

# THE QUARTERLY DRIBBLE

From your local canine expert

Jo Loft - IMDT KCAI (ag)

Winter 2022/2023

£7.99 (where sold)



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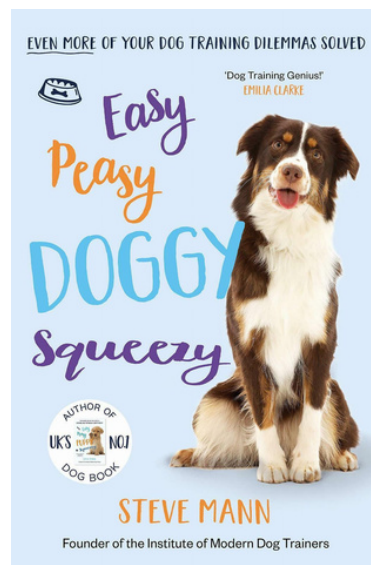
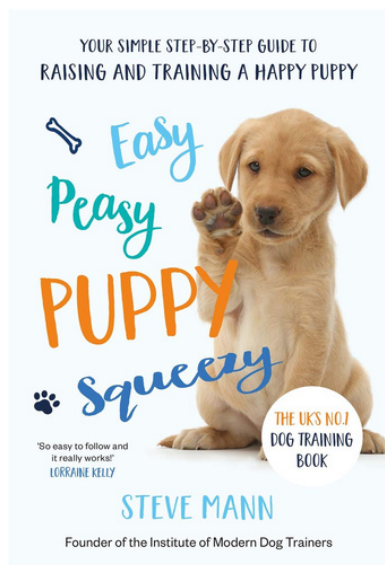
**Easy Peasy  
Puppy  
Squeezy**

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**and more...**



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# GOOD GUEST MANNERS

## Teaching your dog good manners when a guest arrives:

Explain to your guest that the dog is in training and they must stick to your rules, otherwise your guest will unintentionally undo all of your hard work. If your guest cannot or will not abide by your rules, then maybe go to their house for a coffee -remember it only takes one person to undo your hard work.

### Guest rules

- Ideally start with your dog on their lead until they're calm enough to be let off the lead.
- Ignore the dog completely, no eye contact, no verbal communication, no hand licking etc.
- If the dog persists in trying to get your guests attention they should turn away with their arms across their chest.
- If the dog jumps on a lap uninvited then gently remove them and put their lead on calmly.

Reward the good behaviour immediately, the treat can be dropped on the floor from the guest or owner, ideally behind the person whose attention the dog wants.

Your guest must do as you have done and ignore your dog completely until they are in a calm state. You can provide a treat pot for your guest if they wish to help you so they can drop a treat for your dog when they have settled.

If your dog is completely over the top and will not remotely begin to settle, you may need to try the following:

- Putting your dog on their lead and having them nearer to you.
- Putting your dog on their lead and securing them to the chair/nearby sturdy furniture so you're able to drink your beverage without it spilling everywhere.
- Putting your dog in another room entirely, until the initial excitement has died down, with a filled treat toy to keep them busy.
- Remember to keep an eye on your dog, as soon as they settle you must drop a treat at their feet, but again without too much fuss as we don't want them to perk up again.



# **GOOD GUEST MANNERS CONT...**

## **Is your dog crate when you have arrivals to your home?**

If you have your dog crated, then your dog will not be able to charge at you as soon as you get home. However, they still need to show calm behaviour before they are let out. Again, have some treats to hand in a strategic place and, as your dog settles into a desirable state, then you can reward with a treat dropped into the back of the crate.

I say the back of the crate as you want more value there, so as not to encourage your dog to charge out of the crate door. If you have a dog/puppy that really needs to be let into the garden as soon as you get in. Very casually, without any fuss open the crate door (ideally with your dog sitting, so something else you can work on) then either pop their lead on and take them to the garden quietly or let them out, again avoiding any sort of excitement reinforcement (like your voice and eye contact).

Just get them out into the garden in a no nonsense sort of way. If they come back in from the garden all excited, then you can pop them back in the crate with a treat at the back and wait for them to calm down and settle before you let them out. If they are digging and getting frustrated at the door as they want to get out to you, you will need to keep an eye on this behaviour and only reward when they are sitting nicely - you can also do some "crate games" to help with crate behaviours.

These exercises are just a starting point for you begin to change your habits when you come home, but this will be the start of teaching your dog how to behave when someone, no matter who, comes into the house. The same will begin to apply when you invite guest into your home.



# GOOD GUEST MANNERS CONT...

## Exercises for when you have guests to your home

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# GOOD GUEST MANNERS CONT...

## Exercises and ideas to work on to prepare for visitors

You can start teaching “settle” immediately. You can use the dog’s bed, if it’s easy to move and get on, or just a blanket. Start by sitting down with the bed/blanket in front of you, as your dog places a paw on this blanket you can reward with a treat.

Encourage your dog off the blanket and as they return to you and put a paw on the blanket then reward again. Do this as much and as often as you can, even when watching the TV in the evening. Your dog will eventually put two paws on the blanket, then all four if it’s big enough. You then want to encourage a ‘sit’ and then a ‘down’ on the blanket. What we’re doing is making this their high reward zone, as they progress you can move the blanket a little to your side, then further to the side etc. so that the blanket is beside you on the chair (or even further away if you desire, so long as you can get a treat to them on the blanket).

Start teaching “door manners”. You can practice this every-time your dog is going through the front/back door or even an internal doorway. Ask them to ‘sit’ before they can go through, you can reward them by throwing a treat behind them so that as the reward comes behind them, they become less inclined to rush forwards at the door. You can progress this so that when you’re expecting a guest, you can pop their “settle” blanket somewhere away from, but still in sight of, the door.

Your dog will need to learn that the door will not be opened until they’re sitting on their blanket. This will teach your dog that there is more value being away from the door, as rewards land behind them.



# GOOD GUEST MANNERS CONT...

## Exercises and ideas to work on to prepare for visitors cont...

If you have a guest before your dog is confident in their “settle” and “door manners” you can keep your dog on their lead, which will stop them from being able to lunge and jump up at your guest. If you have more than one dog, then you may need to introduce one dog at a time. If one dog is being left in another room, give them a filled Kong or something to keep them occupied so they're not being left out.

Remember to keep your dog with you and make sure you have some super yummy treats so that you are much more interesting than the guest. Your guest will need to ignore your dog until they have settled. Keep your dog with you and remember to reward all calm and desirable behaviour. Once your dog begins to calm, you could try dropping their lead. If they dash to your guest, you can easily get hold of the lead again and bring them back to you.

If you have a dog savvy guest, arm them with a pot of treats and they can reward the dog for calm and desirable behaviour - such as sitting or lying down. If your dog brings a toy etc to your guest, they are not to take them and engage in the dog's game. Your guest can have a game with your dog later, but they must instigate the game, not the dog.

Prepare a frozen Kong to keep your dog busy while you and your guest go about your business, but again ensure your dog is calm before getting this, as you don't want to reward them with this amazing treat if they've been jumping around like a kangaroo.

Only allow your dog free run around your guest when they are calm. If they do not calm down, then don't let them run riot. You can pop them in another room with a suitable toy etc. if they are finding the situation too challenging and cannot calm down. Your dog will need to learn that they are not to jump all over people, but they will be rewarded with attention from you and your guest when they can behave in a calm manner.



# SEASONAL DANGERS

**Chocolate** – Toxic, toxic, toxic. Keep all chocolate away from your dog. If your dog eats any chocolate contact your vet immediately. Watch for chocolate decorations, deliveries or just accidentally leaving a box on the side.

**Christmas pudding & Mince Pies** – This is something for us, not for your dog. Grapes, currants, sultanas & raisins are all toxic. If your dog eats any of these -call your vet immediately.

**Alcohol** – Not for dogs – we shouldn't need to say this, but I'll put it in here anyway.

**Artificial Sweeteners** – Xylitol is found in many things, always check ingredients and, if this is listed, then make sure the item is not available to your dog.

**Antifreeze** – Not only is this highly toxic to our dogs but it doesn't help that it has an alluring smell to them, so keep this out of reach and clean up any spills.

**Open fires and candles** – The risk here is pretty obvious but your dog doesn't know that they can get burnt. Could the fire throw out a spark, could a candle be knocked over? Make sure that if you do like to enjoy the ambience of flickering candles and the comfort of a fire that you have suitable precautions in place such as a fire guard or candles out of reach, and never leave your dog in a room with a lit candle unsupervised.

**Pot Pourri** – I don't actually know anyone that has this anymore, but you may visit Aunt Edna that has plenty of it floating around the place and the essential oils are poisonous to our dogs, whether ingested or simply touching their skin these oils can cause a problem.

**Poinsettia** – ingestion can cause irritation and vomiting

**Holly** – can cause vomiting

**Mistletoe** – European species can cause vomiting whereas the American species is far more dangerous

**Real Christmas Tree** – ingested needles can cause stomach upset but more likely internal damage

**Silica Gel** – These little packets that can be found in all sorts of packages...even in packets of dog treats, low toxicity but still to be avoided

*With thanks to The Blue Cross website for highlighting these Christmas Dangers*



# CHRISTMAS CONSUMABLES LIST

## Which Christmas leftovers can I give my dog?

Providing your dog is healthy and is not allergic to the following foods, these are safe to give them a little treat at Christmas:

Turkey meat (no skin or bones)

Salmon (cooked in spring water is preferable to smoked salmon)

Lamb meat (no bones)

Scrambled egg

Green beans

Brussel sprouts

Parsnips

Carrot

Peas

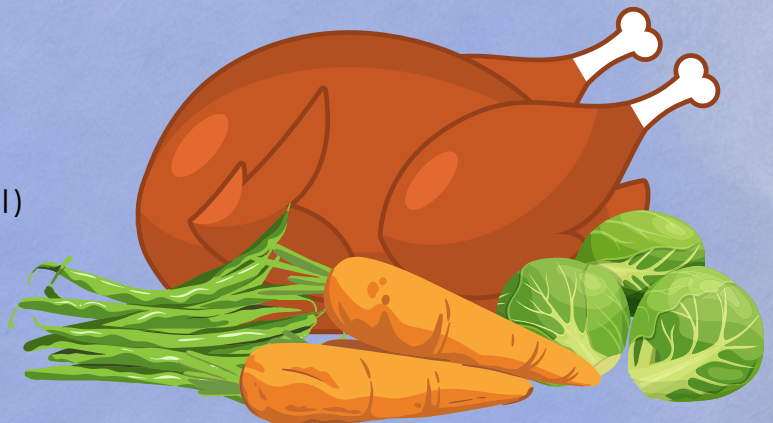
Swede

Mash potato (best without additional butter)

New potatoes

Sweet potatoes

Yogurt (ensure there is no xylitol)





# THE ELEPHANT TRICK

This is a fun trick to teach your dog. The elephant trick is teaching your dog to put their front paws on a platform and they circle around the platform on their back legs, while their front feet stay on the platform.

## What you'll need

Platform (upside down Christmas chocolate tub - emptied)

Yummy treats

With your empty tub upside down on the floor and a treat in your hand guide and encourage your dog to put their front paws on the tub (guiding your dog with a treat in your hand is called luring). This can take a little while if they're nervous (it may move etc. so go at your dogs pace). Practise this first part a lot to begin with, as your dog needs to be comfortable with their paws on your chosen platform.

As your dog becomes more comfortable with their paws up on your platform, you can begin to gently walk to their side and lure them to move with you in a circle. For example, if your dog is standing with their front paws on the platform and you are standing next to your dog and they are on your right hand side you will lure using your right hand, holding a treat towards your left hand side. As they move slightly, you can move with them and reward them.

The best way to help them to understand what you're looking for by marking them when they move a back paw. (Marking is when you say "yes" or "good" at the moment they earned a reward). As they move, you can step to the side towards them.

It may be tiny little movements and steps to begin with, but they'll soon understand that it is side stepping with their back legs, while keeping their feet on the platform, that is earning them the reward.

If you want to make this harder, see if you can put this on a cue and see if you can teach your dog to turn all the way around the platform without you being there!

You can see this trick in action on our **TikTok channel – Mojo Dogs World**





# YAPPY NEW YEAR

Are you making any New Years resolutions this year?

I gave up a number of years ago because I never stuck to them for long!

But if you're looking for something that you **CAN** stick to then hear me out.

Invest in some training classes for you and your dog!

Children don't go to school for one term and then they're done, because they would never learn everything they need to see them through life!

That is why you should be investing in extra time to do more things with your dog. Whether you're brushing up on some basic skills, pushing those skills to the next level or trying something new, it doesn't matter. Dogs are also lifelong learners and you most certainly can teach an old dog new tricks!

Joining a weekly class gives you and your dog a specific time slot each week where it is just about YOU!

All your dog wants is to spend time with you, so why not do this in a productive way where you can both learn something new and build on things you already know.

There are so many different types of classes you can do with your dog and committing to one dedicated training session a week is the least you can do. It will strengthen your bond with your dog, it will give them mental stimulation, social stimulation and skills you can show off!





# HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER PART ONE

If you see a dog being walked on the lead and your dog is off lead either bring your dog close to you or ask the owner of the other dog if they'd like you to put your dog on the lead.

We should always have our dogs under control in public. Yes, sometimes they do forget themselves and get excited...very much like the older women at a Robbie Williams concert that I attended!

Sometimes you just forget who and where you are and, before you know it, you're being chased by bouncers for going over the top (NOTE: This was not me...but I enjoyed watching it from the side lines #knowyourlimits).

This also means that other dog owners need to understand that sometimes well behaved dogs do just forget themselves if the circumstances are right and we should not chastise other dog owners if we've done all we can to attempt to prevent a possible situation, we need to support each other as our dogs are as different as us!

If you've had an unfortunate experience don't get on social media to moan about someone doing this, especially if you know that the other person did do things to try to manage or rectify the situation. Remember you don't know what that person and dog are going through.

You never know the coin may flip and you could be that person at your favourite concert just forgetting who you are.

Don't be a "Keyboard Warrior Karen" just move on with your walk and don't let anything upset your time with your dog.

However, this does lead (no pun intended) me on to my next thought nicely...see part two.





# HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER PART TWO

## Don't worry! My dog is friendly!

NO! This is NOT OK! If a dog is on the lead you must NEVER let your dog run up to them. I don't care how "friendly" your dog is! The other dog is likely to be on the lead for a reason. If you see a dog on a lead, all you need to do is call out to the owner of the dog and ask if they'd like your dog on a lead. You may find they say "No it's fine, they're just on the lead as they keep rolling in poo!" They may also say "Yes please that would be helpful." Recently, at the local forest, I had three instances of this. Me and my four woofers asked three people if they'd like my dogs on the lead, they all appreciated me asking and I had varying response of yes please and no it's not needed. It just takes a moment to ask and we can keep all our dogs (and owners) happy.

What also needs to be thought about though is If you DO ask someone to put their dog on a lead, STOP walking towards them until they have their dog/s on the lead. I have this a LOT. I'll happily put my dogs on a lead (as four/five at once can be a lot for a dog) but that person will keep approaching me. If you're asking for space then have the decency to stop and give you and your dog the space you're asking for, don't just keep moving into the space!

We all need to respect each other and our dogs, if we just take a moment to ask and speak to each other it can make all the difference. If we just push our way around this world, before long it really will become so obnoxious and horrible that none of our dogs will get a decent walk because we'll all be out on the defensive because of previous unpleasant experiences. Just take a minute, gather your dogs (or ducks) and respect each other...we're all there for the same reason, to enjoy time with OUR DOGS!

If you are struggling with your dog around other dogs then consider attending one of our classes, you may find our **Yellow Dog** classes especially helpful.





# DOGGY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

Oh the joys of winter, cold and frosty mornings (my personal favourite), the best thing about the cold weather...frozen mud! Less washing compared to when its all wet and soggy and there is mud and gunk EVERYWHERE!

Here are some things you need to think about when spending time outside with your dog.

Some dogs feel the cold more than others so if your dog needs it then put an extra layer on them, a well fitted coat/jumper can really make a difference.

Plan your walk, as best as you can, so you know where you want to go and stick to routes you know: if it's really cold outside you can make your walk shorter.

Walking on pavements near roads that have been gritted can cause havoc on your dogs' paws. If you return from a walk where you suspect your dog has come into contact with grit, wash their paws off straight away as we don't want your dog licking this off their paws.

Should it snow keep an eye on whether it is gathering in clumps between your dog's paws as this will be uncomfortable for them.

Think about your dogs' overall size, age and thickness of their coat, smaller dogs with thinner coats are likely to be affected more quickly than larger dogs and those with thicker or double coats.

Try to avoid bodies of water, your dog may enjoy a short splash around but keep it short and sweet and of course stay well away of anything that has ice on it. You don't want your dog slipping and injuring themselves or even worse falling through any ice!

Finally, make sure you're prepared for a walk in the cold, make sure you have suitable footwear and clothing and always carry your mobile phone with you, if you have one. Try and let someone know what route you're taking and how long you expect to be, just in case of any slips or trips.



# EASY PEASY PUPPY SQUEEZY

Almost all puppy owners would've seen this book when searching for help with their new puppy.

This best selling and amazing book was written by IMDT founder, Steve Mann, so of course WE LOVE IT. We not only LOVE it, we now LIVE IT. In November Vikki and Jo attended the Easy Peasy Puppy Squeezy training course to ensure they're up to date with the latest information and techniques. After spending an amazing three days with Steve Mann Vikki and Jo are now bringing everyone the Easy Peasy Puppy Squeezy training course for puppies under 6 months old! Grab a space while you can on Monday mornings - these spaces are limited and will disappear VERY quickly!

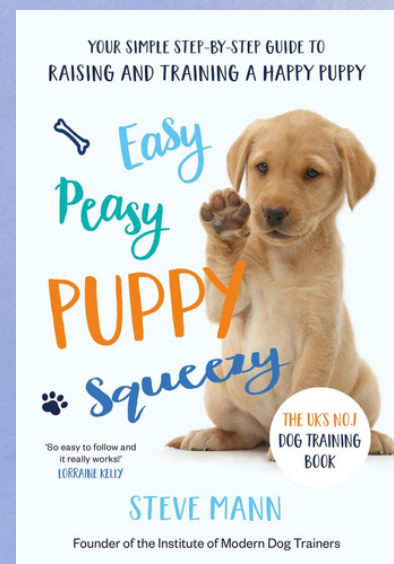
Not only will you receive some great advice and training but a copy of Easy Peasy Puppy Squeezy, weekly handouts for exercises covered each week and support throughout your time with Mojo Dogs.

It can be a scary and lonely place when you bring your very first puppy home, basically you've bought a furry alien into your home and you both need to learn how to live in peace with each other. Don't fret, we're here to help you!

Spaces are VERY limited to ensure that you get the very best use of time with us and should you miss out don't worry you can still join the other training classes we offer.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

**Earn your own  
Easy Peasy Puppy Squeezy  
award our our special classes**





## PREPARING TO BRING YOUR PUPPY HOME

Bringing a puppy home should never be done on a whim! It should be given a great deal of thought as there is a lifetime of commitment attached to your puppy...of course with unconditional love and daily laughs...plus approximately £21,000 as this is the average cost of owning a dog for life.

If you've thought it through, and you have the time and money to commit to your new best friend your next step is to research the ideal breed for you and your lifestyle, to ensure that your furry little alien is the perfect fit.

When you've found your breed then find a respectable breeder. ***Also see How to spot a Puppy Farmer***

## What you need as a minimum

Crate/pen - this should be a suitable size for your puppy.

## Bedding that can be easily washed

## Puppy toys

## Water bowl

Food bowl (for occasional use)

Food toys such as a Kong/Likimat/Snuffle Mat

Collar with ID tag and lead

## Poo bags

Pet safe cleaning items including an enzymatic cleaner

Carrier for the first few weeks when puppy cannot go outside on the floor





# PREPARING TO BRING YOUR PUPPY HOME CONT...

## Things to think about...

- Where will your puppy spend most of the day?
- Where will your puppy sleep?
- Is your house puppy safe i.e. wires out of the way; items you don't want chewed out of the way?
- Is your garden puppy safe i.e. holes in fences blocked; gates locked, poisonous plants removed?
- What will you do if you need to leave your puppy for an extended period of time?
- What class do you need to pre-enrol your puppy in so you don't leave it too late and find there are no spaces left?

You will have a very steep learning curve with your very first puppy, but getting the right help and advice is as important as choosing the right puppy.

Ensure that you pick a trainer that only works with positive reinforcement methods. There is NO need for ANY aversive methods when it comes to training, so avoid any trainers that called themselves balanced or mention pack theory and dominance, as these terms have LONG been debunked!

You should only pick a trainer that has suitable qualifications and affiliations and is a member of the **UK Dog Behaviour & Training Charter**, anything less - then walk away as this trainer is likely to do more harm than good.

Yes these trainers cost more...and there is a reason for this, because they have spent years and thousands (and will continue to do so) learning and continuing to learn all they can about dog behaviour.





# HOW TO SPOT A PUPPY FARMER

Puppy farmers have become extremely good at hiding their true colours - THEY ARE CRIMINALS AFTER ALL.

## **Ask yourself some logical questions:**

How many breeds is the seller offering? They may offer you a different one to what you enquired about.

Does the puppy come with a vet check, first vaccination and microchipping?

Does the house seem too clean and tidy? Puppy farmers hire rental properties to do their business from and they're in and out in a day or two!

Does the breeder ask you questions about where the puppy is going to and what you know about the breed? A good breeder will put you through your paces.

How does the Mum react around the puppies? Could it be that she isn't really their Mum? Never take a puppy without seeing them with their Mum.

Does the breeders ID match up with the Kennel Club or selling site?

Are there a lot of outbuildings or sheds nearby?

Does it look like dogs live happily in the property? Are there toys and food bowls around? What about leads, photos any dog paraphernalia?

Does the puppy or puppies look the same as those in the advert and the surrounds look the same to where the picture for the advert was taken?

Do the puppies look healthy?

Can you see the whole litter or just the one you enquired about?

Do NOT meet anyone with a puppy at a public location, they may fool you with some sort of "emergency" this is a standard puppy farmer tactic.

If you think you've come across a puppy farmer then...and I know it's hard WALK AWAY - do not fund these criminals! If we keep buying they'll keep selling.

## **Report the advert - Report licensing breaches - Report welfare issues**

If you see cruelty, then contact the police and if you want to know more there is lots of information on the PDSA website just search PDSA "could you spot a puppy farm"



# **RECOMMEND A FRIEND AND GET A £5 VOUCHER TO USE AT MOJO DOGS!**

For this summer\* if you recommend a training class to a friend and they list you as the referral on their August or September booking form then you will receive a £5 voucher to use at Mojo Dogs!

**Yup! £5**

Recommend two people...that's a £10 voucher.

It goes on and before you know it you may have recommended enough friends to pay for your next course with us!

Just make sure that you're listed on the booking form under the **"how did you hear about us?"** section.



**FOR YOU!**

\*Offer ends 30th September



# YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS

*"Find your mojo, with Mojo Dogs"*

## How we can help you

When you realise that you need some help with your dog it can be a minefield of searching and suggestions.

The team have many years of experience with many breeds of dogs.

New classes start the first week of each month with the addition of regular events, workshops and more.

Visit our website for up to date information and get in touch if you cannot see what you're looking for.

You and your dog are in good hands (paws) with Mojo Dogs.

## New Classes EVERY month!

[team@mojodogs.co.uk](mailto:team@mojodogs.co.uk)

[www.mojodogs.co.uk](http://www.mojodogs.co.uk)

