



COLLAR & LEASH

It is best that puppy get used to a collar and leash when young. Your puppy will already be used to wearing a collar, as we put collars on the young babies to help to tell them apart at a quick glance once they are up on their feet and out of the whelping box. When shopping for your pup's first collar, avoid chain collars, and choose something that is somewhat adjustable. Adjustable nylon collars are good, and so are classic leather collars.



An adult Belgian will fit into a Medium sized collar - 2.5cm wide x 50cm long is a good size to look for.

Of course, you will need a smaller collar for your puppy while still young, but don't buy too lavishly, as they soon grow out of their puppy collars.

A matching leash is a nice touch. Look for a webbing or leather leash, not one which has a chain portion.

Sizes to look for in a puppy and adult collar.



Show collar – my preference is either of these – a fancy bling slip lead or a rolled leather ensemble.



Harnesses

Harnesses are not ideal for training or walking – they encourage the dog to pull against you with all their weight, much as a cart horse pulls the cart along behind. Harnesses are excellent however, at securing your dog to the seatbelt in your car, in case of accident, to stop forward momentum throwing them through the windscreen.

The process below outlines how to introduce a dog to a new harness, but it could be easily adapted to suit a variety of objects.

1. Place the harness on the floor and allow the dog to sniff it. When the dog shows interest and does not show any fear, reward with a treat.
2. Hold the harness at your dog's eye level. Again, reward a positive response with a treat.
3. Slip the harness over your dog's head and reward your dog's acceptance of the harness.
4. Fasten the harness and reward with another treat.
5. Attach the lead and reward again.

Each of these five steps should be repeated several times, ensuring that the dog is completely comfortable with each stage before moving to the next. Move through the steps slowly until the dog accepts wearing the harness without hesitation.

If at any time the dog becomes anxious or fearful, go back to the previous step where the dog remained calm, and repeat that step several times. You should only progress to the next step if the dog was successful with the previous step.

At the last step, allow the dog to wear the harness for a minute or so while verbally praising and rewarding it with treats. Then remove the harness, put it away and repeat the exercise the next day.

After a few repetitions your dog will look forward to wearing its harness because it has learnt that good things happen when it wears the harness – it has developed a positive association with the harness.

This process can be applied to any new training equipment or accessories, such as grooming aids, you introduce to your dog. However it will not be necessary for everything. Toys, for example, are usually willingly investigated and happily played with.

The length of the familiarisation process will also depend on the temperament, personality and previous experiences of the dog. Some dogs are more outgoing and accepting of new things, while others may be more timid, requiring more time and patience.





Halti

A Halti or a Gentle Leader are also excellent for walking your dogs – without them pulling, as a dog cannot pull with its head anywhere near as much as it can with its chest and shoulders.

Refer to the introduction processes noted for harnesses. It works just as well for Haltis.



Leashes

Leashes – avoid chains, and choose nylon or leather, about 3 or 4-foot-long for regular walking and training. Any longer, and you lose control of your dog. Extendable leads have their place, but get tangled if you are not careful – tangled in handler and dog and trees etc.

Woven slip leash



Leather leash



At Mirribandi, we choose not to leave collars on our dogs when at home – so our dogs don't run the risk of getting caught and tangled while in the yard, or playing. We put collars on our dogs when they are travelling or are out for a walk. Please include a name tag, with your phone number on it, to attach to your collar – and also a doggy poop bag dispenser is a good idea to attach to your walking lead too.

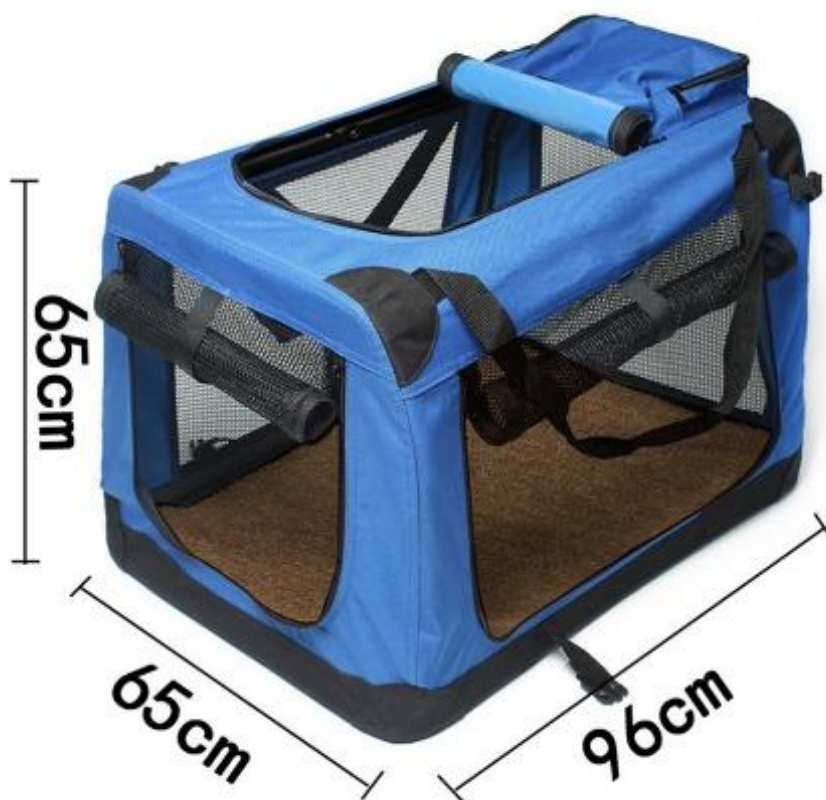


CRATES

What size crate will an adult Belgian fit into?

96cm x 65cm x 65 cm is a good size.

Note - Soft crates are only to be used for fully crate trained dogs. They are easy to rip, and it won't take much effort for a naught or distressed dog to free itself and be off and away into the big wide world.



A wire crate is a much sturdier way to contain your dog. Your dog will need to be crate trained before leaving in a crate unattended.

Note - visit your local pet supply store, and try out which crate size fits best into your car when erected. A dog needs to be able to get into it, and lay down, and be able to turn around. Don't get one so big that an adult dog rattles around in it.

Our dogs travel in the car safely tucked into their crate. They have crates set up in our bedroom, with doors open, and our dogs choose to sleep in their crates.



Bar Spacing: Around 3.3cm

36"

DOG TOYS

Choose toys made in Australia or other reputable countries, as some plastics and materials can contain contaminants which are harmful to dogs. Kongs are long lived toys and are great to stuff with food to keep your dog entertained while you are away at work. The dog spends time removing food from their Kong toy. Cleaned plastic milk or soft drink bottles are excellent chew toys. Consider placing a small handful of kibble dog biscuits in the bottle, pop the lid back on, and watch your dog try to access the treats inside. Also, put a plastic bottle into an old sock, tie the end of the sock off, and use as a fetch toy. Or tie two old socks together in a robust knot, and use as a tug toy. Not all dog toys need to be expensive bright coloured items 😊.



MATURITY

Usually a Belgian is "almost" full height at 12 months, but can continue to grow in height to about 18 months. Belgians tend to stay puppies in play nature for many, many years, which we find very endearing.

DESEXING

We recommend de-sexing your pet puppies for the following reasons

- elimination of female "seasons" or being "on heat" approximately 3 weeks long, every 6 months - smelly, messy, bloody, and attractant to all the male dogs in your suburb. During heat, the male dogs around the area all howl all night to want to get to your female, and your female will be equally wanting to get to the males, and some have been known to break windows and screens and uncharacteristically jump fences to get what they want.....
- no unwanted litters of puppies
- reduced Council registration fees in most shires around Australia
- decreased risk of mammary and ovarian cancer in female dogs & decreased risk of prostate disease and cancer in male dogs
- reduced roaming in male dogs
- reduced leg lifting in male dogs
- Competition sport female dogs can compete all year round if they are de-sexed (females cannot compete when in season), and male dogs will be able to concentrate more on the work at hand, rather than being guided by their non-desexed hormones.
- It is considered socially and politically correct to neuter your pet dog.

We find that de-sexing puppies is kinder and more humane than to wait till the pups are fully mature - the youngsters recover so much quicker.

It is not necessary or beneficial to allow a dog to have a mating, a season or a litter of puppies before being de-sexed.

Neutered desexed dogs can now be shown in the confirmation show ring to become Australian Neuter Champions. Ask us for details if you wish to consider showing your pet dog.

PUPS WITH LIMITED REGISTRATION PAPERS

If you have agreed to Limit Registration papers, you have signed that you will NOT show nor breed from your puppy. Once you send a copy of your desexing certificate to Kathryn Winton, Mirribandi Belgians, the Limit Papers endorsement can be lifted if you wish, which will enable the dog to be transferred to the Dogs Australia ANKC Neuter Register, allowing you to show in the Neuter classes.



MICROCHIPPING

All of our puppies since our very first litter have been microchipped at their first vet visit. A microchip the size of a grain of rice is inserted with a needle into the muscle near the pup's shoulders, at the base of the neck. The microchip number is recorded on the Dogs Australia ANKC pedigree dog database, and also on the national chip register, together with owner and breeder contact details. If unsure which national register your chip is listed with, try here <http://petaddress.com.au/>

Your pup's microchip details will be emailed to you direct from the chip registry company. Please remember to keep your contact details up to date with the microchip company as well as with us at Mirribandi should you move house sometime in the future.

If you live in NSW you will need to dual-register your pups microchip details onto the NSW registry. To do this, please contact your local shire council to inquire what the local procedures are in your area. NSW has an independent registry not linked to the rest of the country – and it is highly important for your NSW residing dog to be registered on both registries in case your dog is lost while out of NSW so it can be readily returned to your care.

Our vet now uses Mini Temp Chips that include a subcutaneous temperature sensor. So, your pups will never have to know a thermometer poked where the sun don't shine. Simply remind your vet to use the chip/temperature scanner and wave it over the pup's shoulder to reveal a subcutaneous temperature reading at the chip location. You can buy your own chip temperature reading device online from Amazon or Timu. Look for the mid-range ones, as my vet suggested the cheapest ones are not worth it.

ANAESTHETICS

In case you were not already aware... some Belgians can have sensitivity to anaesthetics. They don't metabolise the anaesthetics as quickly as some other breeds with more body fat. Before putting your Belgian under anaesthetic, ask the vet if they are aware of a possible sensitivity in the breed. Please ask the vet to treat the dog as they would a sight hound (Saluki, Whippet or Greyhound), which are also known to be sensitive. We have had no problems with any of our adult dogs undergoing anaesthetics when they have been hip scored, nor the young baby puppies that have been de-sexed before they leave here. But it is better to be safe than sorry :-)).

It is recommended NOT to give Belgians sedatives (like is sometimes prescribed for dogs that do not travel well) as they can take too long to wear off in this breed. Further information can be obtained on this informative web site:-

[http://lumineux.darkpaws.com/Articles/Anesthetic and Belgian Shepherds.htm](http://lumineux.darkpaws.com/Articles/Anesthetic%20and%20Belgian%20Shepherds.htm)

It is possible that some historical issues with anaesthetics could simply be a matter of not weighing the dog prior to administering a dose of anaesthetic – as a fluffy dog can easily look 10kg heavier than they really are – it would be easy to overdose, which unfortunately can be lethal. Most vet waiting rooms today have weighing scales easily accessible for your dog to use so be sure to have your pet weighed before dosing with any medications. The moral though is that anaesthetics and sedatives are to be given with caution and care by vets who have treated Belgians before wherever possible.



SHOWING in Australia

Dogs with Full Registration (as opposed to Limit Registration) and those on the Neuter Register can be shown, if the owners are members of their state Canine Control Council. Wins at Championship shows accumulate points towards an Australian Championship title, or a Neuter Championship title.

We have been showing dogs for many years now, and would be honoured to share our success secrets with all our show puppy buyers. Just ask if you need advice on how to get started!

Pups previously sold with Limit Registration and have since been de-sexed, can be upgraded from Limited to the Neuter Register with approval from both the owner and the breeder – contact us if you wish us to review the status of your Belgian to help you get started towards a Neuter Championship title.

Puppy preschool classes and general obedience training are also recommended for prospective show pups - the more socialisation the better! Just remember that at obedience classes your dog is taught to sit every time you halt - and for the show ring, you need to have taught the dog to stand on command when you halt in front of the judge.



LINKS TO OUR FAVOURITE STOCKISTS



GreenPet - All things natural for animals. Our one-stop shop for natural, non-toxic products for animals. They offer natural support for animals with allergies, arthritis, cancer, kidney disease, pancreatitis, heart conditions, parasites, digestive issues, behavioural problems and much more. <https://greenpet.com.au/>



Pet Mince Direct is a small but mighty, 100% natural, 100% Aussie, family-run biz with one mission: to hook your furry mates up with the *good stuff* (at an affordable price!). <https://www.petmincedirect.com.au/>



Rosewood Vet – our favourite vet team, providing professional veterinary care for our pets and animals. We will be relocating all our frozen semen to Rosewood for them to assist us with future AI breedings. As well as regular vet work and puppy work. <https://rosewoodvets.com.au/>

Hip & Elbow x-rays by Dr Lindsay McNaught ph 0438007600 who locums his H&E x-rays at various vet clinics in SE Qld. Phone him to find out when he is likely to be near you. We attend the Toowoomba Family Vet clinic to see Dr Lindsay. We book with Dr Lindsay for the x-rays and then phone the clinic to book the room and equipment for Dr Lindsay to use.

Vet Scoring

Hip & Elbow scoring of the x-rays taken by Dr Lindsay is by Dr Makara at VetScoring. <https://vetscoring.com/>



Departure Pets – our favourite pet moving service that fly our pups across Australia and across the world. <https://departurepets.com.au/>



Australia's governing Dog organisation, with links to each state's organisation. All enquiries to be made direct to your state.

<https://dogsaustralia.org.au/>

HEALTH OF THE BELGIAN SHEPHERD DOG

Generally, the Belgian Shepherd is long lived; with many living as long as 14-15 years of age when in good health.

However, there are always exceptions to the rule. If you would be interested in having your pup checked for Hip and Elbow Dysplasia, as well as eye certification, that would be excellent. Of course, if ever your pup is used down the track for breeding this would be essential pre-requisites. DNA health testing is also advancing daily.

Belgian Shepherds in good physical condition are energetic and ardent workers in carrying out strenuous work in many fields. It is up to the owner to know his dog's limitations and not have unreasonable expectations in extreme weather conditions. Just as you must not leave any dog confined in a vehicle in hot weather, nor should you ever over work your Belgian Shepherd to exhaustion.

HEALTH TESTING

Many of our puppy buyers wish to help us to continue to breed healthy Belgians - and have their pups Health tested when they are old enough. This way, we not only know the status of health of the prospective show pups that we run on, but we can have a complete overall view of the health of the entire litter, including the pets. Educated decisions in planning the future direction of a breeding program helps to keep our beloved breed healthy, rather than haphazard plans based on guess work.



Puppy buyers may wish to help us by having their 12-month-old dog Hip and Elbow x-rayed and scored. This procedure involves the vet anaesthetising the dog, and x-raying both the hips and elbows, and sending these x-rays off to a specialist who grades and scores the x-rays. It is a once off procedure, and can be done any time after the dog turns 12 months of age. Penn-Hip scoring is also done under full anaesthetic, but from 3 months age, and costs twice the price of traditional AVA hip scoring. Either system is excellent to assist in knowing the internal health of your dog.

Eye testing of your puppy can be done at any age. The procedure is to have the specialist ACES approved ophthalmic vet put drops into the eyes to dilate the pupil, and with the aid of a magnifying glass and a bright torch-like light in a darkened room, look into the eye to see if there are any nasties present.

Again, testing all the litter will allow us to have a broad overview of the health of the entire litter, rather than a limited view of just the show pups. Please contact us if you wish to participate in having your Belgian hip and elbow scored, and eye tested, and we can give you all the details.

At Mirribandi, all our breeding stock is fully health tested – voluntarily. We Hip Score (to check for hip dysplasia), Elbow Score (to check for elbow dysplasia & OCD) and Eye Test (to check for any hereditary eye conditions such as cataracts, pannus, entropion etc) and we also DNA Full Breed Profile all breeding dogs.

To participate in our breeding program at Mirribandi, the dogs must achieve excellent health results within our strict self-imposed ethical boundaries.

We do not breed with dogs that have ever had an epileptic seizure. There are no tests yet available to clear a dog of the disease prior to breeding.

This is a very healthy breed, and as custodians of the breed, we intend to keep it a very healthy breed, by only breeding with healthy specimens.



ONGOING SUPPORT

Of course, we are eagerly looking forward to receiving photos from you of your puppy growing up, and of hearing all its adventures and misadventures! We like to keep in touch with our puppy buyers, and like to keep you informed of the progress of your pup's littermates. Any interesting stories or news of your puppy will be heartily welcomed by the owners of the other puppies too. Facebook is a wonderful tool to keep in touch with all the other Mirribandi dogs out there.

If you have not done so already, look me up on Facebook, and request to be my Friend, and I will add you to the private Mirribandi Owners Facebook page just for owners of our dogs.

<https://www.facebook.com/kathryn.winton.56>

We welcome you to bring your pup back to visit at any time. Please do not hesitate to Facebook message, phone, e-mail, write or contact us for any assistance, at any time. We were once first-time puppy owners ourselves, and well remember how isolated and alone it can be when you think you have a unique and unsolvable problem with your new puppy. Trust us, most of the problems that you are bound to encounter, are all simply solved, and please don't feel embarrassed to seek assistance from us. Little hurdles solved early can avoid the problem of overcoming major issues in the future.



HOUSING & legal stuff

Please ensure that at all times that this dog is under control and properly contained within a fenced area or suitable enclosure, properly housed, fed, watered and exercised and receives proper veterinary attention if, when and where required.

Please do not allow any dogs under your care to roam at large, or to cause a nuisance or be aggressive to neighbours, members of the public, or persons carrying out official duties, and please ensure that your dog wears a properly tagged collar when outside it's enclosure, that the dog is kept fully leashed or otherwise under effective control.

Please also investigate with your local shire council as to what the local laws are with reference to dogs and housing, and abide by these laws.

The registration supplied with this puppy refers to pedigree details, and not to council dog registration. You must contact your local shire council to register your dog as per local laws.

YOUR WILL

You may also wish to make provision in your Will specifically mentioning your dog, we will be available to help in whatever way we can - try to rehome your dog, take him/her back into our care, or will act as per your wishes with the dog's best interests in mind.

DOGS QLD

Your puppy is registered with Dogs Australia (previously called ANKC Australian National Kennel Council) with pedigree papers issued by Dogs Qld. If you might be interested in competing in dog events, please consider joining membership to Dogs Qld or your equivalent state dog organisation.



Events held include Confirmation Showing, Obedience including Puppy Socialisation, Agility, Herding, Tracking, Lure Coursing, Retrieving & Field Work, Dancing With Dogs, and Earth Dog Trials.

Please visit www.dogsqueensland.org.au for further details. We offer introductory free Community Membership to Dogs Qld for pups sold in Qld.

GET READY!

Before your puppy is due to come home with you, you must have secure premises. That is, not gaps or holes in fences or veranda panels, no gates without proper locks. Self-closing gates are a bonus, but locks are essential to keep strangers from letting your puppy out of your yard. If your house is elevated, check that puppy can't find a way to go under the house to escape to the front yard or into the street.

STILL TO COME

Your pups Registration papers, vaccination certificate, and microchip details will be posted to you.

LASTLY

We thank you for choosing to buy a Belgian Shepherd from us at Mirribandi. We look forward to our ongoing friendships with you and your new puppy.

Did we warn you that Belgians were addictive??? We look forward to you coming back to us for your second Mirribandi Belgian (and third..... :-)

Don't forget to take some water and a bowl to the airport if your puppy is flying to you. Puppy will probably be thirsty after the flight. Also, take along a lead and an adjustable sized puppy collar. We can't send leads in the crate in case puppy gets tangled during the flight. A towel is also useful to have on hand in case puppy gets wet in his crate on the plane, or is car sick on the drive home. And remember to leave the hire crate at the airport.

Cheers,

Mirribandi Belgians
Kathryn & Roger Winton
PO BOX 7202, Toowoomba South, Queensland, Australia 4350
mirribandi@gmail.com
www.mirribandi.com



AND FINALLY:

I hope your new puppy brings you many years of joy and pleasure, as have all my Belgians over the years. Being a breeder of the beautiful Belgian Shepherd also brings responsibility. Please do not hesitate to ever contact me by phone or email should you have any questions or concerns, especially if you are new to the breed. I don't pretend to know all the answers but will ensure I assist you in any way that I can.

Good luck with your beautiful Mirribandi Belgian Shepherd puppy!

