



Raising a Ripper of a Dog:

**A No-Nonsense Guide to a
Happy, Healthy Mate**

So, you've got yourself a pup. Maybe it's your first, maybe you've had dogs all your life—but either way, raising a ripper of a dog takes more than just chucking kibble in a bowl and hoping for the best. Whether you're in the bush, on a farm, or in town, this guide is all about keeping things simple, practical and pup focused.

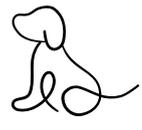
Let's get cracking!





Chapter 1

Setting your pup up for success



Chapter 2

Training - The Basics



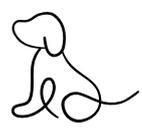
Chapter 3

Exercise & Mental Stimulation



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Raising a Dog that's a True Mate



The First Few Weeks

Bringing home a pup is an exciting and sometimes chaotic experience. Their natural curiosity means everything is a potential chew toy or toilet. The first few weeks are all about getting them settled, setting boundaries, and teaching them the ropes. Dogs thrive on routine, so keeping feeding, training, and playtime consistent helps them adjust quickly.

One of the biggest mistakes people make is letting pups get away with things they won't want them doing later. If you don't want a 40kg dog jumping on the couch, best not to let them up now. The same goes for barking at the door, begging at the table, or using your favourite boots as a chew toy. As cute as it may be when they are little, it won't be quite as cute when they destroy your new boots. Set clear rules early and stick to them.

Socialisation is just as important. Once they are fully vaccinated introduce them to different people, environments, dogs and experiences while they're young. The more they see and hear now—whether it's car rides, vacuum cleaners, or other dogs—the more confident they'll be as they grow.

Choosing the Right Food

A growing pup needs the right fuel to set them up for a long and healthy life. That's where Cobber Puppy comes in. Specially formulated to support your pup's development, it's packed with high-quality proteins for muscle growth, essential fats for energy, and key vitamins and minerals to strengthen bones and joints. Cobber Puppy is ideal for all puppy breeds, including large breed pups.

Plus, with Cobber's Inner Goodness, it delivers postbiotics, functional fibres and essential vitamins and minerals to keep digestion running smoothly—because a healthy gut means a healthy dog.

When it comes to feeding, don't just eyeball it. Measure portions properly to avoid overfeeding, because an overweight pup quickly turns into an overweight adult with mobility problems.

The right diet from the start of your dog's life plays a vital role and ensure they grow into a happy, healthy and thriving adult dog.



The No-Fuss Way to Teach Good Manners

Training a pup isn't about fancy tricks—it's about creating a good mate who listens and respects you. The key is consistency. If you let them jump up on people one day but tell them off the next, they won't have a clue what's expected. Keep commands simple—sit, stay, come, leave it—and reward them when they get it right. Treats are handy, but praise and pats work just as well.

One of the most important lessons is leash training. A dog that drags you down the street isn't much fun to walk. Start early, keep walks structured, and don't let them pull ahead. If they learn to walk nicely now, you'll thank yourself later when they're fully grown. Remember to keep walk short whilst your pups' joints are forming, and only after they are fully vaccinated to reduce their risk of picking up any unwanted viruses

Plus, Cobber is here to give you a helping hand. Cobber Puppy contains Omega 3 & DHA which are proven to support cognitive development and learning outcomes in growing pups

Socialisation: A Confident Dog is a Happy Dog

A well-socialised dog is a happy, confident one. Take your pup everywhere—parks, paddocks, the local café—so they get used to different sights and sounds. Let them meet other dogs, but make sure those interactions are with calm, friendly animals. And remember, if your pup gets nervous, don't baby them—just stay calm and carry on. They'll take their cues from you.

Burn That Energy!

As the saying goes, a tired dog is a good dog. Most behaviour issues—chewing, digging, barking—come from excess energy and boredom. How much exercise your dog needs depends on their breed, but a general rule is at least one good walk a day.

For working breeds, a simple walk won't cut it. These dogs need a job—whether it's herding, retrieving, or just playing structured games like fetch or agility. If they don't have something to do, they'll find something themselves (and you probably won't like what they choose). High-energy breeds thrive on activities like running alongside a bike, obstacle courses, or interactive training games.

For dogs that don't have a working role, regular exercise is still crucial for their mental and physical well-being.

Exercise Ideas for Every Dog

- **Structured Walks:** Not just a meander around the block—practice loose-lead walking, stopping, sitting, and heeling to keep them engaged.
- **Fetch & Retrieval Games:** Whether it's a ball, frisbee, or a favourite toy, this keeps them moving while reinforcing recall commands.
- **Swimming:** A fantastic, low-impact workout that builds endurance without putting stress on joints—ideal for large breeds.
- **Agility Training:** Setting up a small agility course in the backyard can challenge your dog both mentally and physically.
- **Tug-of-War:** Great for strength-building and reinforcing impulse control—just remember to teach them when to release on command.
- **Hiking or Bush Walks:** Exploring different terrain is great for stamina and provides excellent mental stimulation with all the new sights and smells.
- **Farm & Paddock Work:** If you're on the land, involving them in daily chores—like moving stock or following you on the quad bike—gives them a sense of purpose.

Mental Stimulation: A Tired Mind is a Happy Mind

Physical exercise is only part of the equation. Mental stimulation is just as important, especially for intelligent breeds. A bored dog can turn into a destructive one, so keep their minds working with engaging activities.

- **Scent Work & Nose Games:** Hide treats or their favourite toy around the house or yard and let them sniff it out.
- **Puzzle Toys & Treat Dispensers:** These challenge them to think and work for their reward, slow down fast eaters and helps keep them entertained.
- **Basic & Advanced Obedience Training:** Keep reinforcing commands they already know and introduce new ones to challenge their brains.
- **Teach New Tricks:** Dogs love learning, and tricks like rolling over, speaking on command, or even tidying up their own toys can be fun and rewarding.
- **Rotate Their Toys:** Keep things fresh by switching up their toys every few days so they don't get bored.
- **Interactive Play with Other Dogs:** If your dog enjoys socialising, playdates with other well-mannered dogs provide great mental and physical stimulation.

Striking the Right Balance

While it's important to keep your dog active, it's equally important to avoid over-exercising, especially for young pups and large breeds prone to joint issues. Watch for signs of exhaustion, like excessive panting, lagging behind on walks, or stiffness after activity. If your dog is still bouncing off the walls, they might need more structured stimulation, but if they're dragging their feet, it's time to give them a break.

Gut Health = Overall Health

If the gut's happy, your pup's happy. Good digestion means better nutrient absorption, fewer tummy troubles, and a strong immune system. Feeding a gut-friendly diet, like Cobber Puppy, ensures they get the right balance of postbiotics and functional fibres to support digestion.

Keeping an eye on your dog's stools (yep, it's part of dog ownership) can tell you a lot about their health. Loose stools, excessive gas, or a dull coat could mean their gut isn't functioning as well as it should. Hydration is key too—always have fresh water available, especially after exercise or on hot days.

Common Health Issues & Prevention

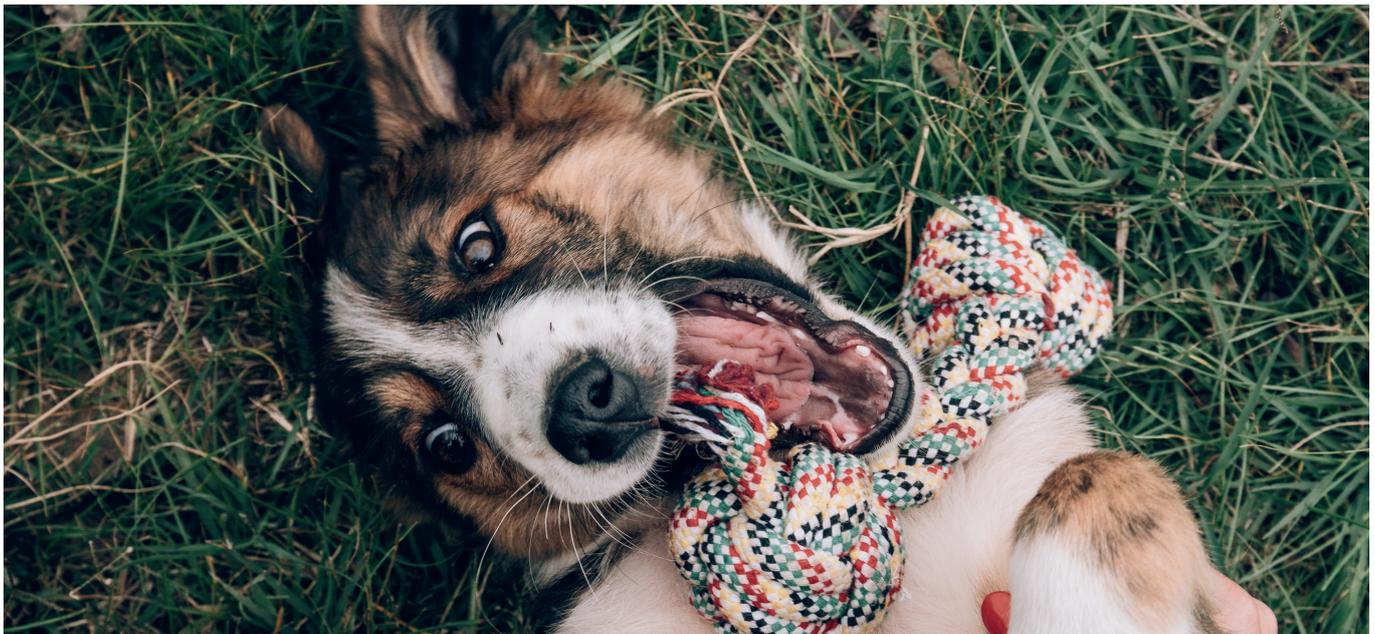
Preventing problems before they start is always easier than treating them later. Regular check-ups with your vet help catch any potential health issues early. Stay on top of vaccinations, flea and tick prevention, deworming, and dental care to keep your dog in peak condition.

Another often-overlooked area is dental health. Poor oral hygiene can lead to bad breath, tooth decay, gum disease, and even infections that affect major organs. Regularly brushing your pup's teeth, offering dental chews, or giving them natural chews like raw bones can help keep their mouth clean and healthy.

Respect & Trust Go Both Ways

Raising a great dog isn't just about training and feeding—it's about building a bond based on trust, respect, and understanding. A dog that knows they can rely on you for leadership, security, and affection will be one that listens, responds, and stays loyal for life. Dogs aren't born knowing our rules, so it's up to us to guide them in a way they understand.

Your dog will take their cues from you, so if you're calm and consistent, they'll be more confident and well-behaved. Mixed signals—like letting them jump up one day and telling them off the next—will only confuse them. Instead, set clear expectations and stick to them.



Give Them a Purpose

Every dog, whether they're a working breed or a family companion, benefits from having a job. For some, that might be herding sheep or a retrieving game. For others, it might be fetching the newspaper, running alongside you on a morning jog, or simply responding to commands like sit and stay. Training isn't just about obedience—it's about engagement and stimulation. Dogs thrive when they have something to focus on and giving them tasks builds confidence and reinforces your bond.

The Power of Routine & Patience

Dogs are creatures of habit, and a predictable routine helps them feel secure. Consistent mealtimes, regular exercise, and structured play sessions all contribute to a balanced, happy dog. That being said, patience is just as important. No dog is perfect, and mistakes will happen—chewed shoes, accidents in the house, selective hearing when they see a rabbit. Stay patient, correct behaviour in the moment, and keep training positive.

Let Them Be Dogs

At the end of the day, a dog is still a dog. They need to sniff, explore, dig, and roll in things that make you question your life choices. Allowing them time to just be a dog—within reason—keeps them mentally and physically happy. Sniffing on walks is their version of checking the news, and a good roll in the grass? Well, sometimes that's just fun.

A great dog isn't the one that never makes mistakes; it's the one that grows with you, learns from you, and becomes a true mate for life. By providing them with the right training, structure, and care, you're setting them up to be the best companion you could ask for.



Raising a great dog isn't complicated—it's about good food, clear rules, plenty of exercise, and loads of love. Whether they're a paddock-dweller, town companion, or somewhere in between, give them what they need, and they'll be the best mate you'll ever have.

Want to Give Your Dog the Best Start?

Check out Cobber Dog Food—formulated for gut health, energy, and overall wellbeing. A great diet is the foundation of a great dog.

Happy training, happy feeding, and here's to raising a ripper of a dog!

