

A Dog and his Man and Woman

I am the dog. Just when I completed puppy-hood, I was given this man and his wife to be their master. That forced me to once again train people all over again. I had already trained the ladies who first had me so at least I knew the process. After six years, I believe I have succeeded in bending them to my will. I get to take them outside so I can fulfill my daily functions of the bladder and bottom as well as keep them in shape to be able to do many other things for me. I get them to serve me my dinner on time and in the right amount. I get treats quite frequently but have managed to maintain my figure and my positive energy and to enjoy two lifestyles in my short life.

First, I lived in a rural setting with the freedom to go outside by merely asking (two barks). I had an unlimited choice of tree trunks to mark and a huge swimming lake to cool me in hot weather. Now, I live in a city and I get

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Below: Bentley's photo as taken by his man.



to take them with me whenever I go out onto a street or a city park. I think they like the exercise and I enjoy the urban experience. I even know how to use an elevator, electric doors and to tolerate those who always expect me to be cute and civil in my conduct. I appreciate air conditioning. It was easy for me to adapt but as yet I am not sure about them. Quite aside from the responsibilities of owning this man and woman, I love them to bits, and, I am convinced they feel the same about me.

The biggest hurdle a dog has to overcome is the language barrier. Humans do not speak spaniel. Nor do they speak terrier, hound or Alsatian (or Al) and forget about *mongrelese*. So it's been through a series of *barks, facial expressions and pouts* that I have been able to communicate effectively and get them on the same page as me. They say something like "He lives a dog's life." True; but I have worked hard to get to this spot in life and now I can enjoy the love and affection they shower on me, and I even have a following in my building that thinks I am the *dog's pyjamas*. Better still, now the man and woman do all the work. Life is good.

Other dogs would be wise to do things the way I do.

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