



# THE RIGHT STEPS “DOGGY DIGEST”

## Spring Safety Tips to help keep your Dog safe!

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**Spring has officially arrived!** What does that mean for us doggy lovers you may ask? Days with more daylight and prettier weather to get out with our dogs for fun, fun, and more fun!

While getting out and having fun and exercise with our dog is important, doing it safely is just as important....

Stop and think first, before running off to play with your doggy best friend. It is time to think of doggy dangers that can harm or kill our dogs....

***You may ask dangers? What dangers?!?!***

**To name a few:** Sacramento Hot Weather (cars & garages can heat up quickly



Time to think of safety first, before heading out to enjoy the sun!

and become deadly), Fox Tails (dangerous stickers with sharp barbs), Burrs and Stickers (get tangled in paws and fur), Ticks (carry disease), Rattlesnakes (venomous), Black Widows (poisonous), Bee Stings, Snail Bait, Rat Poison, Fertilizer, Toxic Plants, Deep Water, Fast Moving River Water, Ocean Waves with undertow currents, Wildlife

(skunks, opossums, raccoons, coyotes, eagles, & mountain lions), to name a few.

**Equally Important is securing your dogs (& cats) safely in your vehicle** whether a trip around town or on a long vacation trip. Like small children it is equally important to secure them safely for both your and their safety! Do not leave loose, as is very dangerous, in an accident.

**Examples:** A Secured Crate (for dogs or cats), a Doggy Harness Seat Belt made for dogs, a vehicle doggy barrier made for SUVs, to name a few.

**Water Safety:** Use a Doggy Life Vest.

***“Keep it safe & have fun”!***

**Special points of interest:**

- Tired Dog is a Happy Dog
- Pet Insurance
- Where to find Invaluable Behavior & Training Information
- The Right Steps New Client Coupon

### **Shelters & Rescues Desperately Need Your Help**

As spring arrives so does litters of excess puppies, kittens, and bunnies! Along with these new additions are the adult dogs, cats, dogs, bunnies, and horses losing their home in a severely depressed economy. Although you may not be in a position to adopt a new animal, there

are other ways you can help. Find a Reputable Non-Profit Animal Rescue Group, Shelter, or even the Folsom Zoo in your area and donate. **Donation Examples:** Your time/offer to volunteer, become a foster, monetary

donations, miscellaneous pet supplies, crates, blankets, towels, dry & canned food, toys, wee pads, and cat litter to name a few. Do you know someone looking for a new best friend? Bring up the option of adopting an animal in need of a new home.

**Keeping dogs physically & mentally stimulated is very important!**

**“As they say a tired dog makes for a happy home”.**

Are you looking for something fun to do with your dog?

Keeping dogs physically & mentally stimulated is very important.... “As they say a tired dog makes for a happy home”.

Extra benefits of dog sports? Keeps us the humans exercising as well, challenged, and gives us the opportunity to bond with our dog.

There are a wide range of Dog Sports to choose from. Picking the right sport for you and your dog is the key.

## Dog Sports

### Examples of Dog Sports:

Agility, Rally, Competitive Obedience, Confirmation, Tracking, Scenting, Herding, Free Style Dancing, Dock Diving, Frisbee, Lure Coursing, Earth Dog, Hiking, Carting, Weight Pulling, Trick Training, and much, much more!

Before starting any Dog Sport it very important to check with your Veterinarian if your dog is physically sound and fit enough to safely start training in the sport you want to try. Also, you want to make sure you are physically ready if you choose an active sport like

Agility or Tracking.

Pick a sport that compliments your dog’s breed and temperament.

Work with a knowledgeable Professional Trainer you and your dog are compatible with.



Agility is a great sport for active dogs & active owners!

## Choosing Quality Pet Food & Treats

Choosing a quality pet food & treats for dogs and cats can be very confusing as the stores are full of options, options, and more options!

When shopping remember cheaper is not always better.

Picking a quality food or treats can enhance the health of your pet, produce less waste for you to clean up,

feed less per meal, and help promote a healthy hair coat.

Poor quality foods can escalate aggression issues (just like sugar in children can lead to hyperactivity and cranky temperaments).

Look for whole food sources as the first ingredient (example: Fish, Salmon, Chicken, Beef, Lamb, or Tur-

key) versus “Meal”, “By-Products”, or “Animal Digest”. Avoid large quantities of Corn. Avoid non identifiable sources (example: animal fat vs. chicken fat).

Look for desirable vitamins & preservatives. Learn to read pet food labels.

<http://www.therightsteps.com/wilde/nutrition.pdf>

**Consider shopping Pet Insurance to protect your pet & budget .**

**Call [Trupanion](http://www.trupanion.com) for a quote: 1-800-569-7913 “Let them know Cindy C. Smith with The Right Steps referred you”!**

## Importance of Annual Veterinarian Exams & Care

In today’s economy it is easy to begin to want to skip things that may seem to save us a little money now (like annual exams by your Veterinarian).... That said health care for your pet is not the place to skip.

Annual Exams allow your Veterinarian a chance to look for potential health issues. Issues that if caught early can actually save you money over

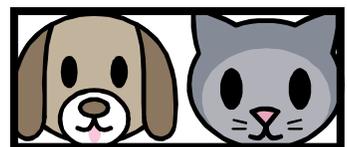
time and potential heartache.

Keeping up on your pet’s annual check ups, vaccines, monthly heartworm medicine, flea & tick control are very important.

Between visits watch for any change in your pet’s behavior, eating or drinking habits, stool, peeing, energy level, or lameness. If you have any concerns please contact your

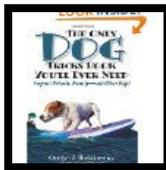
Veterinarian to discuss how you should proceed.

It is important you pick a Veterinarian you feel comfortable & confident with.



Annual Exams can catch potential health issues early!

## Recommended Reading



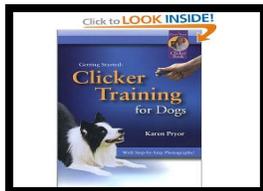
Are you interested in Trick Training with your dog?

A great little book and an easy read is: **The Only Dog Tricks Book You'll Ever Need** by **Gerylyn J. Bielakiewicz**.

This is a book I hand out to students when I teach my Trick Training Classes.

It uses Positive Training Methods and has great ideas. Have you given Clicker Training some thought?

Do you know how to start? What you will need?



**Karen Pryor** is a great source for how to get started in Clicker Training. Karen Pryor has a great website with helpful training tips and articles, as well as a product store to buy your supplies.

<http://www.clickertraining.com/>

Playing with your dog is important for it's physical and mental well being. Playing also offers us quality bonding

time with our best friend. It is important we play constructively with our dogs, versus rough-housing and accidentally teaching inappropriate or potentially dangerous behaviors. 2 great books to read are: **"Play Together, Stay Together - Happy and Healthy Play Between People and Dogs** by Karen B. London Ph.D. & Patricia B. McConnell Ph.D." & **"Play With Your Dog** by Pat Miller".



## Are You Thinking or Adding a Puppy or Dog to Your Family?

Have you been thinking of adding a new puppy or dog to your family? Congratulations a very exciting adventure is about to begin!

If you take the time to do your homework first, having a new best friend can be a very rewarding experience and bring joy for many years to come.

However, if you do not, it

can become a very frustrating situation quickly and have sad consequences for the chosen puppy or dog.

Homework? Yes! It is paramount you sit down and give serious thought about what age range (Puppy? Adolescent? Adult? or Senior?), breed, size, energy level, level of prey drive, and temperament which best fits your family and lifestyle. Are you

an active person or a couch potato? Do you have children and if so, how old? Do you have other animals to consider: dogs, small pets, cats, horses, chickens? How much time will you to spend with your dog? Is your home and yard ready and safe? Are you financially ready?

**"Remember think with your head first, then follow your heart"**.

### Training Tips

Are you having House Training difficulties with your puppy or dog?

House Training issues can be very frustrating and overwhelming while you are experiencing them. Do not despair, there is hope!

The first priority is to have patience and be willing to take the time to work on modifying the behavior into

the behavior you want.

You need to decide where you want your puppy or dog to go potty now and in the future (Outside? Pee Pads? Litter Box?).

Utilize tools which can help set you and your puppy or dog up for success: crates, exercise pens, leashes, tethers, kitchen timer, black light, & urine cleaner, to name a

few.

Management is the key.

Pay attention when they are loose 100% of the time, if you cannot watch, then manage them. "Important to set them up for success". Lots of opportunities to go potty where you want them to go & reward versus practicing in undesirable locations.

Seek professional help early.

Looking for invaluable information on Behavior & Training for Puppies & Dogs? Visit our website: <http://www.therightsteps.com/quicktips.htm>

### New Client Offer:

**Coupon Code:**

**TRSNL2QC**

**\$10.00 off 1 Group**

**Class 'or' \$15 off 1**

**Private Lesson.**

**"Call Today!"**

**Expires: 06/30/10**

**Cannot be combined with any other discount specials or coupons. 1 per client. Not redeemable for cash. Limited time offer.**

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 1717, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

**Located At:**

6247 Main Avenue, Orangevale, CA 95662

**Phone:** 916-966-6883

**Website:** [www.therightsteps.com](http://www.therightsteps.com)

**E-mail:** [therightsteps@comcast.net](mailto:therightsteps@comcast.net)



**The Right Steps Training** covers Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado Counties. Our Inside Training Facility is located in Orangevale, CA.

We specialize in Puppies, Puppies, & More Puppies. We also offer training for Adolescent and Adult Dogs of all ages! The Right Steps offers a wide variety of both Group Classes & Private Lessons.

We offer our Clients 20+ years of experience training dogs, horses, and cats. The Right Steps uses the most up to date, positive and humane training and behavior modification methods.

Our goal is to use our knowledge and experience to educate our Clients, in turn enriching their relationship and bond with their doggy best friend long into the future.

The Right Steps has been an established business, with a great reputation, in the Orangevale area for over 10 years!

We are a Professional Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers., have a Sacramento Business License, a CA Seller's Permit, and our Business is Insured.

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.therightsteps.com](http://www.therightsteps.com)**



"Alex" a 13 month old Black & White Border Collie would love a home!

**"Up For Adoption: Wanted Loving Homes"**

**Alex** a Black & White Border Collie is only 13 months old and EAGER to learn. Loves toys, treats, other dogs, car rides, children, men, women....there isn't anything this boy doesn't like. Housebroken, crate trained, sleeps quiet through the night and always a happy dog. Very gentle and calm in the house (a real cuddle bug), eager to play or work when outside. Very athletic so he'd be FANTASTIC and VERY HAPPY to do agility, Frisbee or herding. Wants to be with his family so he wants to be an inside dog. **For Alex please contact via website**

**www.bcrescuenc.org** or **please e-mail:** **[bc saver@aol.com](mailto:bc saver@aol.com)** if you would like to adopt the best friend you could ever ask for.

**&**

**Araceli** a Bi Color Ragdoll is fostered in a home with two very active young boys who just adore her. She is a wonderful family cat and an amazing (indoor) house kitty. She just adores her family. She is VERY social and has to be involved in all the household affairs. She is very fun, very talkative, and extremely sweet. And did we say incredibly

cute? She will follow you around the house, chat with you about her day and ask you over and over to pet her. She is just a wonderful companion kitty. Araceli needs to be an only cat where she doesn't have to share her affection. She would do well with a family or retired couple who have plenty of love to give her. Araceli is litter box perfect, and yes, she is perfect.

**For Araceli Please email:** **[Info@purebredplus.org](mailto:Info@purebredplus.org)** or call **Cyndi at (707) 301-RESQ**. Visit our **website at:** **[www.purebredplus.org](http://www.purebredplus.org)**



"Araceli" a 10-12 month old Bi Color Ragdoll would love a home!