

Research study appeal – for all dog owners that are new or expectant parents.

Does having a baby affect the dog & owner relationship?

A local dog trainer is appealing for participants to get involved in a study which will look at the relationship between dog owners and their pets during the owner's pregnancy and the arrival of the new baby.

An online survey aimed at parents-to-be and new parents, forms part of this research study and asks general questions about home-life, as well as more specific questions relating to the experiences faced by the dog owners.

Hanne Grice, a dog trainer and behaviour specialist, is leading the study - she says: *“Over the years I've worked with many expectant and new parents who want to ensure their dog and baby bond. With the media highlighting cases of dog attacks on young children over recent years, never before have dog owners been so aware of safety and the general well-being of their pet, during this life-changing event.”* Hanne continues: *“The findings from the survey will help us identify if there is a shift in the relationship between a dog owner and their pet before - and after the birth of their child.”*



Hanne is the author of the book *'Playing With Your Dog'* and founder of the Tring based award-winning pet behaviour company Walk the Dog. The results from this online survey will form part of the on-going research for her next book.

If you are an expectant parent or new parent and would like to get involved, you can access the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/parents-babies-and-dogs>

The survey takes approximately ten minutes to complete, and will be open to respondents until Friday 8th August 2014.

-Ends-

For more information or high res images contact:

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Note to editors:

- The URL for this online survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/parents-babies-and-dogs>
- The survey will remain open to respondents until Friday 8th August '14.
- Over the last five years, the number of hospital admissions as a result of a dog bite has steadily increased, with an estimated 200,000 people a year said to have been bitten by dogs in England. A high proportion of these bites are caused by our own pets in our own home. Reference: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/10429862/Dog-attack-laws-and-statistics.html>

- Hanne Grice is a dog trainer, behaviour specialist and founder of Walk the Dog™. She is the author of *'Playing With Your Dog'* ISBN: 9781453529645.
- Walk the Dog™ is an award winning pet behaviour company based in Tring, Hertfordshire, that offers a range of services including: behavioural consultations, dog training, pet care and products. The company's behaviour website is www.doglistener.tv
- This July, Walk the Dog™ celebrates eight successful years in business.