



THE RDOC DOG GUARDIAN NEWSLETTER

KIDS EDITION – NOVEMBER 2019

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Hi everybody

Welcome to the November edition of the Kids Dog Guardian newsletter. For those of you who are new members, let us introduce ourselves. We are the Dog Guardian newsletter co-editors' dogs - Tyler, Julie's pup, and Morgan, Jill's pup. We decided the Kids newsletter needed articles written by us. We want to give you guys our perspective of being responsible around us.

We Are Special *by Tyler*



This month I would like to tell you about **Miniature Schnauzers**. Beckie has Miniature Schnauzer pups, which would make them my “niece” and “nephew” in a people relationship. Woofie! Woof! 🐶

According to [Wikipedia](#), Miniature Schnauzers come from Germany. They weigh between 4.5 kg and 8.2 kg (10 - 18 lbs), their height is between 28 cm and 36 cm (11”- 14”), and they can live about 12 to 14 years.

Petunia (photo from Christine Larose)

I learned a lot about these dogs when I read the article [“Miniature Schnauzers: What's Good About 'Em, What's Bad About 'Em”](#) by Michele Welton. Michele explains that these pups are hard to describe because each pup can be so different. Some are serious, others are silly. Some are shy, others are outgoing. As for temperament, some are hyper and stubborn, while others are calm and easy going. However, she found that all these pups love their walks, need lots of exercise, and want to be included in all family activities. They make great watchdogs. They are usually good with other pets, but may chase your cat. Schnauzers love to learn, and it is a good idea to enrol them in obedience classes so they will learn what’s expected of them. They make great travelling companions.



Very Useful Things To Learn *by Morgan*

In our July newsletter we started a new section called “Very Useful Things To Learn”. We are going to tell you about things we learned that make us safe, well behaved, and (best of all) earn us lots of treats. Woofie! Woof! They are easy skills to teach us. In the last 4 months we covered “sit”, “come”, “learning your name”, and “leave it”. This month we are going to talk about the “focus” command.



It’s important to learn to focus if you want to learn new things like sit, down, come, fun tricks, etc. I guess we should have talked about focusing in July when we started this new section. Oh well, sometimes our doggie brains miss things. Woofie! Woof! 🐶

It’s very hard to learn anything when you don’t know how to focus. The article [“How to Teach Your Dog to Focus”](#) explains focusing as maintaining eye contact with your person. When Julie tells Tyler to focus, he knows to look at her and ignore everything else around him. That means ignoring other dogs, people, noises, etc. It’s very hard to do. The article describes 3 ways to teach your dog how to focus. Ask an adult to help you read the article and decide which method you guys will use to teach your pup to focus.

Border Collies are Focus Superstars!



Dogs' Den Storybook *by Tyler*

Over the last year we shared with you all our thoughts about having fun and being safe around us. Now it's your turn. Ask us questions about things you want to know about dogs. Email your questions to morejulie@hotmail.com and we will try to answer them.

*Here is this month's question from Mary:
"What do you do about little kids
who shriek and run away from your dog?"*

A very good question, Mary. When this happens on our walks, Julie tells the kids that what they are doing is dangerous, plus they hurt my doggie feelings. After all, how would they like it if somebody took a look at them, shrieked and ran away. Not very nice. She asks them to please not do that. If they don't want to meet us, just politely walk in the opposite direction. Please don't run. A dog's natural instinct is to chase anything that runs. After our little conversation, we continue our walk.

Some of us dogs are good at ignoring loud noises and running kids. That's because our owners taught us to focus. Now you know why we chose to teach the "focus" command in the "Very Useful Things To Learn" section in this newsletter. Smart, aren't we? Woofie! Woof! 

It's hard to teach kids about dog safety when you just meet them for a few minutes. Parents can download the free poster below from [Dr. Sophia Yin's website](#) to help them teach their children.

How to Greet a Dog (and What to Avoid)

Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

Human to Human INCORRECT	Human to Dog INCORRECT	Human to Dog CORRECT
 <p>Avoid reaching into their safety zone.</p>	 <p>Avoid reaching in or towards the dog's car.</p>	 <p>Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.</p>
 <p>Avoid rushing up.</p>	 <p>Avoid rushing up.</p>	 <p>Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk).</p>
 <p>Avoid interactions without asking.</p>	 <p>Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.</p>	 <p>Ask if you can interact first.</p>
 <p>Avoid staring at people. This is scary.</p>	 <p>Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.</p>	 <p>Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision.</p>
 <p>Avoid looming over.</p>	 <p>Avoid leaning over or towards dogs even when you change position to squat or get up.</p>	 <p>Stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.</p>
 <p>Avoid reaching into personal space.</p>	 <p>Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff.</p>	 <p>Let the dog approach at his own rate.</p>
 <p>Avoid close interaction if the person is afraid of you.</p>	 <p>Avoid petting if the dog looks nervous or tense. Just admire him instead.</p>	 <p>It's OK to pet the dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you, and solicits your attention by rubbing against you.</p>
 <p>Avoid touching inappropriately.</p>	 <p>Avoid hugging, kissing, and patting roughly. This is too familiar and disliked by many dogs.</p>	 <p>Pet gently.</p>

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For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website.

Questions@cattledogpublishing.com

(530) 757-2383



CATTLED OG PUBLISHING
drsophiayin.com
 A VETERINARY CORPORATION



P.O. Box 4516, Davis, CA 95617

Support@lowstresshandling.com

Colouring Contest *by Morgan*

The puppy in the picture is trying to tell us, "Please don't hug a dog you don't know." You wouldn't like it if a stranger came up to you and gave you a big hug. Your parents would be upset too. The authors of ["The Fido, Friend or Foe?" Activity booklet](#) (P.17) caution "Some dogs do not like to be hugged. If you hug a dog and put your face close to his, he may bite your face or neck."

Colour the picture of the boy and dog below. Scan or take a photo of it, and send it to us at morejulie@hotmail.com with your email address.



Never hug a dog.

“What’s That Pup?” Game *by Morgan and Tyler*

Can you match up the dog breeds with the pictures? These pups are so cute, and they are easy to mix up. To help you, we put a clue beside each name. Good luck. You can check your answers on the last page. But no peeking. Woofie! Woof! 🐶

Australian Shepherd (clue – look in the [September newsletter](#))

Labrador Retriever (clue – look in the [April newsletter](#))

Poodle (clue – look in the [May 2019 newsletter](#))

Miniature Schnauzer (clue – look in **this** newsletter)

Golden Retriever (clue – look in the [June newsletter](#))

Beagle (clue – look in the [October newsletter](#))

You can also find links to the newsletters on this page:

http://www.responsible-dog-owners.ca/newsletter-kids_version.html

#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



(RDOC would like to thank Lesley McKay, Christine Larose, Jill Sandwell, and Julie More for contributing to the pup picture gallery for this game.)

Thank You

A big thank you goes to our committee for proofreading this newsletter. We really appreciate your help. You are the greatest. A special thank you goes to Kit Watson for the final proofreading of the newsletter.

Tyler and Morgan



Answers to the What's That Pup? Game

Picture #5: Australian Shepherd

Picture #3: Labrador Retriever

Picture #4: Poodle

Picture #1: Miniature Schnauzer

Picture #6: Golden Retriever

Picture #2: Beagle

