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KENNEL CLUB™

# familydog

**BOYS &  
DOGS:**  
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**The Talented,  
Versatile Poodle**



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008  
\$3.95

# The Panel

What does it take to get our canine critics to sit up and beg? Here, we look at the hierarchy of training treats.



## MEET THE CREW

Boston Terrier **Baxter**

Pug **Ulysses**

Parson Russell

Terrier **Sydney**

Siberian Huskies

**Ranger, Amber,**

**Wolfie, Rufus, and Gabby**

Labrador Retriever **Maggie** and

Leonberger **Lisa**

Border Terrier **Winnie**

Beagle **Pip** and

Swedish Vallhund

**Gracie**



"I try to give Winnie low-calorie treats like **Kong Tots** or **Charlee Bears** when training because she eats so many in a class or session. But I'll whip out liver treats if she's distracted or I want her to do something new. Our trainer also introduced us to **Plato Organic Chicken Strips**—she called them 'crack' for dogs, and the way Winnie followed her around to get some, I think she was right!"

—Rebecca Wallwork



"Gracie and Pip have different opinions about treats. However, there is one reward they are in complete agreement about: **leftover steak**. At first sniff they both immediately come to full attention." —Erika Mansourian

"When Ulysses was a puppy, we had to entice him around the block using **peanut butter**. With each step, he received another lick from my finger. He was also terrified of baths, so I wiped peanut butter all over the tub to get him inside. Even after weaning him from his peanut-butter baths, we would hear his nails clicking in the bathtub as he fruitlessly searched for leftover smears of peanut butter." —Kira Sexton

"Baxter will practice agility for a little bit of **cheddar cheese**; he'll learn a new trick for a tiny piece of **liver**; but he will do absolutely anything for **Live-A-Littles Chicken Treats**. These are freeze-dried treats made of human-grade USDA-inspected meat—like astronaut ice cream, but made from chicken. They easily break into tiny pieces for training." —Bronwyn Taggart

"Maggie and Lisa have three levels of response to food: excited (**Milk-Bones, Old Mother Hubbard biscuits**), really excited (**string cheese, rolled-up pieces of bread, and bananas**), and berserk (**fresh salmon, sardines, and ham**). But the last three can get them too riled up and competitive to listen to commands. If I'm working with one dog alone on a new skill, I'll use these items as lures." —Mara Bovsun

**TIP:** When it comes to training, it helps to think of food as currency. To your dog, a cracker may be worth \$10, and a piece of chicken \$20. The trick is working out how much to "pay" your dog for the work he does—and knowing when to bump up the rewards.

"**Pro-Treat FED Beef Liver treats** are good because they are freeze-dried. You don't want to give your dogs something very chewy when they're in the ring. These seem to melt in Sydney's mouth." —Kimberly Silva

**TIP:** **Training gear** To keep your pockets slime-free, try a bait bag that clips onto your jeans or around your waist. Premier's Dog Treat Pouch, \$12.99, has an extra pocket to stash waste bags and clickers.

