

# PET RULES

*To be posted VERY LOW on the refrigerator door - nose height.*

**Dear Dogs and Cats,**

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years —canine or feline attendance is not required.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough!

*To pacify you, my dear pets, I have posted the following message on our front door:*

**To All Non-Pet Owners Who Visit & Like to Complain About Our Pets:**

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why they call it "fur"niture.)
3. I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

**Remember: Dogs and cats are better than kids because they:**

1. Eat less
2. Don't ask for money all the time
3. Are easier to train
4. Normally come when called
5. Never ask to drive the car
6. Don't hang out with drug-using friends
7. Don't smoke or drink
8. Don't have to buy the latest fashions
9. Don't want to wear your clothes
10. Don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and . . .
11. If they get pregnant, you can sell their children.



**"Bella" (3 mos.), by Mitchell Hunter of GA**

# Feeding for Smarts

New research shows that increased fish fat in puppy food increases trainability

Dad always said that fish was brain food. I thought it was just his excuse to go fishing. Mom always made me take my cod liver oil. I thought it was her punishment for whatever misdeeds she figured I'd commit that day. It turns out both of them were on to something. research from Iams shows that ingesting a component of cold-water fish makes puppies smarter and more trainable - so much so that we should add it to our growing list of ways to build superdogs.



In trials testing memory and trainability, pups fed a diet that included a component found in cold-water fish had double the success rate of pups fed a regular diet.

The ingredient, also found in mothers' milk, is docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), a long-chain omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acid that makers of baby formula have also become aware of. Researchers at Iams have determined that dogs require about three times the amount of DHA as humans do to enhance neural development, since puppies acquire 70 percent of their brain mass by 6 weeks and 90 percent by 12 weeks.

Supervised by Martin Coffman, DVM, the Iams team evaluated 39

genetically similar eight-week old beagle pups. Twenty of them were fed a typical DHA diet, while the other 19 received the enhanced DHA formula, now called Iams Smart Pup, as did their mothers during pregnancy and lactation. All of the pups were socialized with the same kinds of human interaction and play. Everything was highly controlled to ensure that there was nothing different about the pups except the amounts of DHA in their diets.

The trial would test memory and trainability through shape recognition and food rewards. All pups underwent identical training for one week prior to the trial. For the trial, the pups entered a maze, where they saw a symbol fastened to the opposite wall. If that symbol was a circle, a food treat would be found by turning to the right. If it was a square, finding the treat required a left turn.

Beginning at nine weeks, the pups were tested multiple times a day for 30 days. Every time, each pup was evaluated by how quickly it could successfully complete its task. Midway, symbol signals were reversed. A circle meant turn left and a square meant turn right. Beagles persist when food is involved, so they all found the treat, but those getting enhanced DHA caught on fastest.

## Fall Feeding Tips

**OUTSIDE DOGS** need 30 percent more calories from December through February than from June through August..

**DOGS WORKING** extremely hard in very cold weather can double or triple their calorie requirements.

**HARDWORKING DOGS** requiring premium food are those that run 20 times a week or more.

**GRADUALLY SWITCH** from maintenance to premium 7 to 10 days before conditioning or hunting begins.

**IF UNABLE TO CONDITION**, begin supplementing your dog's diet with vitamin C on the first day of hunting.

**START FEEDING** the amount recommended by the manufacturer, then adjust for your dog's individual metabolism.

**THE FINAL MEASURE** of correct feeding is your dog's ribs - they should be visible but not prominent.

Results were consistent over the numerous daily replications. On final tally, puppies fed enhanced DHA achieved a startling success rate twice that of pups on a typical DHA diet. Think about that - twice the smarts, twice the memory, twice the trainability.

A word of caution: Enhanced DHA cannot turn just any pup into a superdog. A genetically willful, uncooperative pup would simply become twice as wily. But add enhanced DHA to other proven ways of building superdogs and your chances of owning one will multiply greatly.

OUTDOOR LIFE, Source for Hunting and Fishing Adventure; March 2006 Issue

Credit: reprinted with permission of author to Pat Watts