



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



We should emulate our dogs' loving, kind and compassionate traits!

They do not care what color, size or breed another dog is. It is common-sense-confusing why all humans don't act this way. All puppies and human babies want to be loved, fed, treated with kindness, supported and cared for as they grow.

When you love a puppy it doesn't matter that the little mutt-mix is long/short furred, or its soft coat is polka dotted, striped, solid or tri-colored. Similarly, why would one care if a child is black, white, striped or has pink polka dots? World over, the little ones want to be loved and give love. Neither children or dogs care what color their parents are or what religion they, their neighbors, or others in far off countries hold.

Place a passel of multi-sized puppies in a pen. Watch them innocently bounce around looking for others to play with. Similarly, when our children arrive at playgrounds they, too, have one purpose in mind; to find other children who want to have fun! They are blind to color, social status, gender, religion, who is able bodied, or not, unlike some of their parents. If a child joins them in play or chase, then that child is instantly their "best friend". Everyone should follow their lead and "play nice".

Take time and watch puppies and kid-

dies play. The little ones' enthusiasm and joy makes hearts smile and open up to new paws-ibilities. Have you asked, "Why does someone judge others? Did a parent instill cruel beliefs in them?" Be like the black short haired Doberman and fluffy white German Shepherd joyfully chasing each other, or like the Great Dane snuggling down for a nap with his best Shih Tzu friend. They are feeling carefree, happy, loved and accepted for who they are. Something that every human enjoys.

Years ago, my high school teachers introduced a brilliant plan to help end prejudice against our "cold war" enemies. The staff knew that exposing us to "the enemy" would teach us, the next generation, to view politics and the media with a broader canvas. Shortly after, teenage Russian exchange students arrived into our school because as a wise teacher said, "You can't hate close up."

At first those teens, and us, were nervous. Then the magic began. We could not speak the same language, but just like a pack of puppies playing together, we broke the cold barrier. We experienced, first hand, that they are like us. What was to hate about happy basketball players your age with a sense of humor who were kind to others?

When the Russian students returned to their families and classmates they shared how the "enemy" (us) had treated them. This experience educated both of our cultures how wonderful families in other countries are and how much we truly have in common. Everyone was left with wonderful memories of respecting, playing and learning together.

Then several of our students went into "enemy territory" (Russia) and had the same enlightening experience. Both sides learned that the angry barking dog that the media paw-trayed of the "other" country was really a pussy cat who wanted nothing better than to play and have their chins scratched like them. This experience broke the stereotype of the enemy to both country's teachers and students, changing the entire the high schools' pup-ulation purr-adime of blindly hating. Our teachers were amazing!

The day my daughter's rescue dog, Buddy, was lead by leash into his new home I watched as he spotted the first of her four cats. He lunged for the helpless friendly feline like a crocodile with an open mouth, snapping it loudly shut like the Nestle's chocolate milk commercial's dog trying to bite the cat's head off. Apparently, time is a wonderful healer because less than a month later, an email photo arrived with Buddy peacefully sleeping with two cats in his bed! Fear, anger, aggression was lifted with co-habitation just like our teachers visualized.

Watch your pet, learn some of their best qualities and be like the man that declared, "I try to be the person that my dog sees in me." Life is short, run through it with a loving heart, not one filled with hate and fear like a dog tied to a short leash restricting its moves, barking at anything that walks by it.

Now go out and chase that ball!

"The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion."

- Thomas Paine (U.S. Founding Father)

TIPS

Take your dog to the dog park and find a new best friend for them and you!

Take a DNA test, and be amazed what kind of mutt mix you are! The knowledge will dissolve any prejudice. (Today, there are DNA tests available for dogs!)

My grandchildren love their rescued Dalmatian Mexican mutt mix dog, Buddy, and Buddy loves his American mutt mix children who are American, Cambodian, Canadian, East Indian, English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Samoan and Scandinavian heritage. Yes, all in all, they are a perfect mix!

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Caring for Children's Teeth

Educating your children about good oral care will promote a healthy mouth as they age. Get your child to learn good habits and teach them how to properly brush and floss. This could help them avoid costly dentist bills in the future.

The American Dental Association recommends a first visit to the dentist as soon as the first tooth comes in and no later than 1 year old. This early exam can give your dentist an opportunity to identify tooth decay and discuss bad habits that may promote decay.

Baby Teeth

Your child's first set of teeth are nearly completely formed at birth. According to the ADA, your child's teeth will typically begin showing around the six-month mark. Taking great care of these baby teeth is very important in the health of permanent teeth. Properly maintained baby teeth can help permanent teeth grow in straight.

Baby teeth should be cleaned every day. They should be wiped down with a wet washcloth as they begin to show. Once the teeth become bigger and stronger, you will be able to use a child's toothbrush.

Bad Habits

You can help your baby avoid learning bad habits by discouraging thumb sucking, sleeping with a bottle or excessive use of a pacifier. All of these habits can lead to serious dental trouble if performed after permanent teeth have set in.

Constant sucking can cause problems with the growth of your child's mouth and the alignment of his teeth. It's best to break these habits long before his permanent teeth grow in and avoid these unnecessary risks.

Toothpaste and Floss

Once your child is over 3 years old, the ADA recommends the regular use of children's fluoride toothpaste. Fluoride is an active cavity fighter and can strengthen developing tooth enamel.

You should apply no more than a pea-sized drop of toothpaste to your child's toothbrush. Your child should brush their teeth no less than twice a day for two minutes each time.

The ADA also recommends flossing as soon as your child's teeth are touching. When looking for tooth-care products for your child, look for the ADA Seal of Acceptance stamped on the package



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