



# Tribal Tales



2014 Fall Newsletter for the Chief Solano Kennel Club

## WE'VE MADE THE WEB! Chief Solano Kennel Club is on YouTube!

Many thanks to Michael who patiently and skillfully over eight plus weeks filmed our team of dedicated dog trainers ...Susan, Christy and Linda are our STAR puppy trainers. Susan and Linda also work with Obedience and Canine Good Citizen training. Our conformation instructors include Cynthia (who is also a certified AKC judge) Dena, Susan and Linda . Thanks also to the many responsible pet owners who joined our classes for S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen and Conformation Sessions and agreed to be filmed.



You can see excerpts from the classes by going to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and typing in Chief Solano Kennel Club in the search box.

## How to Be a California Pet Owner!

By Melissa Maroff, eHow Contributor

*There's something about a California dog owner (or for the more PC: pet guardian, pet caretaker, pet parent)--something that makes them a bit more conscientious and pet aware. Now, don't get me wrong--there are plenty of wonderful dog owners in other places and some not-so-wonderful ones in California--but allow me to generalize and offer some tips on how to behave like a California dog owner.*

### 1

Do not let your dog roam the neighborhood without a leash. Sadly, when I travel away from California I notice a big increase in the number of unleashed and stray dogs walking around. And again, there are always individuals and areas that are exceptions, but considering the population, Californians do a very good job of

**2** Don't forget to clean up after your best friend when you're on a stroll or at a public place. Leaving dog waste on the ground will elicit some angry glares in California. No offense New Jersey, Texas or Georgia, but California pet owners are team players-and they even pick up what other dog owners miss. At a California dog park, the smell most likely wafting through the air-- will be body oil.

**3.** Never leave your dog in a hot car or chain your dog for prolonged periods. Laws were passed in California (thanks to concerned citizens, a great senator and Governor Schwarzenegger) that limit chaining to three hours and make it a crime to leave a dog in an enclosed vehicle under dangerous conditions.

**4.** Take your dog with you when you go out for a cup of coffee or to an outdoor event. Dog-friendly patios abound in the Golden State, and rarely is there an outdoor event without a canine contingent. Californians seem to be aware that dogs are social animals that enjoy public outings.

## Tips & Warnings

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Don't ever drive with your dog in the bed of a pickup truck. Aside from the obvious risk of falling out, they could also burn their paws on the hot metal. This is something you almost never see in California, especially considering that it's illegal.

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Avoid leaving your dog tied up in a public place, even if you are just stopping into a store briefly. Dogs can easily get stolen or harmed this way. There are unscrupulous people out there who might be tempted to steal your dog for various reasons including the unthinkable such as selling to a lab for experiments. Even Californians are guilty of leaving their dogs tied up outside from time to time, but since it's not that common an occurrence, people take notice when they do.

# The AKC has some additional measures to consider as you become a responsible pet owner:

Among companion animals, dogs are unmatched in their devotion, loyalty and friendship to humankind. Anyone who has ever loved a dog can attest to its hundred-fold return. The excitement your dog shows when you come home, the wagging tail at the sound of the leash being taken from its hook, the delight in the tossing of a tennis ball, and the head nestled in your lap-those are only some of the rewards of being a dog owner.

Owning a dog is not just a privilege-it's a responsibility. These animals depend on us for, at minimum, food and shelter, and deserve much more. If you are considering taking a dog into your life, you need to think seriously about the commitment that dog ownership entails. If you already have a dog, you need to consider if you are fulfilling all your obligations as its owner.

The AKC is committed to helping dog owners raise happy, healthy dogs. The list below is certainly not exhaustive, but it contains some of the essential ways you can be the best dog owner you can be.

Follow these links to view a selection of our 101 suggestions:

- [Think First](#)
- [Make the Commitment](#)
- [Get Ready](#)
- [Bring Your Dog Home](#)
- [Keep Your Dog Healthy](#)
- [AKC Pet Healthcare Plan at a Glance](#)
- [Keep Your Dog Safe](#)
- [Be a Friend](#)
- [Train Your Dog](#)
- [Breed Responsibly](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [Be a Canine Ambassador](#)

## Think First

### 1. Recognize the Commitment

Dog ownership is not something to be entered into lightly. Owning a dog is a long-term emotional and financial commitment.

Before deciding that a certain dog is right for you, you must make an honest assessment as to whether your home is right for any dog.

### 2. Evaluate Your Lifestyle

If you get a dog, he (or she) will become a part of your life. You need to make sure that he's suited for your lifestyle. For example, if you are athletic, you will probably not be happy with a dog that has a low energy level. If you are extremely neat, you will probably want a dog that doesn't shed much. All aspects of your family's life - hobbies, activities, personalities, schedules - should be evaluated before you get a dog.

### 3. Make a List

Based on your evaluation, determine what qualities you want in a dog. Consider size, energy level, grooming needs, trainability and temperament. Do you want a guard dog or a lap dog? Is it important that your dog get along with children? If you rent your home, are there restrictions on height, weight or breed? Answer these questions now - once you bring a dog home, it can be heartbreaking to realize that you made the wrong choice.

### 4. Choose a Breed

Once you have made your list of ideal characteristics, do some research to find which breeds fit that profile. Go to your local library, attend a dog show, and visit the AKC website. Narrow your choices to the [breed](#) that seems right for you.

### 5. Get a Referral

You have a much better chance of being satisfied if you get your dog from a responsible, ethical breeder whose primary concern is to produce dogs of high quality, good health and stable temperament. The AKC has a [Breeder Referral](#) contact for each recognized breed. These individuals can put you in contact with breeders or rescue organizations in your area.

### 6. Make Contact

Get in touch with the breed contacts in your area. Let them know that you are interested in their breed. Be able to demonstrate that you have put thought into your choice. Don't be discouraged if the first breeder you talk to does not have puppies available right away. That person may know another breeder in the region.

## 7. Ask Questions

Ask the breeder any questions you can think of about the breed. When you find a breeder you're comfortable with, ask to visit the kennel and view the dogs on the breeder's premises. Inquire about health problems of the breed, and what can be done to prevent or control them. Find out what kinds of activities, including competition, the breeder's dogs participate in and enjoy. The breeder's dogs are a preview of what your dog will be.

## 8. Consider an Older Dog

Puppies aren't for everyone. If an older dog better fits your lifestyle, check the AKC website for [breed rescue groups](#). These organizations rescue purebred dogs that have been lost, abandoned or surrendered due to the death or illness of their owners. Most rescue dogs have been spayed or neutered and are screened for health and temperament problems. Rescue is a not only a great source for purebred dogs, it's also a way to save the life of a dog in need.

## 9 Expect Questions

A responsible breeder or rescue contact will ask you extensive questions about the type of home you can offer a dog. These people are as committed as you are to making the right match between you and a dog. Give honest answers to their questions.

Remember that, due to their experience in the breed, they know what issues are important in placing one of their dogs.

## 10 Prepare to Wait

Availability varies. Be aware that a puppy or dog of the breed you've decided on may not be easy to find. Responsible breeders do not breed often, and many times the puppies of a planned breeding are already spoken for. Just remember that a good dog is worth waiting for.

## 11 Skip the Holidays

Many people try to buy puppies as Christmas gifts for children or other family members. Most breeders do not recommend this. You should be prepared to give a new puppy your undivided attention, and that is rarely possible during the busy holiday season. A better idea is to give dog-related gifts - toys, leashes, grooming tools - and then bring your puppy home when all the excitement has died down.

## Make the Commitment

## 12. Pick Your Pet

When the time has come to select your pet, consider your options carefully. Respect your breeder's input about which puppy is right for you. If you are rescuing an older dog, ask your contact person for information on its health, temperament, behavior and history.

## 13. Get It in Writing

Information about the sale or adoption should be in writing. The contract should include, for example, details regarding any fees, spay-neuter agreements, health guarantees, terms of co-ownership, restrictions on breeding, and living arrangements. It should also include instructions on what to do if the dog, despite your best efforts, simply doesn't work out for you or your family. Most responsible breeders will insist that the dog be returned to them.

## 14. Get Your Papers

Get your AKC registration application from the breeder when you purchase the puppy. Make sure the breeder completes the appropriate sections of the form and signs it. The breeder can also help you fill out your section correctly.

## 15. Register Your Dog

Send the completed, signed registration application to the AKC. Your dog will then become part of the nation's largest registry of purebred dogs and as well as being eligible for a variety of competitive events can also activate the Complimentary 60-Day Trial [AKC Pet Healthcare Plan](#)\*. If you rescue a dog, consider applying for a [Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege](#) (PAL/ILP) number. This number will allow your dog to participate in some performance events.

## Get Ready

## 16. Prepare Yourself

Get ready for your new friend before you bring him home, to make sure the transition will be as smooth as possible. Buy food, treats, a collar and leash, toys, grooming tools and other necessities in advance so your dog or puppy will have everything he needs.

### **17. Make a Schedule**

You and your family members should decide who will be responsible for food, water, walking, exercise, clean-up and grooming. Post a schedule of tasks in a visible area of the house to remind everyone of their responsibilities.

### **18. Dog-Proof Your Home**

Prepare your home before your new dog arrives. Move breakables or "chewables" to higher ground. Make electrical cords inaccessible to curious paws and noses. Block off any area of the house that you want off-limits to the dog. Put the lid down on your toilet and your shoes up in your closet. Block access to any house or garden plants that may be toxic to dogs.

### **19 Set a Containment Policy**

It is essential that you have a secure method of keeping your dog on your property. Check your fence for spots vulnerable to chewing or digging. If your yard is not fenced, consider a large dog run or invisible fencing. If your property is not fenced in some way, stress to family members that the dog must be leashed at all times when taken outdoors.

### **20. Get a Collar**

Your dog should wear a flat leather or nylon collar with a buckle at all times, except when in a crate. (The buckle can catch on the crate and cause injury.) The collar should be tight enough that it will not slide over the dog's ears, but loose enough that you can fit two fingers between the collar and the dog's neck. Check the fit of the collar often, especially if you have a fast-growing puppy.

### **21. Make a Bed**

Every dog needs a quiet place to call his own. Create a comfortable area, whether a crate, a mat or a pile of blankets, for your dog to go to when he needs rest or privacy.

### **22. Buy Some Toys**

Provide your dog with a variety of toys to prevent him from playing with your socks and shoes, your morning paper, or your child's favorite doll. Get some toys that you and your dog can play with together, such as balls and plush toys, and some things to keep him busy when he's alone, such as chewies or rope bones. Never leave your dog unattended with any toy that has small,

detachable parts.

### **23. Find a Veterinarian**

You should choose a veterinarian for your dog as soon as possible. Have your dog examined by the vet within a few days of his arrival. Give your vet copies of the dog's health records, and set up a vaccination and check-up schedule.

### **24. Bathe Your Dog**

A clean dog is a healthy dog. Bathe your dog on a regular basis appropriate to his breed and environment. Overbathing can be harmful to a dog's skin. Use a good shampoo and be sure to rinse well. If bathing your dog is more than you can handle, take him to a groomer or veterinarian for help.

### **25. Groom Your Dog**

All dogs should be groomed regularly for health and best appearance. Some short-coated breeds need just a quick brushing every week, while some longer-coated breeds need daily brushing to prevent matting and to reduce shedding. If your dog requires clipping or sculpting, you may want to consult a professional groomer.

### **26. Clip Those Nails**

Keeping your dog's nails short will keep him comfortable, prevent injury to his feet, and may save the surface of your floors. If you can hear your dog's nails click on a hard surface, they need to be trimmed. Ask your veterinarian for advice on clipping your dog's nails yourself.

### **27. Clean Those Teeth**

To prevent tooth decay and gum disease, clean your dog's teeth regularly. Most dogs will accept a "toothbrush" if introduced to it slowly and gently. You can also give your dog products such as hard biscuits, rope bones and nylon chews to keep his teeth clean.

### **35. Prevent Obesity**

Keep your dog healthy by maintaining him at an appropriate weight. Feed him a well-balanced diet and give him plenty of exercise. Don't give in to begging - "people food" is generally bad for dogs.

## Be a Canine Ambassador

### 36 Set a Good Example

As a dog owner, you are responsible not only for your own dog's well being, but for the status of dogs everywhere. One irresponsible dog owner in town can make life difficult for dog owners all over. Owning a friendly, clean, well-mannered dog reflects positively on the species and may help protect our rights to own companion animals.

### 37. Respect Your Neighbors

Not everyone will love your dog as much as you do. Keep your dog on your property. Don't force your dog's company on a neighbor who isn't comfortable with dogs.

### 38 Don't Leave Leavings

Always carry a plastic "baggy" or two with you when you walk your dog to pick up any waste it leaves behind, then dispose of the waste properly. Failure to clean up after your dog is disrespectful to your neighbors.

### 39. Respect Local Laws

Heed the laws regarding dog ownership in your city or county. These may include registration, leash laws and nuisance barking laws. Failure to obey the laws in your area may not only result in the loss of your dogs, but may also infringe upon the rights of others in your area.

### 40. Fight Anti-Dog Legislation

Be aware of any legislation developing in your city or state that may compromise the rights of responsible dog owners. Become an active voice against legislation directed against specific breeds. For more information, contact the [Canine Legislation](#) and [Public Education](#) departments at the AKC.

### 41. Let Your Dog Help Others

Dogs are invaluable in providing service to humans - visiting the sick, helping the disabled, locating missing persons, and much more. If your dog is of the correct temperament, you and he can reap the rewards of helping others.



42. **Get a Canine Good Citizen® Certificate**  
Your dog can become an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen by passing a test designed to demonstrate good manners and acceptable behavior in everyday situations. The CGC program has become a standard for recognizing obedient dogs and responsible dog owners throughout the country.

**And this brings us right back to the beginning of this newsletter!**

You can see excerpts of our classes by going to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and typing in **Chief Solano Kennel Club** in the search box.

**And discover how much fun it can be to have a well behaved dog and become a...**



**RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER!**