PET PROJECT QUARTERLY

YOUR NEWS FROM **MARY'S PET PROJECT**

Your source for entertaining, informative, and educational pet articles.
Help yourself to a copy to read at home or share with another pet parent.

Highlights

* Over 400 local families have trusted the care of their pets to Mary's Pet Project.

* We have over 20 years experience providing in-home services to hundreds of animals... dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, fish, chickens, horses, snakes, turtles, tortoises, geckos, bearded dragons, tarantulas, hamsters, guinea pigs, skinks, pigs, and llamas.

* Our company is licensed, bonded, and insured

* We are a member of Pet Sitters International

* We have a 5 star rating on Yelp

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"The only creatures evolved enough to convey pure love are dogs and infants."
- Johnny Depp

LIVING WITH DOGS

A Tired Dog is a Good Dog

Exercise, we all know, is fundamental to good health. For dogs and humans alike, slothful ways lead to, at best, diminished well-being and poor muscle tone, at worst obesity, heart ailments, and joint problems. In dogs a couch potato existence can also prompt behavior problems. Sometimes just quirks, sometimes full-on neuroses similar to those seen in caged dogs.

Almost all dogs were bred with a working purpose in mind. The seemingly sedate Basset Hound? Bred for rabbit hunting. The Corgi? A herder. It makes sense, then, that all dogs need to run their engine, whatever its size, frequently and vigorously to function well. (And contrary to popular belief, dogs rarely self-exercise if left alone outside. They stalk birds, bark at strangers, and lie around in the shade.)

Exercise earns you a happier, better-behaved dog. Tired dogs bark less, chew less, sleep more, and rest easier when left home alone. And exercise has profound effects on a dog's personality. The same dog can either tear through the trash and disembowel the couch cushions or snooze peacefully, depending on the quality of the workouts he gets.

So, must you take up marathon running if you have a Border Collie or a terrier mix? Of course not. But a stroll around the block is not enough. Train your dog to fetch or play Frisbee. Sign up for a dog sport or activity like tracking, flyball, or agility. Let your dog play with other dogs regularly. And if life is too busy, consider hiring a dog walker, or, if your dog enjoys the company of other dogs, send him to doggie day care.

Knowing you've upheld your end of the bargain as a loving guardian, that's healthy, too.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Origin Of These Doggie Phrases

Man's best friend. There are few certainties in language history, but it's thought that this phrase originated in the Court of Appeals in Missouri in 1870. A neighbor had (possibly accidentally) shot Mr. Burden's dog. His lawyer made a long and emotional plea for damages that became known in the press as the "man's best friend" argument.

Dog days of summer. Used to describe the hottest, most humid days of summer, "dog days" hail all the way back to ancient Rome (inspired by the Greeks, who were inspired by the Babylonians). The name refers to the days, roughly early July through mid-August, when the Dog Star, Sirius, appeared in the form of the Morning Star blazing in the sky just before dawn.

A WORLD OF DOGS

On Breed Rescue

Breed rescue plays an important role in solving the problem of global dog overpopulation—an estimated 600 million dogs are strays. How does rescue work? When a purebred dog arrives at a shelter, a rescue coordinator or volunteer photographs the dog and notifies the appropriate rescue organization. Donated funds pay for the dog's transport, foster stay, and any medical needs. Thanks to technology and the internet, breed rescue can be operated across great distances, providing second chances for many more dogs than previously. Breed-specific rescue allows people to find any type of dog they have their hearts set on, and the foster-home model gives the dog a better chance of being matched with the right home. The foster person (or family) knows both the traits of the breed and the individual dogs.

Hundreds (in some countries thousands) of people volunteer their money, time, and homes to breed rescue. Some do it by themselves, others are part of not-for-profit organizations or kennel clubs. Often, they are breed fanciers who learn about the rescue work from friends or local shelters—and then follow their hearts. The dogs, by contrast, come from much less fortunate circumstances. Many come from puppy mills and commercial breeders for whom dogs are products to be marketed and sold. Others come from people who bought a puppy on impulse and then changed their minds, perhaps because of the work involved in raising a puppy or because of illness, behavior problems, etc.

There's both good and bad news in the story of breed rescue. On the good side, the internet has revolutionized the work. Websites like Petfinder.com and individual breed rescue sites allow shelters and rescue groups to reach potential adopters anywhere in the country. And social networking tools like Facebook and Twitter are great for finding foster parents, raising funds, and spreading the word about dogs available for adoption. On the bad side, overpopulation continues to be a huge problem, as does the attitude that dogs are disposable accessories. We can all help to fight those issues by advocating for adoption, responsible breeding, and anti-puppy mill legislation.

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* Mary's Pet Project was started by a former school teacher over 6 years ago
* We received the Modesto Best Business Award in 2015 and 2016
* We were the recipient of the Small Business Excellence Award in 2017

* Our company's motto and goal is... "Pampered Pets and Peace of Mind"

DOGS IN ACTION

Search & Rescue (SAR)

Given that dogs have up to 300 million scent receptors (compared to our 5 million), keen night vision, and super-sensitive hearing, nobody can be surprised that dogs excel at search & rescue work. Experts estimate that a single dog-and-handler team can be as effective in locating missing persons as 20 to 30 people. SAR dogs, long an indispensable part of the law enforcement and emergency services teams that investigate crime scenes, have also become a fixture at disaster sites. We see them with their noses in the rubble, looking for survivors after earthquakes, floods, explosions, tsunamis, mudslides, train or plane wrecks, even avalanches.

What makes a great search & rescue dog? Any breed will do, though requirements such as a first-rate nose, strong prey or play drive, stamina, and high trainability place retrievers, shepherds, and collies at the top of the selection pile. Important character traits are friendliness, an even disposition, intelligence, courage, and finally that certain something which, in a human, might be called grit. In SAR work, twelve-hour shifts in cumbersome terrain surrounded by death and devastation aren't unusual.

Think volunteer SAR work might be for you? Visit the American Rescue Dog Association at ardainc.org

HEALTHY DOG

Rabies 101

Rabies is a fatal infection that is contagious to all warm-blooded animals, including people. It's caused by a virus that affects the nervous system, producing symptoms such as fever, seizures, paralysis, slack jaw, inability to swallow, excessive salivation (hence the trademark foaming at the mouth), lack of coordination, unusual aggression or shyness, and other awful things. Rabies is still active throughout North America, making vaccination a must for dogs, as well as required by law in many areas.

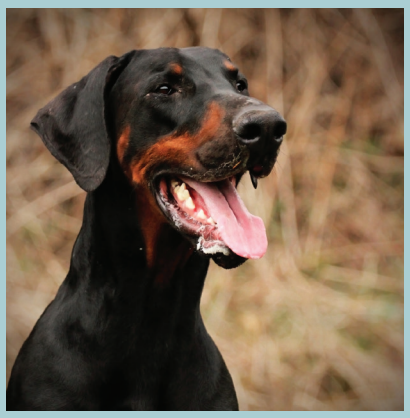
Dogs (and other pets or domestic animals—cats, horses, cattle, etc.) are most often exposed through contact with wild animals. Bats, foxes, mongooses, skunks, raccoons, and coyotes are the most common forms of wildlife infected with rabies. In rare cases, vaccinated animals can become infected, so if your dog has been in a fight with a wild, warm-blooded animal of any species (cold-blooded animals cannot contract rabies), take him to the vet for preventive care right away.

DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Doberman Pincher

Doberman Pinchers, affectionately known as Dobies, hail from Germany and were originally bred to be guard dogs. For that reason, Dobies are strong and resilient, fast runners, and hardwired to be alert. When well trained and socialized, Dobies are also affectionate family dogs and devoted companions. They have distinguished themselves alongside soldiers at war—a Dobie named Kurt saved the lives of 250 U.S. Marines during World War II. Kurt is memorialized at the National War Dog Cemetery at Naval Base Guam. In modern times, Dobies are often chosen for police and rescue work. With their stately and powerful presence, Dobies also make popular movie stars. The movie Resident Evil features a zombie Dobie called Cerberus; *K-911* stars James Belushi and a Dobie as Zeus the police dog; and the Disney movies *UP* and *Zootopia* both have (animated) Dobies on the payroll.

For a Dobie to snuggle up with, look for a rescue organization near you.



OUR SERVICES

We offer a variety of services and can customize a plan to fit the needs of you and your pets while maintaining normal routines. We service all kinds of animals in Modesto, Riverbank, and Salida.

* Pet Sitting Visits
  - Fresh food and water
  - Give medication
  - Brush or comb
  - Garbage cans in/out
  - Potty break or clean litter box
  - Play or go for a walk
  - Water indoor plants
  - Bring in mail and newspaper
  - Alternate lights & window coverings

* Dog Walking
  - Keep your dog(s) happy and healthy
  - No walking in a pack; only the dog(s) from your home

* Overnight Pet Sitting
  - Lots of extra love and attention
  - No lonely pets or empty house overnight

* Pet Transportation
  - To or from vet or groomer appointments
  - Visit to the dog park or doggy daycare

And for those with no pets, we also offer...

* House Sitting Visits

* Overnight House Sitting

TIPS & TOOLS

People-Foods to Avoid

Most people know chocolate can be dangerous, even fatal, to dogs. Many have heard the same of grapes and raisins, and it's common sense that alcohol isn't canine fare. Other people-foods never to share with your dog include:

In the greenery department: Avocado, onions, garlic, chives (plus grapes and raisins).

Drinks and dairy: Cacao, coffee, tea, milk, milk-based foods (plus alcohol).

Sweets: Candy or anything containing Xylitol (plus chocolate).

Some nuts: Walnuts and macadamias.

Miscellaneous: Fish or poultry bones, yeast dough, salty foods like potato chips.

Common signs of poisoning include vomiting and diarrhea, tremors and seizures, drooling, problems breathing, and losing consciousness. If your dog ingests something potentially harmful, take her to the vet immediately, along with a sample of the product.

MARY'S PET PROJECT

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FOR PAMPERED PETS & PEACE OF MIND

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