

The dogz tailz- MACCA is learning

Macca

Is

learning



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Hi, [or “woof” in dog speak]. My name is MACCA (my real name is MAQUARIE pretty sophisticated eh). Not sure if I was named after an important person, or a street!. I live in George Town with my “human” family. I am apparently a pup, fur baby, cute, mischief, trouble, and heaps of other things – but I am a DOG. If I had a computer I could have a DOGFACE PAGE, or I could use my # LIFE’S PRETTY GOOD FOR A DOG IN THIS GEORGE TOWN MUNICIPALITY (or however you spell it) PLACE.



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It's my birthday on December 18th

I was born on December 18th in 2018

This is a pretty important day in my life, eh!!

It was also a pretty important day in George Town's life too, I am told. The things us dogs get told. I understand that my namesake (the important one – Governor Macquarie) named George Town on this same day just over 200 years ago. WOW!



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New to Town:

I am new to George Town [that's because I am a PUP], but call me MACCA – much cooler than being a pup. As I am a pup, and being new to town, I do not know the rules, or even my way around.

Must get my owners to take me for walks to show me the sights. Must also get them to teach me the rules so I do not get into too much trouble.

I want to be a good dog, but I am a pup and do not know all the right things yet.



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A dog's life: It's tough being a dog. I eat, sleep, run around, dig holes, chew on things, bark, chase my tail and eat some more, then sleep some more [good life – eh]. I probably annoy my owners a bit. They get mad when I dig holes and ruin shoes. As a dog does not wear shoes, they are just a nice smelly thing to chew on. Must mention to my owners to put them out of my reach, as my grasp of English is not too good [nor my attention span too long].



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It's tough being a dog – serious! – I got desexed!!!

I got desexed. This is what nightmares are made of. It is a good thing that I never had to watch this. Shudder!!! BUT, as it turned out, I didn't feel a thing. I am now allowed to socialise with other dogs without the complications of relationships and unwanted outcomes. Life is good. It also saves my owners a bit of money for my registration. More money for food (& bones).



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Inquisitive

I am very inquisitive. I like to explore & to sniff everything. I love interacting with people. I love meeting other animals – although some of those big things – “cows, I think”, are a bit scary. Because I love all this interacting stuff, I jump up to talk to people [they are mostly a lot bigger than me], sometimes scaring or annoying them. They yell at me, or worse they kick me. It’s sooo hard to know what to do – I just want to say hello and get a pat. [I must ask how to do the “meet and greet stuff”].



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Barking

I love barking. I bark because I am Happy. I bark because I am nervous. I bark when I want feeding. I bark when I need to get let off the chain. I bark when I am playing. I bark when someone comes. I bark when no one comes. I bark at loud noises. I bark at other dogs. In fact – I bark for all sorts of reasons.

How do I explain why I am barking?



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Understanding Why I Bark

Barking for dogs can be a bit like Facebook – it is easy to “just put it out there”, and get caught up in the moment without really thinking of the consequences. [Consequences?? That’s a big word for a little dog].

Come to think of it, I guess barking must be my language, as I really do not understand much of this “English” stuff that my owners talk. [I must ask my owners if they can teach me some of their language, then I may not need to bark as much.



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Training

Training is sooo important. The secret is to get in first. Either my owners train me, or I train them. It will be a battle of wills for quite a while. While I will do my best to train them, I do understand that for me to have a good life and be a good dog citizen, I need them to train me. So, eventually, I will begrudgingly accept that they will know what is best for me. They will need to keep it simple though, as I can only learn by repetition, consistency and patience – after all I am 'ONLY' a DOG [or pup].



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Pooing.

As I do not like going to the loo at my kennel, I try to hold it in until I get out for a walk. The walk also gets things moving, so to speak. When nature calls, it calls. It is a good thing that someone has put up poles with little plastic bags in the places that we walk, because my owners can use these to collect my poo and deposit it in a bin. They also carry some bags 'just in case'. They say if they don't pick it up, it makes a mess for others, which is not fair! It is also an offence, whatever that means.



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Pick up your Poo.

Have you ever trod in dog poo. YUK!!!

It stinks and makes a mess in my bed.

As a dog I get the job of cleaning myself. You know what I have to use to clean myself!!!!!!

Please pick up your doggy doo, as I don't want to tread in it and then have to clean it off.

Save the shoe – Bag the poo

There could be a song in that, eh!



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Nuisances.

Sometimes when I play up, my owners tell me I am a nuisance!!! I now understand that if I bark too much, chase cars, or behave dangerously to people, I am being a “nuisance”, and could be in trouble. My owners are very careful that I do not be a “nuisance”, and have asked our neighbours if they have any concerns about my behaviour. After all I am a PUP, and I may play up when my owners are not home (very short attention span and selective memory).



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Walking & following smells

I love going for a walk (and a run). I especially love having a run. When I am running I can follow all the smells and scents of other dogs and animals. These take me off in all kinds of direction just following my nose. Perfect freedom. Sometimes these scents lead me to the animals and birds that left them. Sometimes they even lead me to the homes and nests of the animals. If I am lucky I might get to play with the animal, or get a feed. Is this good? – I am told “NO”



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Chasing Animals

I did not know this was wrong to play with, or chase other animals. My owners told me that these animals get frightened when chased by a dog, just like I did when a big cow chased me. They also said that my scents would scare the animals away from the homes and babies. I thought I was just playing – it was fun. From now on I must stay on my lead when in these areas to protect the little animals and birds. Oh, there are just so many things to learn. Good thing that I have good owners.



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Effective control

my owners often talk about some fancy thing called “effective control”. Apparently this has something to do with them having control over me. I hate to put a damper on things, but as I am a DOG, and worse a PUP, I do not understand “effective control” and even if I did, would I always want to work with it, especially with my “pup” attention span. Even though I love to run without a lead, the only way I am under “effective control” is if I am on the lead.



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Off Leash areas

as I do love to run free, we have started going to some of the “special dog areas”, called “off-leash areas”. These are fun places for dogs. We get to run free. We get to play with other dogs too. I did get scared the other day when a big dog run up to me and knocked me over. My owners wished that other owners would keep their dogs under “effective control”.



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Restricted areas: There are some places that I am NOT allowed (not a guide/hearing dog), or only allowed in certain times/seasons. Good job there are signs to explain this. My owners know that I am not allowed in school and crèche grounds, shops and shopping centres (unless to a pet shop, vet, or the like), or to public pool grounds, sports ground playing area, or within ten metres of a children's playground. There are a bunch of other areas that are prohibited. My attention span waned before I listed all of these, so check dog page on website



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Penguins

these seem to be an “extra special” animal, the way my owners have been talking recently. Apparently something (possibly a dog) has been attacking them. They live out at Low Head. I haven’t been to Low Head, so do not know where that is. I thought about trying to find it next time I can get out as it sounds like fun. My owners have decided NOT to take me in the area – so I don’t get a scent and want to chase them.



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Poisons

Sometimes us dogs eat first and think later [well ok – mostly]. We also cannot tell the difference between an animal carcass that has been poisoned, and one that has not – so please do not leave poisons or poisoned rodents around, as we will probably eat them. It is a good thing that my owners are really good with this, as given my appetite!!!!!!!!!!.



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Registrations

My owners said that I had to be registered. I am NOT A CAR. Apparently, if I am registered, it makes it easier for the council to find my owners and get me home safely if I escape, or get lost, so I guess it IS a good idea. As there is only one of me (not more than two), am not a greyhound, and I am not a “dangerous” dog, there are no other requirements. (aside of the Microchip)



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Lifetime Registrations

My owners decided to get me a lifetime registration. I got a fancier tag (sooo cool)

It also means that my owners do not have to remember to re-register me each year.

Apparently this is a new option from Council.

My owners got my name and their phone number put onto the tag so they could be contacted easier. Obviously not just pretty faces.



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Microchip

I also have a "microchip". Pretty impressive hey.
It's a bit like an electronic tattoo.

I legally **MUST** have one of these.

It is my very own special number.

I got both of these for my six month birthday.

Better than an ear ring!!! MACCA – the dude!!!



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Safety when travelling in vehicles.

I legally MUST be properly restrained when travelling in my owner's vehicle.

No more sitting on their lap, running around in the car, or on the ute.

I guess being restrained is better than wrecking my new dog tag if I went through the windscreen in a crash!



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I met the Ranger.

I have been scared of meeting the 'RANGER'. My Mom (I do miss her) told me every time I did something wrong that "the RANGER will get you". The other day I "escaped" when the gate was left open. I had a lovely run, but got lost and scared. A nice man calls out to me. He told me he was the ranger, but not to worry, as I was REGISTERED, he would take me home. I got to ride in his RANGER UTE. When we got home, my owners were very happy to see me. I was very happy to see them.



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If only I could read: I could read rules and things to help me be a good dog. I will just have to rely on my owners doing this for me.

I understand that we have to act in accordance with the DOG CONTROL ACT 2000, the DOG CONTROL REGULATIONS 2010, the POLICE OFFENCES ACT 1935, the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993, and a special one for guide and hearing dogs called the GUIDE DOGS AND HEARING DOGS ACT 1967, as well as a thing called the DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY of Council. With all this stuff to worry about, it is a good thing that I can't read, and that the Council Ranger is there to help.



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Responsible dog ownership

I also understand, after meeting the RANGER, that while he is there to help me, if I, or my owners keep doing the wrong thing, that he will have to fine us, because that is what the Dog Act says.

So, if my owners practice “responsible dog ownership” and I try to be a good dog, all will be good.

I didn't know that – MACCA is learning!!!



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Look after your lot and reap the rewards:

Sun Surf & Sand, (well maybe the surf isn't that good, for a dog, anyway). But plenty of flat paths, beautiful views and scenery, lovely places to run off-lead and good places to walk on-lead with your owners.

Life really is good if you look after your lot, have good RESPONSIBLE owners and have a bone to chew on ,..... and you practice

“Save the shoe – Bag the poo”



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My Mate

I have a mate. He gets out and comes to visit. I feel a bit sorry for him, as his owners don't seem to care for him.

He gets into soooo much trouble. His name is MUGGSY. I think that he will get me into trouble if I am not really careful.



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Dreaming

Chewing a lovely bone. Chewing a lovely bone.

Whoops, I must have dosed off -lying here in the sun

Life IS pretty good - eh!



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Where are the doggy doo bags?

Each end, and at the middle of Esplanade North (3)

Lagoon Beach – both ends (2),

East Beach-both entrances (2)

Low Head Pilot Station (1)

Regent Square-both ends of Cimitiere St (2)

White St-Pipeclay Bay (1), White St Park (1)

Esplanade South (1)

Bark Park at Sports complex (1)

Bellingham Boat Ramp (1)

Beechford Recreation Ground (1)

Hillwood recreation ground (1), and at public toilets (1)



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Do you have a question?

If you have a question for this up and coming legend of a dog (me - Macca) please send it to the Council and I will do my best to answer it.

I really am a quick learner, but don't tell my owners, as it would make it too easy for them, and not half as much fun for me.

While I am learning it will be good for me to pass on my HUGE amount of knowledge to other dogs in our area.



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My new song

Since I came up with this brilliant idea (the song), I can't get it out of my mind. It goes like this:

Save the shoe – bag the poo

Save the shoe – bag the poo

If you don't want to tread in it too

Save the shoe and bag the poo

Probably needs some more verses – but is a good start.



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