



The Théodore kennel by Maison Taillardat. Price upon request. emblem.paris.fr

BEST IN SHOW

Are dogs the new babies? In the design world, all signs—and snouts—point to a resounding yes.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY SEAN SANTIAGO PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID LEWIS TAYLOR

At some point over the past few months, my landlord, who lives above me, acquired a litter of puppies. I can't quite remember when the yelps started coming in successive waves every morning, but that and approximately 1,000 scurrying footsteps are now a reliable feature of my daily routine.

Being surrounded by new-dog energy feels like a sign of the times. If you didn't have a dog pre-pandemic but could have, you probably do now. If you did have one before 2020, it has since become your de facto child. More than a cat—or, say, a goldfish—our bonds with dogs come closest to human companionship.

And you don't have to take my word for it. The designer Oliver M. Furth, who has a four-and-a-half-year-old poodle named Murphy with his partner, admits: "We talk to him as if he's another person in the room, which I guess makes us crazy dog people."

But is our old crazy the new normal? Designer Allison Caccoma, who got her French bulldog, Louis, during the pandemic, says, "I don't have children, so he is truly my baby." She describes the relationship between herself, her husband, and Louis as one of "mutual unconditional love." Designer Sheila Bridges,

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who also characterizes her dog, a Mudi named Loki, as a "COVID puppy," notes that "he's the first dog I've owned that I allow on furniture."

If *indulgence* is one keyword to pin on the current canine ascendancy, then *mutual* is surely its companion. Designer Bunny Williams's two rescue dogs, Annabelle and Bebe, became accustomed to "chasing squirrels" in the Connecticut countryside during the pandemic. "I'm more attuned to them, but I think the bonding worked both ways," she says.

As family units morph and evolve, our relationships with our dogs have to as well. "They are the new children of our era," says Aiden Bowman, cofounder of the lighting design studio Trueing and the proud co-parent of a pup called Enzo. "Who can afford human children anyway? They eat different food every day and go to college." Ladies and gentlemen, I rest my case. ■

TAILS WAGGING

Indulge man's best friend (and maybe yourself) with a few of these choice accessories.

BY HELENA MADDEN



2. MOGO BOWL AND STAND

Jay Sae Jung Oh elevates the canine culinary experience with this chic pairing from **Boo Oh**, her pet accessories brand. Bowl, \$45; stand, \$115. boo-oh.com

3. MEDOR LEASH

The stud motif has appeared on **Hermès** belts, earrings, and now a graphic leash. It's accented, of course, by the brand's signature bridle leather. \$770. hermes.com

4. PET COLLAR

The **Prada** logo is unmistakable, and the pop of scarlet is eye-catching. \$340. prada.com

1. DOG BOWL

The refined pooch will appreciate the healthy dose of elegance this sleek sterling silver dish from **Tiffany & Co.** provides. \$2,000. tiffany.com