

The Poop Scoop

Free Newsletter

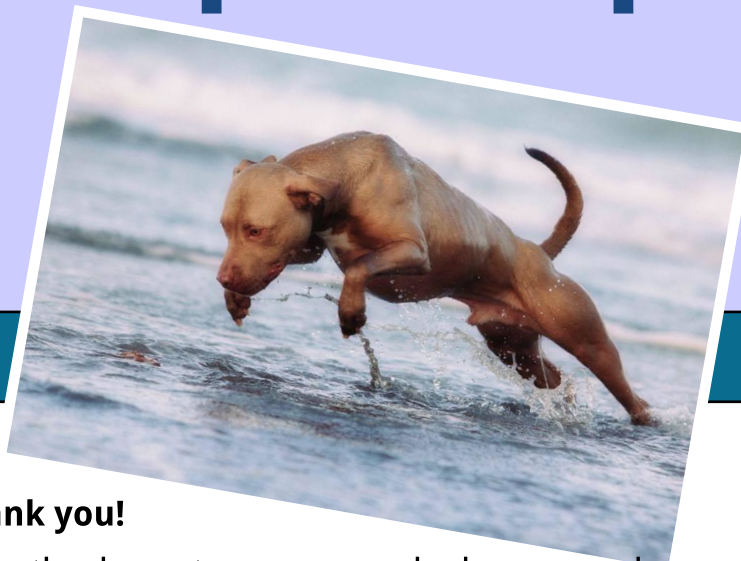
May / June 2016

The Scoop by Abbey van der Plas

Why do I always feel so defensive whenever there is a dog attack in NZ? "Pitbull" attack gets thrown around in the media and it makes all of us responsible owners cringe. The stares and whispers have lasted longer while walking lately, the head shaking and finger pointing has been more prominent, and the hate on social media has gotten completely out of control. WHY? Because some idiot decided to get a dog, confine it to his yard, not socialise it with the outside world, not desex it, not register or microchip it, and then expect this dog to react appropriately when put in a situation it has never learned to cope with. The fact is when you get a dog NO MATTER WHAT BREED it is your responsibility to train and socialise this dog. It is your responsibility to keep your dog, and visitors to your home safe. Pitbulls are not born dangerous I can guarantee you that, but they do require strong, responsible and knowledgeable owners! Yes Pitbulls were used for dog fighting, I am not denying this, but this does not at all mean that they are blind killing machines. Jack Russells, Chihuahuas, Foxys and Dachshunds were also all bred to hunt and kill other animals, and they too make amazing pets – when socialised and trained correctly. All dogs are born good. I have seen dogs suffer years of abuse and neglect and still offer nothing but love.

The Pitbulls you see in the media, and the dogs you see roaming your streets are the minority of bull breed dogs. They are the less fortunate ones, the ones being bred from, neglected, left to roam, not given adequate care, training or socialisation. We are the majority. You don't see or hear of our wonderful family pets because they are kept safe within our homes and treated with the love and respect every dog deserves.

We need to have a serious look at our Animal Management systems and make sure we are doing everything we can to educate owners, educate children, enforce mandatory desexing and keep our dogs and children safe. I challenge anyone to meet my Pitbull and leave still thinking they are a horrible breed!



Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who has come along to our recent events, we have been flat out but having a blast along the way.

Our School Holiday Fun Day was a great success & it was fantastic to see how parents had taught their kids to interact not only with older dogs, but also with the puppies.

The teaching of children how to interact & understand a dog's body language from an early age is imperative for the safety of not only the child, but also the dog – we commend you parents, keep up the good work!

We have put some helpful, handy tips on how to teach children safe interaction with dogs. We ask you to share this newsletter around. The more adults who know how children should interact with dogs can only lead to a better, safer environment for our four and two legged children!



Weird dog fact:

In Roman times, mastiffs donned light armour and were sent after mounted knights!

Doggie Tails

How to help you – help your child!

Why Do Some Kids Have a Fear of Dogs? Kids are wildly different, just like dogs. Some rough-house, others read; some take off on adventures, and others fear new and challenging things and so have a lower threshold for feeling distress when they encounter something new or unexpected. It is definitely the unknown and unexpected that contributes to a fear of dogs. Maybe mum and dad have not talked to their child about dogs, or that child has had little exposure to one. Other times the reasons for a child's fear are clearer. A lot of parents teach their kids to avoid dogs.

Dogs Are Afraid of Kids, Too : Children are not alone in their fears; sometimes the problem is magnified because dogs can be afraid of children, too. Children can freak dogs out, they do all the things dogs think are impolite. They're right at eye level, so they stare. They scream and yell. They flail their arms. And at that age they move in a very stop-and-start erratic way. So how can you help fearful kids (and dogs) to meet in the middle? The pros offer these tips for taking the tension out of dog-child introductions and interactions.

1. First, understand your child's fear. Spiders, snakes, public speaking – most of us are a little unnerved by something, although our logic tells us a tiny bug or a short speech won't actually hurt us. Fear isn't rational, so rational talk isn't going to help you through your fear. That means the first step to helping your child overcome fear of dogs is to recognise and accept that that fear is there.

2. Then, watch what you say. Be sure you're not unintentionally creating (or reinforcing) a child's fear of dogs with the words you choose. I've heard people say well-intentioned but awful things to their kids. Things like, 'Pet that dog under his chin, or else he might bite you', or a parent will tell their child to ask a stranger 'Does your dog bite?' Words have great power to inform a child's view of dogs as dangerous, or as new friends to meet, so choose your words carefully.

3. Take puppy steps. There's no reason to rush your child into face-to-face doggy introductions. You don't need to force them to be around dogs right away. That may backfire and just increase your child's fear. Instead, gradually introduce your child to dogs, starting with picture books, TV, movies, then from a distance, perhaps in a park or sitting outside a pet supply store. Gradually increase the intensity of the exposure, but be sensitive to whether any one step is too much for your child. If it is, go back to the previous step. The biggest mistake I find people make is not going at the child's own pace. We need to let them set the pace, let them say when they're ready to go closer.

4. Meet an adult dog, not a puppy. When your child is ready

for that next step (getting closer) find a mellow, adult dog to start with, not a puppy. Like little kids, puppies are unpredictable, wiggly, excitable, and when they're very young, they still have the mouthiness going on and the last thing you want is for a puppy to run up and give your child a little nip. You can also look for a group that does doggy meet and greets, or reading programs where therapy dogs go into libraries or retirement homes. Situations like that where the child isn't immediately forced to interact are very helpful.

5. Learn a little doggyish. In these early interactions, you'll have lots of time to teach your child about canine communication. Dogs don't have a verbal language so they communicate with facial expressions and body postures. For example, look for that famous doggy smile, which is, mouth open, lips pulled back, tongue sort of lolling, no tension in the face. It looks similar to our smile and it's an invitation to interact and can be interpreted the same way as you would a smile in humans. To help your child learn these cues, look at a book of photos of dogs, and ask your child 'What's that dog feeling?' Then go to a park and do the same thing, look at dogs and talk about them.

6. Search out dressed-up dogs. As silly as it sounds, kids (and adults) are often far less fearful of canines in clothes, so be sure to point out dressed-up pooches to your child. I found that if I dress my dogs in bandanas, or put their walking vests on, it makes a huge difference for kids. And it works for adults too - the brighter the clothes the better. Something about the clothing just makes people more likely to approach.

7. Petting a pooch. Once your child is ready to take the plunge and touch a dog, it's a good idea to keep the pooch occupied and let your child pet the dog's body instead of the more-intimidating head. You don't want the dog looking at your child because the dog's face is what tends to be scary to kids.

8. Prepare for the sniff and lick. When a child is ready to let the dog interact parents need to understand that dogs check you out by sniffing you, so make sure your little one is prepared. Tell your child 'The dog is going to sniff you, and he might give you a kiss!' That quick smooch can be a dog's way of giving your child the thumbs up, or the canine way of getting to know you better.

9. Teach kids manners. Safe and happy interactions between kids and dogs have a lot to do with teaching kids gentleness and respect at a very young age. So be sure you teach your little one to never push, hit, sit on, or tease a dog, or pull on a dog's tail or ears.

Tips on Greeting Unknown Dogs:

Ask the pet's human if you can meet the dog. If they say no, don't press the issue — some dogs become aggressive with strangers and children.

If the pet's human says it's okay, greet the dog with your arm out in front of you and your hand in a fist, palm down, which will save your fingers if the dog decides to bite you.

Hold your fist low so the dog can smell it. If he turns away, leave it be. He's not interested. If he leans in or licks your hand, you've been given the green light, but proceed slowly.

Pet the dog gently, paying attention to his response. If he seems eager for more, give him a good back scratch. Keep your child away from the dog's face, just in case.

Teach your kid to say "Thank you" to the dog when she's done petting him - dogs appreciate politeness, too.

Always ask. Finally, the most important thing: Teach your child to *always* ask before approaching a dog they don't know.

One way to not help your child overcome a fear of dogs: Sometimes parents get a dog to help their children overcome a fear of dogs, but doing so is a bad idea. It's too much, too soon. The dog is everywhere. Even if you have a room where you keep the dog -which is not advised - the child doesn't feel safe in that room.

Instead, if you want a dog around the house, try dog-sitting a neighbour's pooch for a weekend. Just don't make big decisions and commitments for something that may not work.



If you would like to make a donation, there are a number of ways to do so:

Directly into our Trust account - Christchurch Bull Breed Rescue Trust – 38-9016-0659994-00

Directly into our vet account - Avonside Wainoni Vet Clinic - Ref - 11751 – 06 0829 0207978 00

One of our Give A Little pages - <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/bullbreedrescue>

Fill in the form below & send in a payment to us at 1 Barton Street, Woolston, Christchurch

As we are a registered charity, we are able to offer receipts for tax purposes, so please let us know if you require a receipt for payments made in any of the above ways

Name: _____ Address: _____ Email: _____

Payment made into an account: _____

Payment attached: Y / N

Receipt Required Y/N

Receipt: Emailed / Posted

All for a good paws

There are some amazing events coming up, so please come along to support us on the day, as these events help keep the dogs fed & doors open.

We are lucky to be supported by some great people & businesses in the community who give proceeds back to us. By showing these businesses your support, you are supporting us.

Dog Harness Special

All proceeds come to Christchurch Bull Breed Rescue

Size 1 - Girth 35-45cm \$35

Size 2 - Girth 40-60cm \$40

Size 3 - Girth 55-75cm \$45

Size 4 - Girth 70-100cm \$55

Size 5 - Girth 85-115cm \$65

Size 4 & 5 come with a flashlight

Pop down to the Rescue Centre for a fitting or email us your order & we can post it out - chchbullbreedrescue@hotmail.co.nz



Kids Sweatshirts - \$25.00

Sizes 4 - 10 available

Email chchbullbreedrescue@hotmail.co.nz for your order



DOG OF THE MONTH



Poor Leo is our longest stayer at the moment - he has been with us since we rescued him from the pound in September 2014!! He is around 2 years old and is a staffy x lab.

Leo desperately wants to find a family of his own! For some reason he has been continuously overlooked for adoption time and again, through absolutely no fault of his. He is a sweet natured boy who loves to be around people. He is good with other dogs his own size, not smaller dogs or cats. He is currently in foster care with young kids. Go and meet him - you will love him!

Leo is de-sexed, registered, micro-chipped and vaccinated. He is ready and waiting for his people to come find him and whisk him home! If you're interested in Leo, please complete our online adoption questionnaire:

<http://www.chchbullbreedrescue.org.nz/adopt/>



Keep up to date with our daily posts on our facebook page:
Bull Breed Rescue Fundraiser

All for a good paws

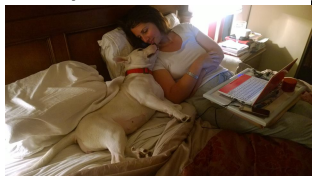
We asked one of our foster carer/adopters to write an article for us, as it is nice to get other people's perspective on why they adopted a bull breed. Thank you Rebekah, I hope everyone else enjoys reading this as much as we did!

You know the old saying 'Never say never'? I've had to learn that the hard way - but that is so often also the best way, the way that brings us the most joy.

I once said that I would 'never' adopt an adult dog again after a bad experience some years ago, but circumstance is good at making fools out of us, and a little over a year ago, I found myself dog-less. To put that in perspective, I'm thirty-seven and have always had dogs. Always. Can't remember not having one. My whole life, the longest I had been without a dog was about six weeks, so to be dog-less was a huge deal for me. I needed some time to grieve the loss of my two previous dogs (that's a story in itself), but over the summer I felt a bit lost without the sound of paws padding down the hallway in the morning or wet goofy noses shoving under my hand for pats while I sat on the couch.

I'd been watching the CBBR page for a while, and then this cutie popped up.

She reminded me of the dog I had grown up with, my husband loved her, and basically, I seriously needed a dog! It was a done deal. We named her Rocket, and she quickly became part of our family. That was the first part of my learning not to say 'never'.



The second part still makes me laugh.

I love bull breeds and I have for a long time. There's nothing like bully character, that mixture of clown and cojones that make them so damned irresistible. But, I had always said I wouldn't own a pit bull. Now, I'll admit, for a while, a long time ago, I bought into some of the negative stuff about them, but as I learned more I knew they weren't 'bad' dogs. But I still wasn't going to own one. 'Too much drama', I thought. So I figured I was on pretty safe ground offering to foster a pit bull pup when a whole bunch of them came into care and Abbey needed help. Well, life had better ideas for me! Enter Bambi - so named because I started calling her 'bambina' - Italian for 'little girl' (and 'cause, let's be honest, it's really cute). She came to me as a tiny, tiny little eight week old puppy.

I mean, TINY

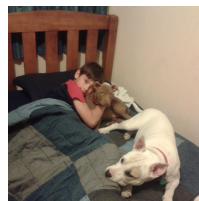
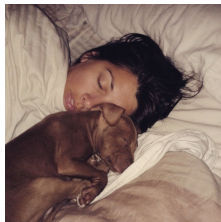
My kids immediately wanted to keep her. She was so little and cute and easy and loving. But I said 'No, she's just a foster'.

She bonded with Rocket quickly though.

I think it's because they're both weirdos.

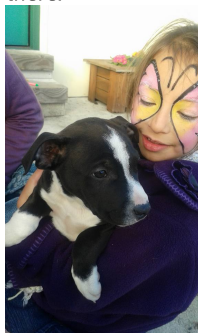
Bambi fit into our household really easily. My kids all fell in love with her.

And, ok, if I'm being honest, I fell in love with her pretty fast too.



I still stuck it out a few months, promised my husband that if someone wanted her, I'd give her back. I was even a good foster momma and brought her to the open day so she could meet heaps of people and find her forever home. She didn't. I don't even know if Abbey had any applications for her.

Aside from Bambi not finding another home, going to the open day kinda backfired, because we met this guy there.



He needed somewhere to stay for the weekend while his then-foster mum took care of some things. Well, he never left. We adopted him when we decided to keep Bambi, too. Captain, as he's now known, became the third musketeer.



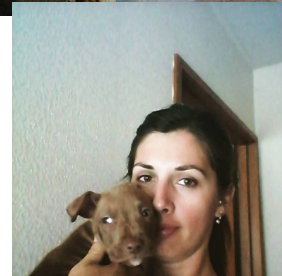
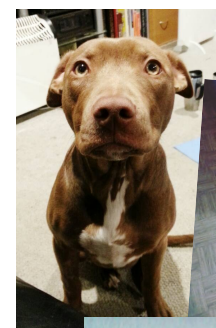
I love my dogs.

I love my pit bull.



Bambi is proof that in life, sometimes in order to get what you truly want, you have to let go. She reminds me that sometimes what we want comes to us when we aren't really looking, and in the unlikely package.

Thank you, Abbey. The three musketeers make me smile, every day (sometimes they make me yell, too, but that's not the point). Not only did you enrich my life with three of the dorkiest critters ever known to mankind, you helped me learn a powerful life lesson too. I don't say 'never' anymore.



In lots of ways though, it's Bambi who is the real story here. I love Rocket and Captain (well, Captain... haha, he's a challenge!) but Bambi is very, very special. To understand, you would have needed to meet the Rottweiler mix I raised as a teenager. She was amazing. One in a million. I've been looking for another dog like her for over a decade. And I found it in a pit bull.



PET CENTRAL
Where Pet Lovers Shop

