



## Friendly Canine News | Q1 2019

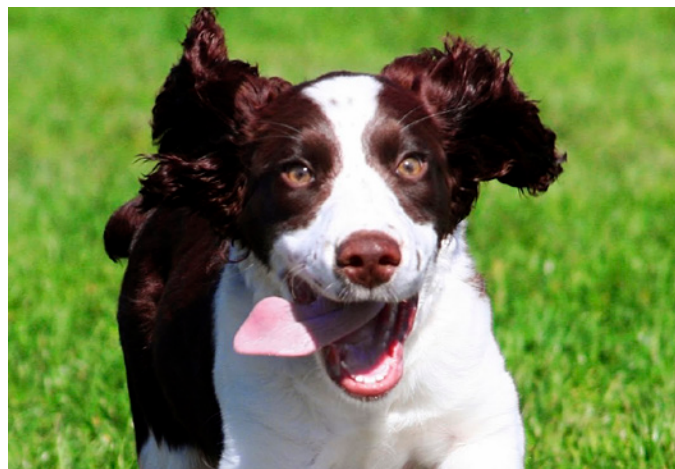
### LIVING WITH DOGS

#### THE 5 RULES OF RECALL

*In a perfect world, dogs would come every time we call. They would reason—with the human logic we so often ascribe them—that obedience is in their long-term interest. They would respect our parental authority or respond out of sheer devotion.*

Well, dogs may be family members who love us dearly, but they are not people. Dogs prioritize doggie things, which means that other dogs, good sniffs, and off-leash fun win almost every contest. It isn't personal—your dog is just being a dog. If you want a bullet-proof recall for when it truly counts, you must train it, patiently and consistently. Here's what to remember:

1. Never call your dog for anything unpleasant. Things like nail clipping, bathing, or having his leash clipped on to go home from the park. In short, anything that might give him pause the next time you call him.
2. Never call your dog if you are not sure he will come. All recalls should be successful recalls. Work at your dog's level: If he has a kindergarten-level recall, don't give him a graduate assignment like being called away from a cat in a tree.
3. If you call your dog and he doesn't come, you must make it happen. Run over to him and put a treat in front of his nose, backing up as you get his attention so he follows you.
4. Never repeat the command. Resist the urge to call over and over. It only teaches your dog to tune out the command. Call once and, if necessary, use rule 3. Make the recall happen.
5. Use fabulous rewards to get fabulous recalls. If you want your dog to stop whatever interesting doggie thing he is doing and come running to you, make it worth his while. Use extra yummy treats—no dry biscuits here!—or a well-thrown ball, if that is your dog's fancy.



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## DID YOU KNOW THE DOG ROSE?

The dog rose—Latin name *Rosa canina*—is native to Europe and parts of Africa and Asia. This wild, climbing shrub has been associated with dogs since ancient Greek and Roman times.

**Why dog rose?** Nobody knows for sure. One explanation is that people once believed the plant's nectar or root could cure rabies. Another is that dog is meant as a negative to describe the rose as wild, common, and therefore inferior. (Nonsense, obviously.)

**Medicinal value.** Dog roses are the source of rose hips, which are high in antioxidants and vitamin C and are used to make teas, jellies, and syrups. But beware, rose hips are inedible to humans and dogs in their raw state and must first be processed.

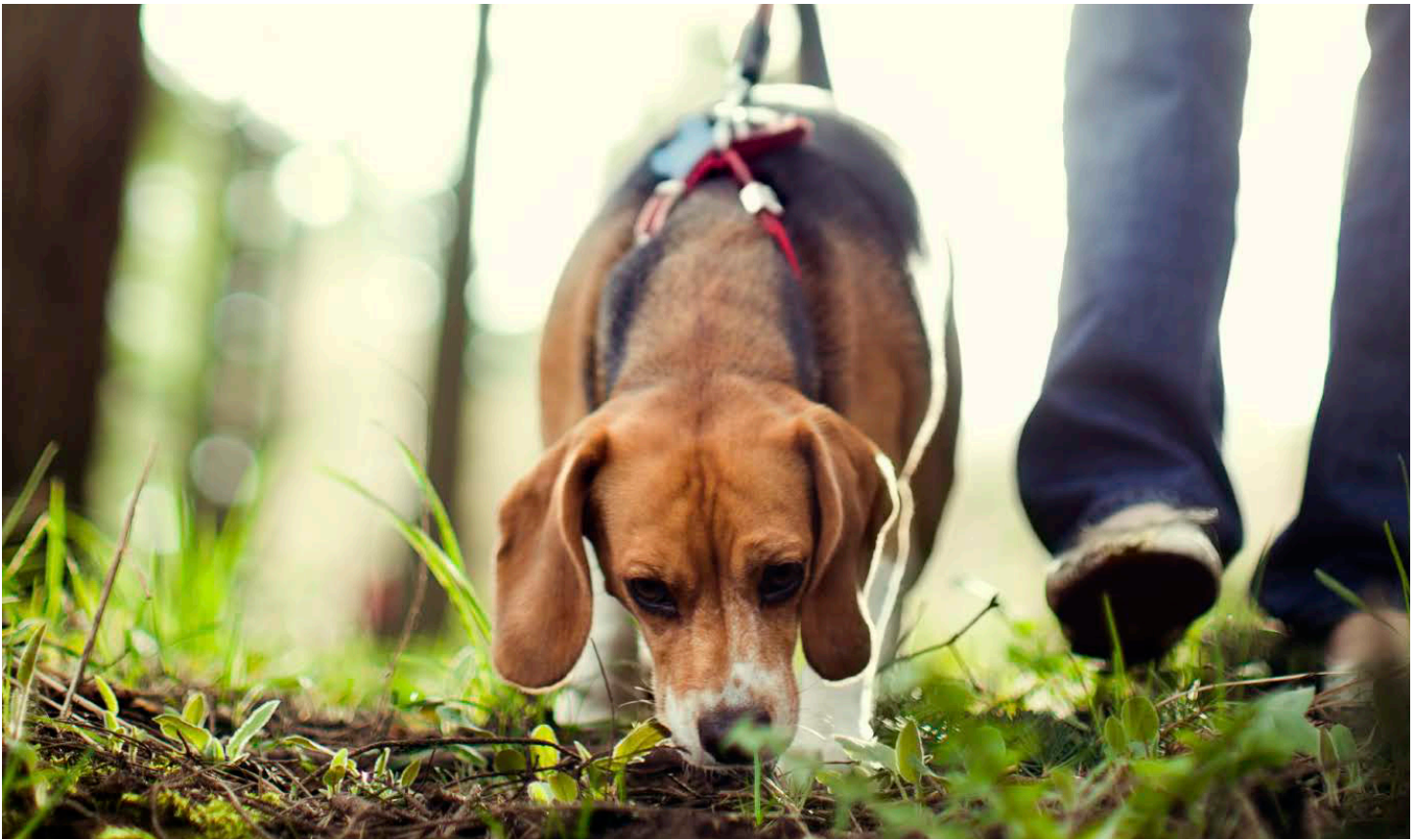
## A WORLD OF DOGS HOME ADVANTAGE

Most rescue groups rely on a network of foster volunteers for their life-saving work—this has historically been the case. Many municipal animal control centers and larger humane societies are following the same model, adding foster programs or expanding existing ones. As a rescue strategy, it works. Having foster homes solves space constraints, drastically cuts the occurrence of communicable diseases, and better prepares the dogs for adoption into permanent homes. A foster dog sleeps in a real home. Baths and cuddles are part of her routine. She is walked on leash every day, and lives as part of a family. Consequently, potential adopters get a much clearer picture of the dog's true personality than they would from the frightened, bored, frustrated, and desperate version of her they'd likely find in a shelter kennel.

For many shelters, a primary obstacle to expanding their foster programs has been finding enough foster homes. The problem rarely comes down to a shortage of devoted dog lovers, but rather a number of commonly held misconceptions—for example, that having one or more dogs disqualifies you as a foster home. In fact, the opposite is often true. The presence of other dogs can help the foster dog settle in much faster. Another oft-quoted objection to fostering is the emotional toll. People imagine it too heart-wrenching to take in a dog and have him as your own, only to hand him over to someone else a few weeks or months later.

Granted, most foster volunteers confirm that good-byes can be tearful. And countless rescue dogs have gone into homes as fosters but emerged as card-carrying (or rather, tag-carrying) family members because parting with them was just too hard. But other foster volunteers swear that, even at a personal level, the rewards outweigh the costs. Many stay in touch with adopters through email or social networks, getting photo updates and little notes about their former charges' new lives. At the end of the day, more lives—of perfectly lovable dogs—are saved. Surely that's worth a dip into a box of Kleenex every now and again.





## *DOGS IN ACTION*

### **TRACKING**

A dog's world is dominated by smells—their olfactory sense is acute and primal. Little wonder, then, that dogs so love to put their noses to good use. Teaching your dog to track objects is a fun training challenge for people and a great mind-and-body workout for dogs. Tracking as a sport has been around since the early 20th century and titles can be won from a number of different organizations, including AKC, ASCA (Australian Shepherd Club of America), and others. However, many people undertake the activity purely for fun. The only equipment needed to get started is a tracking harness, a 40-foot line, training treats, and toys.

In a tracking test, you and your dog are tested on her ability to follow a track and indicate to you that she has found the item, usually a glove or wallet. As your dog advances, tracks get longer, cover more difficult terrain, and are left to "age" longer. The challenge, as with much dog training, is not to go too fast, but to use repetition and small steps so your dog stays motivated.

Interested in tracking with your dog? Search the term plus your locale—or read some of the articles or books available to get started yourself.

## *HEALTHY DOG*

### **FLEA-FI-FO-FUM!**

For such miniscule creatures, fleas can cause great misery. The relentless itching and subsequent discomfort, hot spots, and sores are bad enough, but some dogs suffer serious allergic reactions or anemia from an infestation. Fleas also serve as intermediate tapeworm hosts and can infect your dog. Telling a beginning flea attack from normal grooming in a dog can be tricky, so the best policy is to check every few weeks as a matter of course. Look for fleas behind your dog's ears, around the head and neck, and in his "armpits." Alternatively, run a flea comb through his coat, drop some hair on a white paper towel, and add water. Red or rust-colored stains on the towel indicate fleas.

Prevention, of course, is key. This is all the more important because once fleas become established in your home, they're difficult to eradicate. Flea prevention treatments come in topical, oral, injectable, and natural form. Ask your veterinarian what is right for your dog.



## DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### THE BEAGLE

This dapper little hunting hound traces her general ancestry back to ancient Greece, but the breed as we know it today originated in Britain in the 1830s. The Beagle possesses one of the best-developed senses of smell of any dog—she can track down a mouse in a one-acre field in less than a minute. Even-tempered, gentle, friendly, and quick to alert on doorbells and strangers, the Beagle makes an excellent family dog. Bred for lengthy chases, her single-mindedness and disdain for non-hunting tasks can make training a challenge, but given the right job, the Beagle excels. In the famous Beagle Brigade, the Department of Agriculture uses the dog's uncanny ability to categorize smells to locate banned foods hidden among legal ones. With her soulful expression, the Beagle is popular in arts and entertainment too, from Shakespeare's stage (*Twelfth Night*) to Hollywood's screen (*The Royal Tenenbaums*).

To give a Beagle a home, search online for nearby rescues.

## TIPS & TOOLS

### MOVING WITH DOGS

Moving Day is often an exciting, stressful, exhausting blur—and that's just to the human family members. To make the organized chaos of geographical relocation less taxing for your dog, leave her with a friend for the day, if possible. Otherwise:



#### Use a crate.

Doors are left open, unfamiliar people come and go, loud noises abound—enough to make even serene pooches run and hide. If she's crate trained, crate your dog with a favorite blanket in a quiet part of the house. Make sure her ID is up to date, just in case.



#### Limit stress.

Again, a crate or a quiet room can do wonders. Give your dog plenty of exercise that morning and preserve your meal-time and potty break routine as best you can. For very sensitive dogs, consider a calming herbal remedy, or consult your vet about mild sedatives.

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I am Jean Kolor, owner and trainer of First Friend Canine Consulting. I am a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner as well as a licensed Family Paws Parent Educator. I offer private in home training where I train your dog for you or coach you in how to train your dog. I offer group training classes for puppies, adolescents and adult dogs. I also work with expecting and new families to help them through the unique challenges presented by relationships between baby and dog and toddler and dog.

**Contact me today for more information on how I can help you reach your goals with your dog in a positive, respectful way.**