

Getting to Know Beagles by Rae Joy

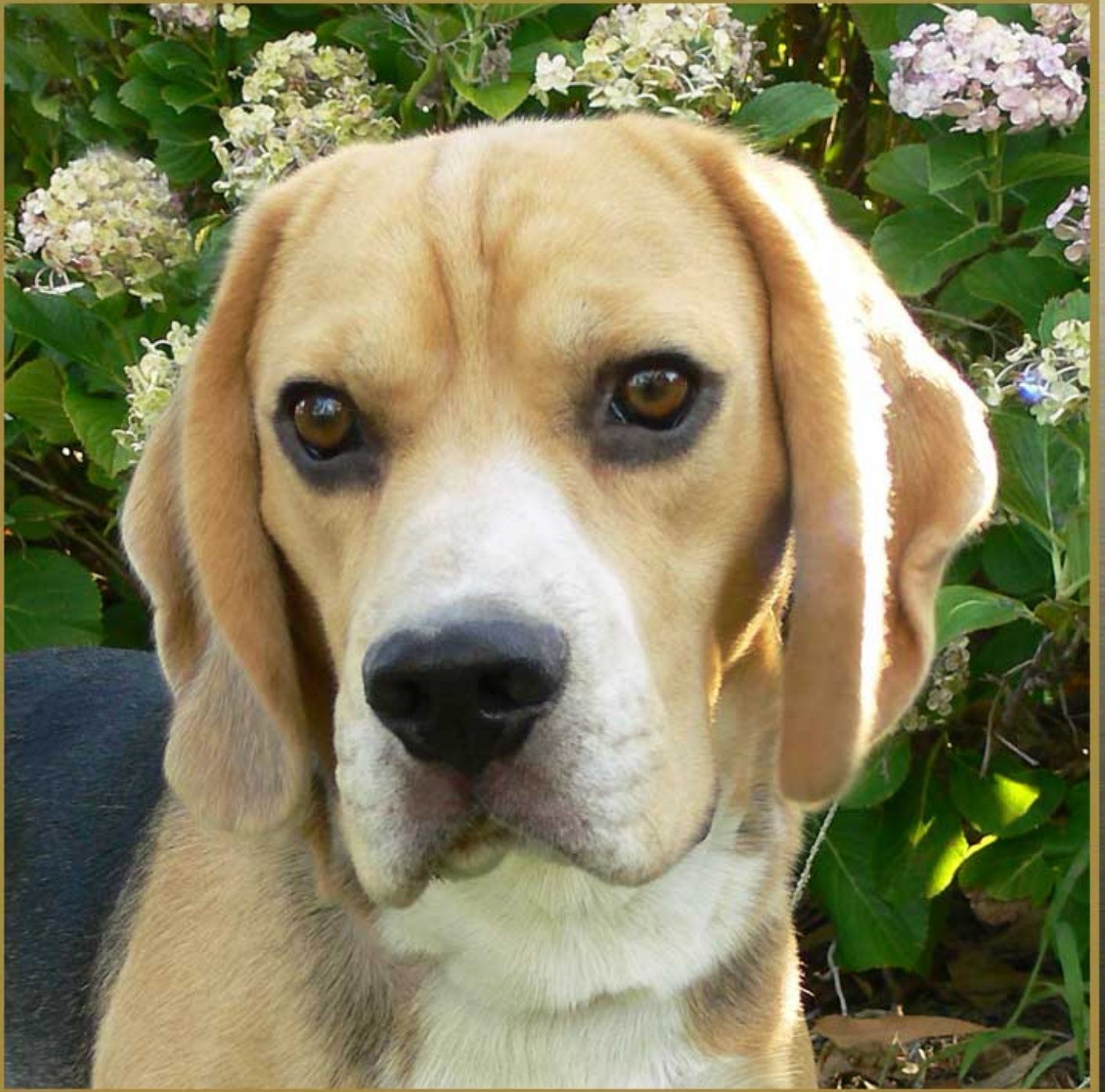
Thank you for downloading your evaluation copy of this eBook from Animalinfo Publications.

What you are viewing is a random sample from the book aimed at showing you the quality and the depth of detail that you can expect from the rest of the eBook. Please take the time to look through the 'Table of Contents'. You will see that we have covered just about everything you could want to know about choosing and owning a Beagle. Learn how to locate a reputable breeder, choose a healthy puppy, and provide on-going care for your new companion.

Getting to Know Beagles is over 150 pages filled with easy reading current information with over 170 colour images and embedded video files. An extensive list of on-line resources is provided for further reading.

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Getting to Know **Beagles**

A Guide to Choosing and Owning a Beagle

RAE JOY

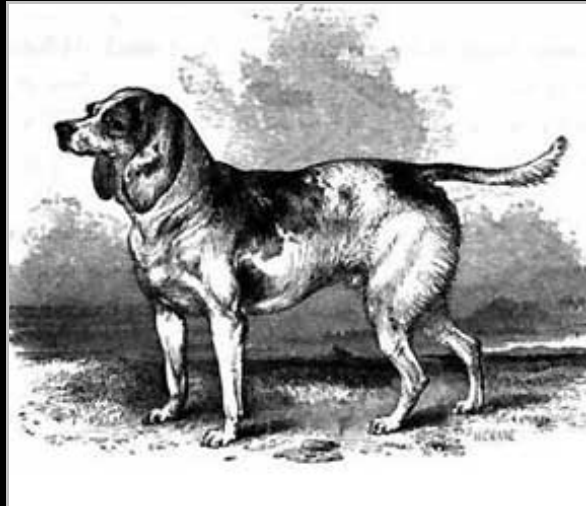
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Table of Contents

About the Author	5	Lead Training	
		Keeping Your Puppy Safe	
Acknowledgements	6	Introducing an Adult Dog to Your Home	69
Photo Acknowledgements	7	One Dog or Two	
Forward	8	Meeting Other Family Members	
Introduction	9	Establishing a Routine	
Dog Behaviour	10	Adopting an Older Dog	
History of the Beagle.....	13	Diets.....	75
Description of the Breed	16	Commercial Diets	
Physical Appearance		Fresh Foods	
Life Expectancy		Special Needs	
Temperament/ Personality		Keeping Your Beagle Healthy	85
Compatibility with Other Pets and Children		Visual Examination	
Breed Standards	23	Vaccinations	
Kennel Club Recognition		Endoparasites & Ectoparasites	
Breed Clubs		Teeth and Nails	
The Ideal Beagle Owner	27	Grooming	
Dogs Cost Money!		Anal Glands	
Social Needs		Sterilisation	
Physical Needs		Exercise & Play	
Environment		Common Canine Health Issues	120
Training Requirements		Arthritis	
Checklist for the Ideal Beagle Owner		Cancer	
Where to Find Your Beagle	33	Cataracts	
Breeders of Purebred Dogs		Diabetes	
Pet Shops		Heart Disease	
Rescue Shelters and Beagle Rescue Groups		Beagle Health Issues	132
Selecting a Healthy Beagle	41	Genetic Disease	
What should you expect from a Supplier?		Higher Incidence Disorders	
Veterinary Certification		Lower Incidence Disorders	
Available Health Screening		Other Health Issues Affecting Beagles	
Pedigree Papers and Contracts		Your Responsibilities as a Dog Owner	140
Visual Examination		Basic Training and Obedience	
Selecting an Adult Dog		Being a Good Neighbour	
Bringing Your Puppy Home	53	Respecting Wildlife	
Preparing For Your New Puppy		Irresponsible Practices	
The First Days		Old Age and Your Dog	
Diets and Feeding Regime		Resources	149
Toilet Training		General Resources (including National	
		Kennel Councils and links to Breed Clubs &	
		Standards)	
		Health Resources (including Disease Testing	
		& Information Organisations)	
		Further Reading	

History of the Beagle



The Beagle is a very old and pure breed and is thought to have originated in the eleventh century in England when William the Conqueror brought the now extinct Talbot Hound into Great Britain as a hunting dog. The modern day Beagle is a descendent of the Talbot Hound, and possibly the Irish Kerry Beagle which was famous for its strong scenting abilities. By the 18th century, fox hunting was a well established sport in Britain and hounds were specifically bred for this purpose. The Beagle as a breed was developed in Great Britain and was then imported into the United States in the 1860's where it was used both for sport hunting and hunting of game for food. The Beagle Club was formed in Great Britain in 1890 to promote Beagles as sporting and show dogs. At this stage, the beagle was still not used as a companion dog. Hunting packs were coordinated by the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles. In the USA the National Beagle Club was formed in 1887 but it was primarily concerned with organising field trials of hounds to hunt rabbits.

There are many theories as to the origin of the name 'beagle' – the French word 'begueule' means 'open throat' or 'loudmouth', an old Welsh term 'beag' means small, the French word 'beugler' means 'to bellow' and the German word 'begele' means 'to scold'. It is very likely that the name refers to the sound Beagles make when in pursuit – called 'Beagle music' by some or 'tonguing'.



Late 18th/Early 19th century Beagle

Beagles have always been bred as a pack animal. The early Beagle had a strong pack instinct and scenting ability, but was lacking in speed and stamina. Selective breeding resulted in a Beagle with strong field abilities and persistence. It is interesting to note that beagle hunting has always traditionally been followed by humans on foot, not mounted on horses. Beagling was often referred to as 'poor mans fox hunting' because of this lack of horses.

white or black with different coloured spots. Some tri-colours also have ticking of different colours in their white areas. All beagles should have a white tip on their tail.

Beagles are born in a variety of colours and markings within the same litter and their final colour develops with time. In the first week or two, tricolour pups may look black and white but gradually the tan comes through, usually on the face and ears first, and then on the flanks, neck and shoulders by the time they are ready to go to their new homes. Their colour will continue to develop over the next 1-2 years. Some

Beagles change colour slowly throughout their lives! Lemon and white puppies are born looking nearly white with just cream ears and markings, whereas their tan and white littermates will have definite tan markings at birth.



*In the first week or two, tricolour Beagle pups may look black and white.
Photo – Houndmaster Beagles*



Gradually the tan comes through by the time they are ready to go to their new homes.

Breed Standards



If you are interested in showing Beagles you will need to purchase an animal with a National Kennel Club or Council registered pedigree. You will also need to join the Kennel Council in your state or region as an exhibitor. Your dog will then be judged against a set of features that describe 'perfection' for the Beagle. These features will include descriptions of colour, body shape, size, temperament and gait, and can

be very specific in their requirements.

This description of 'perfection' is known as the 'Breed Standard', and can sometimes vary slightly from country to country. Usually, once a national Kennel Club or Council recognises a particular breed, they will develop a Breed Standard, which dogs can then be judged against in the show ring. Links to the Breed Standards for Beagles from the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), the American Kennel Club (AKC), the Kennel Club UK, the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC), the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC) and the World Canine Association (FCI) are included in the 'Resources' section at the end of the book.



Above – 'Australian Grand Champion Beagelee Finnish Spirit' & Leanne Coffey

Top – 'Australian Champion Houndmaster Gold'n Blonde'

A dog that aligns closely to the Breed Standards will probably

Bringing Your Puppy Home



Preparing For Your New Puppy

If you've thought long and hard about your decision to get a puppy, you have the advantage of being able to prepare your home for the new arrival. The first thing that you need to do is organise some time off work, or at the very least, make sure that you arrange to collect the pup early in the day on a weekend.



It is reasonable to expect your pup to upset for a couple of days at being separated from its mother and the rest of the litter.

Photo – Ingalee Beagles

All pups are different. Some take everything in their stride with minimum stress, and others become very anxious at any changes in their circumstances. This can apply to littermates, not just different breeds. One of my dogs has always been full of

confidence and not nervous about any new experiences but his litter brother would throw up in my lap from anxiety every time we drove anywhere. It is best to assume your new pup will be upset by being separated from its mother and litter mates and taken to strange new surroundings. Leaving a pup alone will only exacerbate this anxiety, whereas providing support and comfort during this time will definitely help to form a bond between you and your new dog. While you might want to show off your new puppy, too many people and too much noise can cause a pup to become stressed and this can quickly lead to illness. The only social engagement for the first day or so should be limited to your veterinarian. Unless you have complete confidence in the breeder, a quick trip to the vet on the way home for a physical check up is a good idea.

The following suggestions can help to make the transition to your home from the breeder or supplier less stressful.

Make sure you have acquired anything that you will need for the pup in advance. This includes suitable food and water containers, bedding, and some toys that are appropriate for the pup's size and age. If you take a small blanket with you to the breeder, the blanket can be rubbed on the mother to collect some of her scent. Having this to sleep on can have a reassuring affect on the puppy.



It is best to obtain details of the pup's diet from the breeder in order to avoid diarrhoea.

Sudden changes in the pup's diet can cause diarrhoea. If you have pre-ordered a pup from a breeder it should be easy to obtain details of their diet beforehand, to

The First Days

Pups will often cry on their first night away from their mother and while this can make sleep for their new owners difficult, it usually doesn't last too long. After they have had their last feed they should go to sleep for the evening, though it is important to let the pup know that you are close at hand. You can check in on a regular basis and take them out for a toilet break but it is not good to come running at the first sound they utter. They will quickly learn that to get attention, all they need to do is start whining.

The activity level of puppies will vary greatly between different breeds and between individuals. One characteristic that is common to all puppies is the need for frequent sleeps. Families with children need to be aware that the pup needs to rest. When their activity level begins to slow, they should be allowed to go to sleep. They will usually want to sleep shortly after a meal. Putting them in the area where their bedding is located will help reinforce this as an area where they are safe, and should go to for sleep. They will begin to feel comfortable in this area and therefore they are less likely to whine at night.

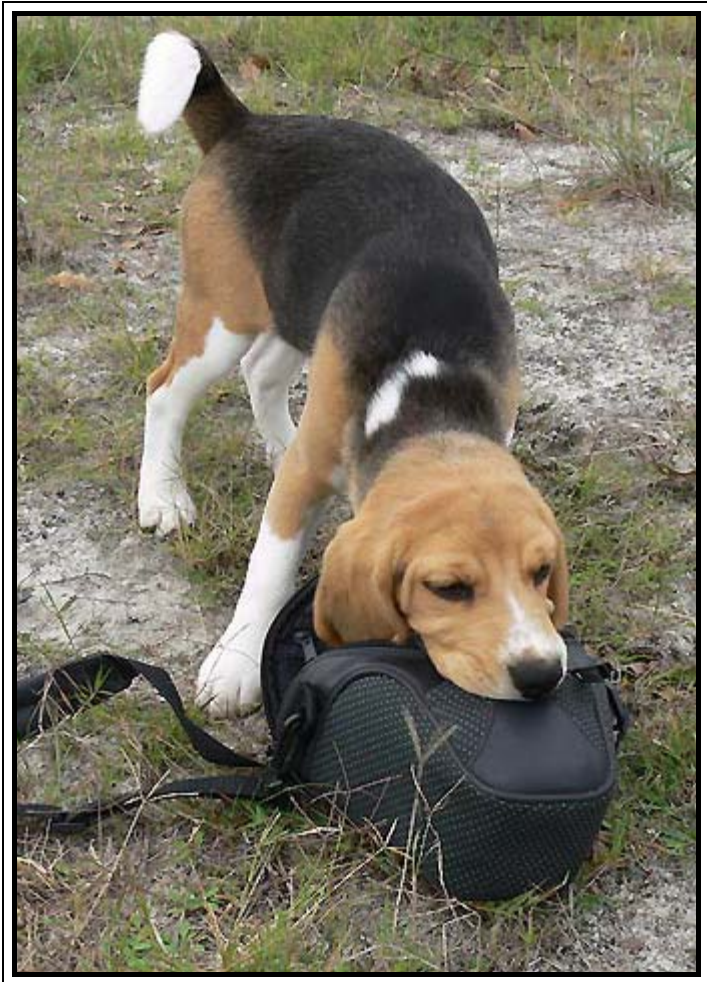


*It is important to allow young pups and dogs to rest.
Photo – Nicolle Farley*

It is also important to make children understand that pups can initially feel very insecure. Try to make the introductions to other family members a positive experience. Use lots of encouragement, stroking and gentle play. Avoid loud, harsh noises and rough handling. Pups shouldn't be encouraged to play in a manner that includes biting and growling by teasing and tormenting them. It might be fun when they are little but the novelty wears off as they get older and stronger and the pup will not understand why this type of play is no longer acceptable.

If you have other animals in your household you will need to be careful during the

Hazards associated with the environment such as poisonous snakes, spiders, paralysis ticks, and poisonous toads may vary according to where live. Your vet or state kennel council can advise you on things that may pose a threat in your area. They are just like children in many ways and therefore a commonsense approach is required. You wouldn't leave a child in a hot car and the same applies to dogs. A couple of days of close observation will help you identify potential hazards. Rather than becoming alarmed or paranoid about your puppy's safety, simply be aware of what your pup is doing when it is awake and playing.



The desire to chew and swallow inappropriate items can also be a concern.



Make sure that the toys provided are robust enough to withstand chewing so that they don't break into pieces small enough to swallow.

The principles of feeding commercial diets are basically the same for adults as those covered in the puppy section earlier in this book. There are high and medium quality commercial diets but also many others that are made with lower quality ingredients. The high quality diets usually have better digestibility and therefore better nutrient absorption and less waste production. This translates into better dog health and less droppings to clean up. There are also moist and semi-moist diets available for adults and these have higher water content than commercial dry foods.

Identifying a good quality product may not be easy. Price is not always the best guide but your vet or a reputable breeder may help you decide on a good product. To complicate the issue, a premium product that comes highly recommended by vets and breeders, may be considered inedible by your dog. If your dog won't eat the product, or it has an adverse reaction to one of the ingredients, it is obviously not the

diet for you. Moist diets are often more palatable so the combination of a top quality dry food and a lower quality moist diet stirred together may help to get your dog to accept the diet provided. Cooked and raw meats can also be added but you should be aware that many vets warn against the use of raw meat, due to the potential for bacterial and parasitic infections.



There are also moist and semi-moist diets available for adults and these have higher water content than commercial dry foods.

The main nutritional needs that your diet needs to meet are as follows:

Protein

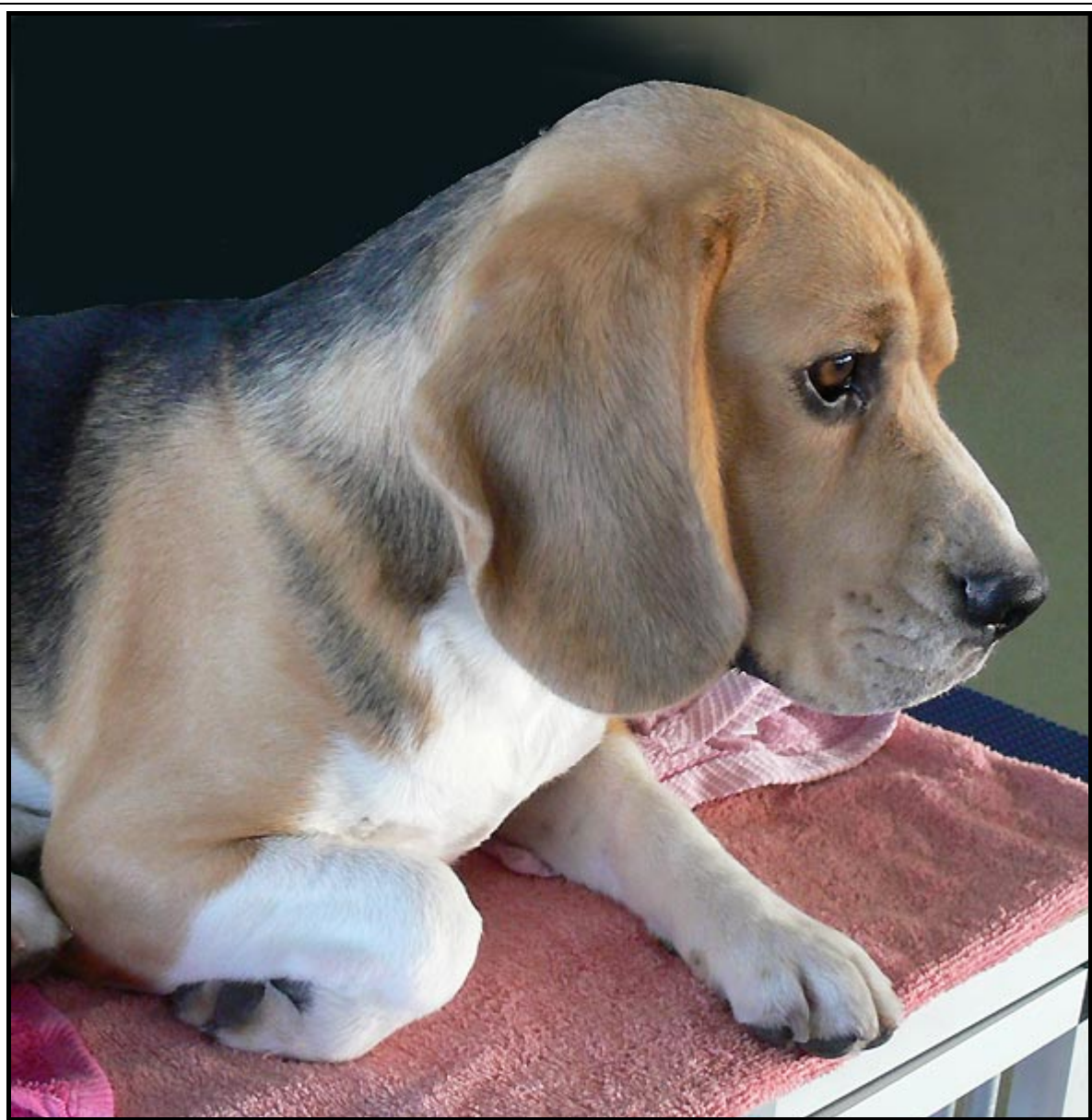
Being primarily carnivorous animals, protein in the form of quality meats or meat meals is the most important component of your dog's diet. Protein is expensive and your better quality products can be identified by the type of protein listed. Products that include specified fresh meat such as chicken or beef, and meat meals that are named, such as 'chicken meal' or 'beef meal', are generally better quality products. Meat meals are not considered an inferior source of protein. They are produced from cuts of meat that are not for human consumption but do not include hair, feathers, hoofs, and heads. They include the correct ratio of calcium/phosphorous and have lower water content than fresh meats. Products containing lower quality meat 'by-products' are best avoided, particularly if this is the main source of protein.

Fats and Oils

Obesity is one of the most common health issues in pet dogs today. However, fats and oils are a necessary part of your dog's diet, particularly beneficial for the skin and coat, but also required by other body processes and functions. Some products

sneezing. If your dog is already on a premium food the chances of developing a food allergy will be lessened, but dogs can be allergic to one simple ingredient and it is often a long and painful process to eliminate all of the possible culprits. This is something you should seek your vet's advice on – there are special allergy diets available now that can be used short or long term while you gradually reintroduce other ingredients back into your dog's diet.

There are also special diets available for a variety of health related issues such as kidney, liver, and joint disease. These tend to be manufactured by companies that produce good quality diets and are based on sound research into common health issues, such as kidney failure in older dogs. Most are available from veterinary practices only and should be used on the recommendation of your vet.



*A good diet is reflected in the coat and overall condition of the dog.
'Australian Champion Houndmaster Cotton Socks'*

Keeping Your Beagle Healthy



Visual Examination

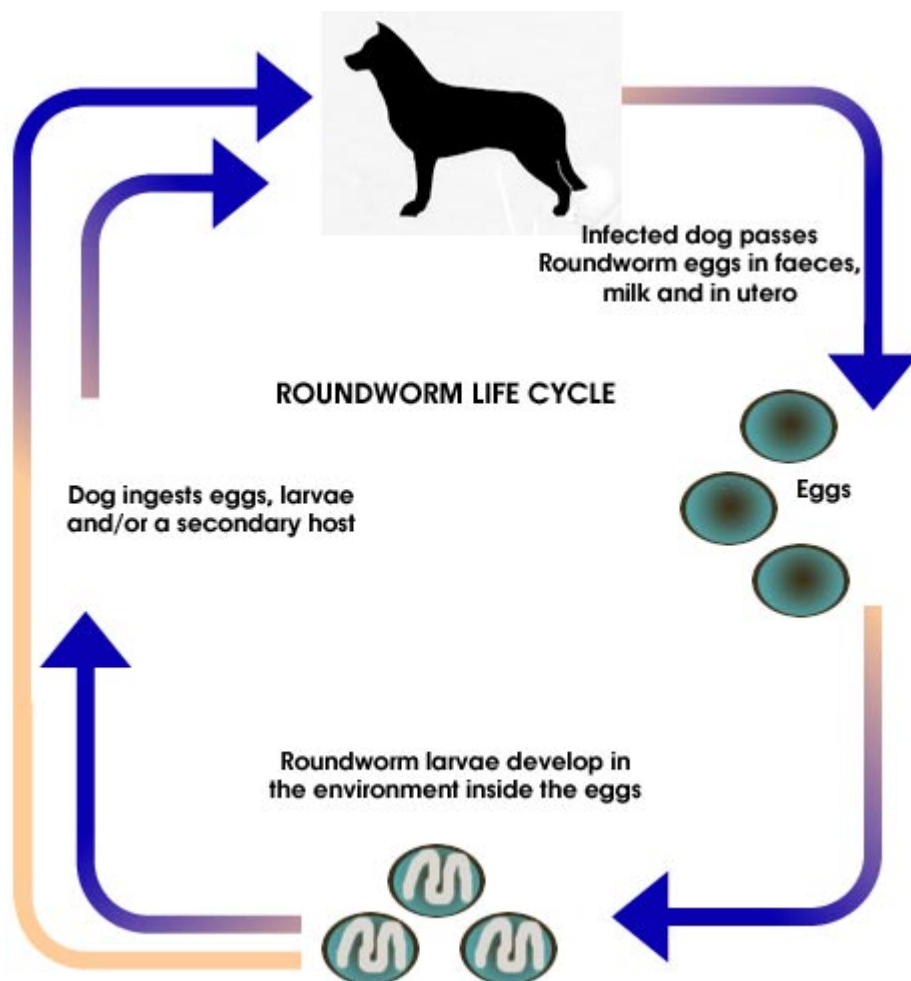
Ownership of any animal includes being responsible for maintaining their health and wellbeing. Unlike children, they are unable to tell you when they are feeling unwell or when they are experiencing pain. It is up to you, the owner, to recognise signs and symptoms that may indicate a problem. One of the most important ways of doing this is through the use of simple observation skills. Being aware of what is 'normal' for your dog will help you identify any condition that is not.



A dog's coat is one of the best overall indicators of good health.

'Australian Champion Clarion Queen of Quality'

If you have recently acquired your dog or puppy and you are unsure of its health status, it is best to take it to the vet for a check-up. Your vet can usually identify any general health issues that may be a problem and can also give you a few pointers on recognising poor health, such as coat and skin condition, body weight, teeth, and nails. Your dog will be weighed each time it visits the same vet so that they have a record of the dog's weight. If your dog receives a clean bill of health from the vet you will have



The second species of roundworm, *Toxascaris leonina*, has a simpler lifecycle. It completes its cycle in the intestine and does not migrate within the body. The same wormers are effective against both species. Many of the combination worming treatments are effective against roundworms. Monthly flea or heartworm prevention programs that include roundworm treatments are also effective in preventing environmental contamination. Due to the fact that roundworms can only be treated when they are present in the intestine, multiple treatments may be required to rid the dog's system of roundworms. The monthly preventative programs are effective in accomplishing this task.

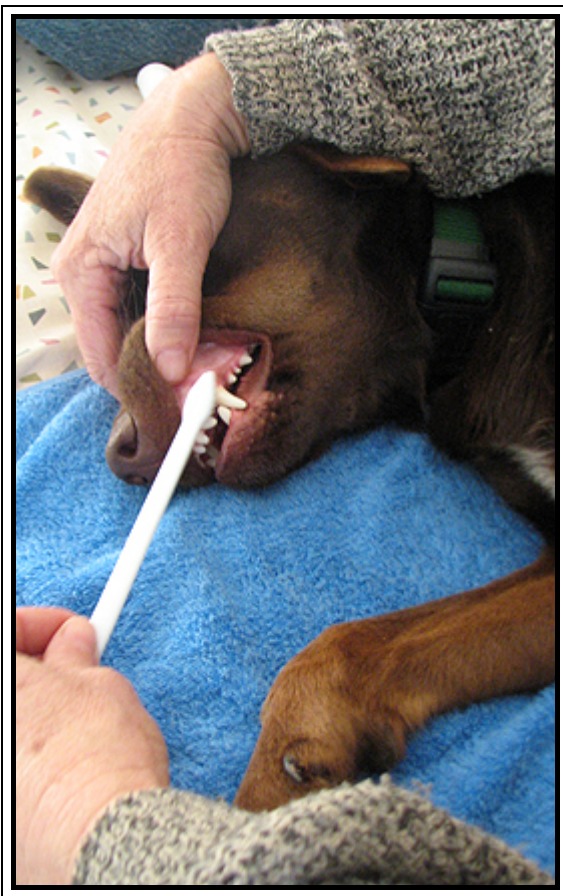
Hookworms (*Ancylostoma caninum*, *Ancylostoma braziliense*)

Heavy burdens of most intestinal worms can cause serious illness in your dog and hookworm, in particular, can cause death in young pups due to blood loss. Unlike other intestinal worms that absorb nutrients from food passing through the digestive system, hookworms suck blood directly from their host. Like roundworms they have an environmental stage in their lifecycle and they can also migrate in the body, infecting the lungs and mammary glands as well as unborn puppies.

Hookworm eggs are passed into the environment through the droppings of infected dogs. The eggs hatch in the soil and complete two further stages of their lifecycle before being able to infect another host. They do this in two ways - either by being licked up by a dog whose coat has been contaminated with soil carrying larvae, or by

before more serious damage to the teeth occurs and infection results. Signs of early periodontal disease include redness of the gums, foul smelling breath and brown tartar deposits. Remember that a dog with a painful mouth is less likely to eat well but is more likely to bite as a result of the pain it is experiencing. Serious dental work will require a general anaesthetic and can be very costly. An early preventative dental care program is far more cost effective and can avoid unnecessary suffering in your dog. For more tips on training your dog to accept regular dental inspection and tooth brushing refer to the *Animalinfo 'Guide to Training for Good Health'*.

Appropriate dental chews can help keep a dog's teeth in good condition.



With behavioural conditioning your dog can learn to accept regular brushing.

Finger brushes supplied in dog toothbrush kits may be easier to use than the standard brush.



Drag Hunting – A Specific Beagle Sport



A Beagle Drag Hunting Pack in Action
Photo – Ingalee Beagles & Goldengum Beagles

Drag hunting has become a very popular Beagle sport throughout the world. It enables your Beagle to exercise, join a pack and most importantly fulfil its need to follow a scent! Basically the sport involves dragging a strong scent to create a trail anywhere from one to twenty kilometres in length! The goal is to create a scent trail that is a challenge to follow for the dogs such as zigzagging and crossing streams. The hounds are released as a pack and follow the scent to a treat at the end of the trail. This can be done as a fun social outing or as a competitive sport. An important part of this sport is the creation of a good working pack of Beagles as each individual dog will find a niche in the pack depending on his particular skills. If you are interested in training your dog in this sport, contact your local Beagle Club for details on drag hunting groups near you.

Some informative articles on drag hunting with Beagles can be found at:

www.dogs.net.au/beagle - Homesite of Ingalee Beagles.

<http://www.banbloodsports.com/Drag.htm> - Irish Drag Hunting Website.

http://www.thebeagleclub.co.uk/guide_to_drag_hunting.htm - UK Club guide to Drag Hunting.



Activity and puzzle toys may help to keep your dog busy and quiet while you are away from home.



Remember, some squeaky toys can be as annoying to neighbours as barking.

communication open with your neighbours to avoid animosity. Voice activated recorders are a simple way of determining how bad the barking problem is after you have left the property.

Barking may be attention seeking or result from the dog's natural desire to protect its territory. Well socialised dogs that are used to lots of people, noises, and other animals may be less likely to become alarm barkers, inclined to bark at the slightest disturbance. It may also result from boredom, frustration, indecision, and separation anxiety when their owner is away from home. Sometimes it can result from health issues, particularly in older dogs.

Providing enrichment for your dog in the form of activity toys can be helpful in occupying them. But remember, some noisy 'squeaky' toys can be as annoying as barking! Puzzle toys and 'Kongs™' allow you to hide treats inside. Retrieving the treats can occupy a dog for long periods so they may be a better choice. It is important to make sure that toys are the appropriate size for your dog so they are not at risk from choking while you are away. Getting them used to being outside on their own while you are home can avoid separation anxiety and help them relax while you are away. They should be provided with a comfortable,