



In this month's issue



Photo by: Julie Gordon Pet Photography

1 PUPPY LOVE – Choosing the Right Puppy for You

Considering adding a new furry member to your family? Find out how to find the perfect pup to suit your family.

2 WHAT BREEDS ARE IN YOUR MIXED BREED DOG?

Have you ever wondered what your dog is made up of? There are simple and inexpensive ways of determining what breeds are in your pet.

3 THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIALISING OUR DOGS

We need to help our dogs learn how to live and react, in a healthy and socially acceptable manner, towards other people, animals and situations that they might come across in their lifetime.

4 CASE STUDY – A Lucky Dog

Suzie's story is one of luck and survival. Medical help is often vital to saving abandoned animals, but there is something not available on prescription - tender loving care.

Puppy Love: Choosing the Right Puppy for You

The very first thought to consider prior to choosing the right puppy to bring home is if you and your family have the necessary commitment to care for a puppy. A puppy is very similar to a child in that he will need to be nurtured, fed, potty-trained and played with. If your family has a tight schedule, then it may not be the right time to add a pup to the home.

Cost

Decide how much you want to spend and don't forget to consider ongoing costs like veterinary care and diet. This will assist you and your family in knowing what medium you would like to use when conducting your puppy search. The most inexpensive choice will be to re-home via a friend or family member, or to adopt the new pet using your local animal shelter.

Home

If you want a pup to fit well in your home, take a careful look around. If you're living in an apartment, choose a breed that

will do well in that type of environment. Same with a small yard, big yard, no fence etc. Ensure that your pup will do well in whatever surroundings she is going to be living in.

Family Traits

Age

Age plays a huge part in which puppy you want to bring home. If your children are younger, you will want to look for a puppy that will grow into a dog that plays well with children. If your kids are older, it is most likely



that you will have a larger range of breeds to work with. Make sure that you do your research to understand what dog breeds will pair well with children and make a good companion for the whole brood.





Lifestyle

If you want to find the right puppy for your family, look at your family's lifestyle. If you are outgoing and adventurous, choose a puppy that will do well outdoors but is fine with everyday family life. If you are more likely to stay home a lot, choose a pup that does well with less activity. You want a puppy to fit in with your lifestyle, so ensure that is the kind of life he will do well living in.

Personality

Believe it or not, dogs have personalities just like we do, so choose a puppy that will have personality traits similar to that of the family. If each family member is different, find a pup that will pair well with everyone, or whomever will be his primary caregiver.

Talk it over

Lastly, before heading to the local pet shop or rescue organisation, sit down with your family. Decide what you all want in a dog and if that is feasible. Knowing what you all are looking for will avoid disagreements and the heart-break of bringing a furry friend into your home that doesn't fit in well with the family.

For a short online survey on which breeds might best suit your lifestyle, go to:

www.petnet.com.au/selectapet/choose-a-pet

Source: <http://www.sheknows.com/pets-and-animals/articles/1009139/how-to-choose-the-right-puppy-for-your-family>

What Breeds Are in Your Mixed Breed Dog?

Of the 3.8 million dogs in Australia, as many as half are mixed breed.

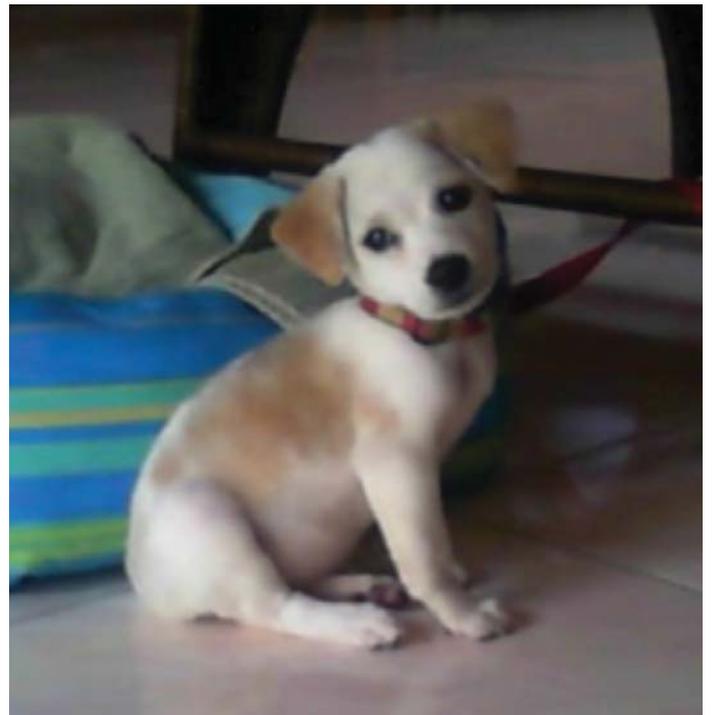
So it's not surprising one of the most common questions asked of veterinarians is: "What breeds do you think are in my dog?"

A knowledge of breed appearance and characteristics is used to make a prediction, but often even experts can't agree, especially when there is more than two breeds in the mix.

Your Dog's Family Tree

New to Australia, and based on a decade of research, the Advance Mixed Breed Identification DNA Test provides a comprehensive family tree, tracing back to the breeds of your dog's great-grandparents.

Each dog tested receives a detailed report, including a schematic family tree, an explanation of how different



breed traits can be expressed in a dog, and information about the breeds detected in your dog's family history.

For puppies, adult size is estimated, based on the gender of the dog and its genetic background.

Why DNA Test?

Many owners are curious to know the origins of their one-of-a-kind mixed breed dog.

Understanding the genetic origins of your pet can provide a wealth of information about why it does the things it does. This knowledge can be used to tailor training, nutrition and wellness programs.

For young dogs of mixed breed, predicting an adult size was based on speculation, but a more accurate awareness of the breed background can give a better estimate.

How It Works?

Though all dogs are of the same species, individual pure-bred dog types have been developed over centuries.

Selection of appearance, personality and behaviour in breeding programs, together with consistent interbreeding of only pure-bred dogs have resulted in slight but distinct genetic variations between breeds.

This DNA test draws on the expertise of scientists at the internationally respected Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition in Britain, along with leading veterinarians, universities and breed organisations throughout the world.

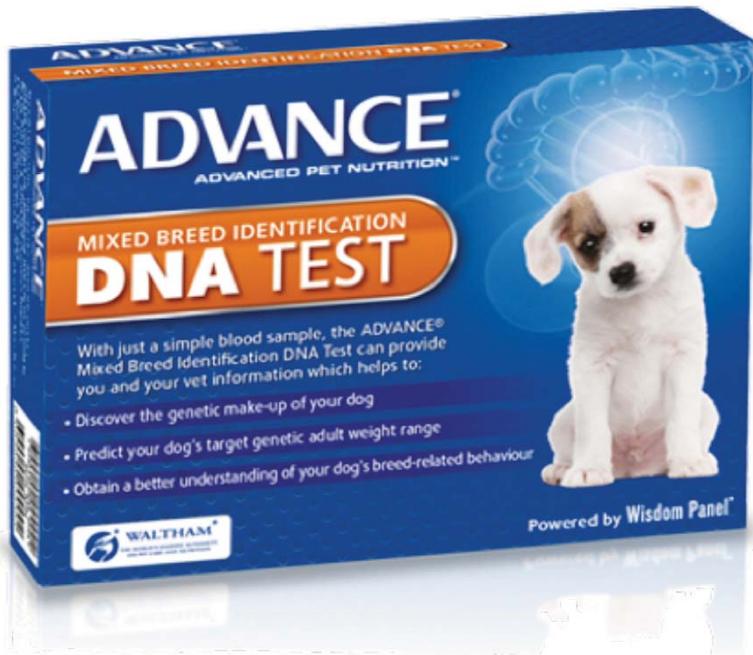




Using a complex computer-driven algorithm, your dog's DNA is compared with more than 10,000 samples from more than 200 purebred dogs.

How Can I Do It?

The Advance Mixed Breed Identification DNA Test is available at Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital for \$120.



Your veterinarian can collect and submit a small blood sample, the gold standard source of stable and pure DNA.

Within 4 weeks you will receive a comprehensive report unlocking the secrets hidden in your dog's DNA.

Go to www.advancepet.com.au/dna for more information on the DNA test.

Source: www.advancepet.com.au/dna <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/lipad/what-breeds-are-in-your-dog/story-fn6bn9st-1226370304477>

Call Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital now on 9524 6644 to book your dog in for a blood test and find out what breeds are in your mixed breed pet!

The Importance of Socialising Our Dogs

By Karen Bond – PKVH Dog Behavioural Trainer

In a perfect world, we could protect our dogs from worrisome and frightening situations. However, here in the real world, we need to help our dogs learn how to live and react, in a healthy and socially acceptable manner, towards other people, animals and situations that they might come across in their lifetime.

Socialisation is the life-long desensitisation process, of exposing your canine companion to new sounds, sights, and circumstances and has your dog view these occurrences as no big deal. The ultimate goal of socialisation is to be able to take your dog to any place and into any situation, and have him stay calm, relaxed and confident. Over-excitement, anxiety and hyperactivity are all unwanted reactions in a dog within today's society.



Photo by: Julie Gordon Pet Photography

A well socialised dog can be taken everywhere allowable by our dog laws and regulations. A poorly socialised dog can be an unpredictable animal and when placed in a new environment or a potentially frightening situation, he may lunge and snap, run away and injure himself or worse still, he may cause injuries to others around him. A poorly or incorrectly socialised dog will reflect badly on dog owners everywhere and due to just such an image, many responsible dog owners are penalised by restrictive laws and regulations.

The very first step is to enroll your new puppy in puppy classes that focus on dog and human friendly training methods. Most dog owners realise the importance of socialising their dog from an early age. The key period for





imprinting is between 3-18 wks of age. But please remember, socialisation does not end when graduating from puppy classes. While the foundation for good behaviour is paved during the first few months, all owners are encouraged to reinforce social skills and responsiveness to cues or commands throughout their dog's life. Adult training and agility classes assist in socialising your pooch in a fun, responsible and supervised environment.

Socialising your dog is easy and fun. However, without adequate socialisation, your dog may become fearful and increases the risk of developing two of the most serious and hard-to-resolve problems, biting and fighting.

So let's set our four legged friends up with a good beginning by helping them become well socialised and continue this important aspect of our dog for life.

Case Study – “Suzie”, a Lucky Dog

By A Franchina - PKVH

Suzie's story is one of luck and survival. Rescued by the Bali Adoption & Rehabilitation Centre (BARC) – an animal refuge – Suzie stayed with me while I was on holiday there in late 2012.

Then an approx. 4 year-old black dog about the size of your cat - probably a mix of various Western breeds - Suzie was a terrified mess when she first arrived at BARC. While Western breeds are popular in Bali, the island is often not paradise for them. Suzie had been kept in a tiny cage for most of



her first two-years of life. She had hardly any fur left and was bleeding from an untreated local skin disease.

I had met Suzie before several times while visiting the Good Karma clinic in Ubud-Bali operated by BARC, but never paid her much attention. I had intended to take another foster dog for a week, but this time BARC asked me if I would take Suzie instead. She turned out to be an amazingly intelligent dog with a wonderful personality.

Our chance encounter taught me another life-lesson too. Medical help is often vital to saving abandoned animals,

but there is something not available on prescription - tender loving care. TLC can create little miracles of transformation and recovery. In Suzie's case, as the photos show – it helped change her into a very happy dog. She was a permanent resident at the Ubud Good Karma Vet Clinic (<http://www.balidogrefuge.com/>).



Kindergarten for canines!

Early education and socialisation are essential for the behavioural development and wellbeing of puppies. Young puppies are quote able to learn obedience skills, toileting behaviour and social etiquette. All of these things help set your puppy on the path to being a well-adjusted dog.

Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital runs weekly Puppy Classes, offering a safe and secure environment for your new puppy to learn and meet new friends. Classes are small and tailored to the needs of you and your puppy – they are great fun too!

With our progressive and positive techniques you should expect to:

- Develop an understanding of normal puppy behaviour.
- Learn how to read your puppy's body language and respond appropriately.
- Develop effective techniques for positive behavioural development.
- Understand the need for socialising your puppy.
- Teach your puppy some important life-skills.
- Understand important boundaries when playing together.
- Develop strong bonds between you and your puppy.

For more information on our Puppy Classes or to book one of our upcoming course dates, please contact Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital on

9524 6644.

