

3 of a K9d

Pretty as a Picture

hang it all

These charming caricatures portray your pooch with a colourful, pointillism-meets-folk-art vibe.



E-mail or bring in a pic of your pet, choose from one of four backgrounds and sizes (starting at six-inches by six-inches) and your original painting by a Calgary artist will be ready in about four weeks. **Starting at \$65, Cherry Four, 1111 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-262-7171, cherryfour.com.**

that's a print

Portray your pooch with a modern edge in an eye-catching art print, which comes in any size you can dream of. The acrylic version (pictured) has a translucent quality and a high-gloss finish, while the steel option is a study in grey and black. **Starting at \$200, Essential Living, 1223 9th Ave. S.E., 403-262-6150.**



snap happy

Brian Burke—a fine-art grad of both ACAD and the U of C whose art graces this week's Swerve cover—loves dogs. It's obvious in how he captures their personalities and verve in the stunning photographs he takes in and out of the studio. **Starting at \$200, Back in the Pack, 2135 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-270-0912, backintheback.ca.**

nothing's too good for Fido

A dog doesn't care if it's being toted about in a Louis Vuitton carrier. This is about owners pampering their fur baby with the latest and greatest.



STEP RIGHT UP

Harnesses may be kinder to a dog's neck and throat, but they're often tough to wrangle, what with their web of straps, clips and legholes. Enter the Buddy Belt, a step-in, one-buckle wonder handcrafted in Canada from 100-percent leather and available in 11 sizes and a variety of colours (some of them eye-popping). **Starting at \$42, Urban Dog Market, 3538 Garrison Gate S.W., 403-242-3641, urbandogmarket.com.**

GAME ON!

Don't worry: this interactive game that you play with your dog—you hide treats under removable plastic bones, your dog finds said treats—is ranked easy in terms of skill level. (If you've got a four-legged Einstein on your hands, go straight to the Dog Tornado, which I'm still trying to figure out.) **Dog Magic, \$39, The Inner Hound, 2036 34th Ave. S.W., 403-217-9950, theinnerhound.ca.**



TO SLEEP, PERCHANCE TO DREAM

Send Rover off for a night of chasing bunnies through Dreamland with a bed that's custom-made to co-ordinate with your living areas. Available in a dizzying array of colours and patterns—options include organic and outdoor fabrics—the beds come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. **Starting at \$120, Essential Living, 1223 9th Ave. S.E., 403-262-6150.**



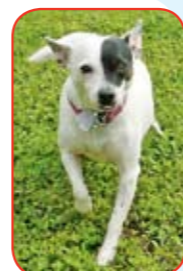
adopt a dog

Little Mutts Rescue

Year established: May 2009.
Dogs placed in 2009: Approximately 180.
Specialty areas: Small breeds.
Adoption fees: Generally \$400 for adults, \$450 for puppies, less if the dog is older or has issues.
Adoption process: Landlord letter (if applicable), home visit, vet reference check.
Contact: littlemuttsrescue.org.

Am I the Dog for You?

Don't let **Spud's** bum leg fool you. The three-year-old terrier-cross hasn't let a damaged hind leg slow him down a bit, running and jumping with the best of them. Affectionate but not clingy, Spud weighs in at about 16 pounds, is house- and crate-trained and gets along well with other dogs. The well-mannered sprite likes to go for walks and would do best in an active household.



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Okay, this pick is really for you, not the pup. Available in six finishes, including bamboo, maple and wenge, the Series 1 raised feeder is a welcome addition to any modern decor scheme. (Bonus: the made-in-Canada piece can be wall-mounted with an add-on kit.) **Wowo 1 Series Raised Feeder, starting at \$98, pawhauspetboutique.com.**



DIVA-LICIOUS

Because nothing says L-O-V-E like S-P-I-K-E in bling on your precious pup's collar. Spell out your dog's name in Swarovski crystal lettering and add a charm or two (might we suggest an elegant pink bone or sparkly crystal skull?) to create a one-of-a-kind adornment. Custom leather collars start at \$30, **Equine by Design, 403-827-9663, equinebydesign.weebly.com.**

TABLE TALK

Nothing can kill a design scheme like an ungainly dog crate, all thick plastic and metal bars. Preserve the *Architectural Digest* look you've worked so hard to achieve with the BowHaus: a sleek, silver kennel with dual starburst cutouts that does double duty as a modern end table. **allmodernpet.com, sale price \$575, shipping included.**



ask an expert...

Too Much of a Good Thing?

It's okay for pet owners to treat their dogs like surrogate children. After all, that's how Barbara Walmer treats her pups and she's the head of behaviour at the Calgary Humane Society in addition to doing consulting work. But there's a sizable string attached to that pampering: just like children, dogs need boundaries and it's the job of responsible pet owners to provide those limits.

"The perfect level of exercise and the best food and the toys to stimulate them: to me, that is taking care of your pet," Walmer says. "There are some dogs that can literally be spoiled, but they don't become bratty. Then there are dogs that, if you give them too much leeway, that becomes a problem."

Ideally, dogs should go through a basic obedience class when they're puppies, but it's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks. "Taking an adult dog and restructuring things is going to work," but be prepared for the "extinction burst," Walmer cautions. "It's going to get worse before it gets better." She uses the analogy of a broken pop machine. Rather than walk away, we tend to plug in more money and keep escalating our behaviour to try to obtain what we've come to expect from the situation.

While the way we interact with our dogs has changed in the past 50 years—as they moved from being working creatures to members of the family—what makes the animals tick hasn't. "When you take a German shepherd, for example, that is genetically wired to protect, to herd, to perform some kind of tangible job, and you change that job to family member or buddy—a very different, hard-to-pin-down job description—that can be very confusing."

Take heart, though, if your pup has problems. In most cases, they can be resolved, either through basic training or one-on-one time with a trained behaviourist. Owners, however, need to take a good look in the mirror first. "The biggest thing is people have to be committed to it, and everyone the dog interacts with has to be on the same page. It's about training the people more than training the dog."



ILLUSTRATION BY BYRON EGGENSCHWILER

AARCS: Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society

Year established: 2006.
Dogs placed in 2009: 285.
Specialty areas: First Nations communities (primarily the Sunchild, O'chieese and Big Horn First Nations near Rocky Mountain House).
Adoption fees: \$250 for dogs/puppies; adult cats \$80, kittens \$120. Fees include spaying/neutering, vaccines and any other care required to get animals to

the adoption stage.
Adoption process: After filling out an online application form, potential owners will be contacted by an adoption co-ordinator. Upon approval, a meet-and-greet will be set up at the dog's foster home. If all goes well, you're asked to think about it overnight and let AARCS know your decision the next day.
Contact: albertaanimalrescuecrew.com.

Am I the Dog for You?

Do you have another pup looking for company? **Nickel** might be the dog for you then, as she really can't stand being by herself. (If a person was home most of the day, that would be good, too.) She is a real sweetie with tons of potential (her training is going well), but she should go to an experienced dog home with no kids under 14.

