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## MARKETING

Circulation Director: **Laura McMann**

## PRINT/DIGITAL ADVERTISING

NATIONAL ADVERTISING DIRECTOR  
**Jason Mailliard 203-857-3170**

## ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER:

**Rosemarie Rembao-Ledesma 203-857-3167**

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**Reprints:** Contact Jennifer Jimolka at 203-857-3144, [jjimolka@belvoir.com](mailto:jjimolka@belvoir.com). Minimum order 1,000.

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## Dogster HQ From the Editor



## Sweet Beginnings

Change. It can be a roller coaster of emotions: excitement, fear, joy and feeling overwhelmed. Every time my husband and I got a new puppy, a lot of thought went into the decision — mixed in with excitement and worry. Then, we would bring

the puppy home, and those crazy days would begin: the roller coaster of ups (cute puppy licks and love) and downs (another item chewed up, another potty accident). I'd think, "What have I done?" And then a few minutes later, I'd have no regrets.

As my dog Tampa Bay enters his 16th year, I can still remember his first year of puppyhood. Those are precious memories, just like his white face and the deep snores I'm listening to as I write this. Getting a puppy is the beginning of a journey with a special new family member that takes your heart places it's never been. So remember to relax and enjoy the ride (and take a bunch of pics and videos!). When you look back, you'll remember how invaluable this time is with all the worries forgotten.

*Dogster* will get you through that rollercoaster puppy stage. For more than 50 years, we've held our readers' hands as they've wondered about the right puppy food, grooming, behavior, training and gear. We've covered it all in this issue plus profiles on America's favorite pups — and why they are family favorites. For those of you not thinking about puppies, we've dug into some great topics for you, too: Our top Editors' Choice Product Picks of 2023, turkey dinner treat recipe, teaching Shake, great info about dogs and chocolate in time for Halloween, along with Halloween pup costumes, how to do the Heimlich maneuver on dogs and a deep dive into anxiety help for those dogs adopted during the pandemic.

No matter where you are in your dog journey, I know it's one of the best parts of your life. I can't imagine a world without dogs, and I wouldn't want to. They are the first thing I think of when asked what I am grateful for. Simply put, they make life wagalicious!



We brought in Liberty Belle as a puppy (right), and she fit right in with our senior dog, Tampa Bay. We also adopted Tampa when we had our senior dog, Sprey. With careful, appropriate steps, both worked out great.

*Melissa L. Kauffman*

Group Editorial Director

