

the modern dog culture magazine

# THE BARK™

Dog is my co-pilot™

NUMBER 28

FALL 2004

## HABITAT

Dogdom Decor:  
Antique Hardware,  
Wegman Fabric,  
Tile, Rugs +

## MASTERFUL IMPRESSIONS OF DOGS BY MONET, RENOIR, CASSATT

FDR'S FALA  
America's first dog

KABUL DOG  
RESCUE  
Pamela Constable

DUDE RANCH  
Destination

Are you doing right  
by your dog? asks  
Patricia McConnell

Seizure Alert  
Dogs Assist Kids

Canine Hero  
Saves Canada

Rex Finds Love  
Yippee!







Dog Ring Pull  
c. 1940s  
Gold plated brass

## 52 Doghouses

Are they a relic of the past, or are our homes becoming theirs too?  
By Robyn Dochterman

## 56 Habitat

An engaging assortment of decorous dogs are popping up all over the home—on textiles, antique hardware, stylish wallcoverings, hooked rugs, tiles and mosaics!

## 63 Interview with Tom McNulty

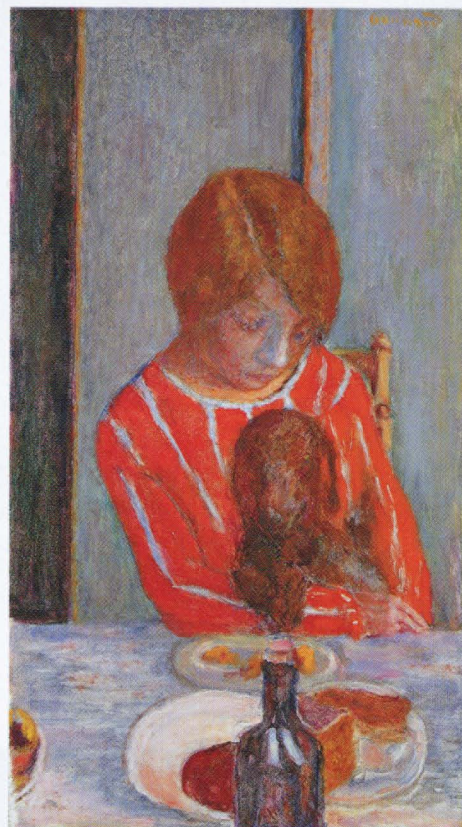
Author of *Clean Like a Man* shares his joy of living the spotless life.

## 66 Impressionism

*La vie domestique*—how dogs dwell in many of our favorite paintings.  
By James H. Rubin

## 72 Fala

FDR's dog captured the hearts of Americans and symbolized the move from backyards to homes.  
By Mark Derr



Door ring pull from the personal collection of Rhett Butler, E.R. Butler & Co.  
Photograph by Brooke Jacobs.



## ARTISTS' PORTFOLIOS

**82 Toys of Summer** Photographers Timothy Archibald and Chip Simons snap their dogs' discarded playthings.

Chip Simons, *Snowman*, 2003

## FALL ESSAYS

### 55 You Are Getting Sleepy

Finding comfort zones in unlikely places.  
By Julia Szabo

### 64 Dog Talk

Rounding off the family with a third dog.  
By Abigail Thomas

### 77 Her Heart's in the Highlands

Preparing the home for a senior companion.  
By Lucille Lovestedt

### 80 Treat Me Like a Dog, Please

Living the dog's life has its advantages.  
By Deborah Shouse

### 86 Empathy

What to do when your dog *channels* your sick-at-home blues?  
By Robin Dougherty

### 89 Rex in the City: XIV

Just don't call it puppy love—Rex finds a girlfriend!  
By E.M. Harrington



hues (mango, pistachio). The fabric's texture is sturdy and luxurious, evidence of its patented materials and weaving process. During the press launch at Wegman's New York studio, the fabric's resiliency was put to the test as one of the four-legged residents lifted a leg. Bark's publisher, who was in attendance, swears the fabric wiped up without a mark. It is available at [www.cryptonfabric.com](http://www.cryptonfabric.com) (\$50.40 to \$52 a yard, 52 inches wide). A product line that includes pillows, carriers, dog beds, totes, butterfly chair covers, picture frames is on the horizon.

—Zoe Conrad



Dog Ring Pull  
maker unknown  
c. 1940s  
Gold plated brass

# Hard Wear

(Ideas for the home that are built to last)



Dog Doorbell Pull  
P&P Corbin  
c. 1876  
original patina over bronze

## Thinking of starting a unique collection

inspired by your love of dogs? How about rare 19th-century dog-motif doorknobs and other pieces of fine canine architectural hardware? A word of warning: Before clicking on eBay or visiting antique shops, make sure your budget can handle the cost of such a collection. With auction prices of up to \$10,000 for one doorknob, dog-motif knobs are the most valued, sought-after and expensive architectural hardware a collector can pursue.

Undocumented in antique catalogues, and not seen by serious doorknob aficionados until the late 1990s, the 1860s "dog-knob's" appearance brought on a wave of frenzied bidding. Considered icons by their dedicated collectors, these mid-19th-century doorknobs reveal that early on in our country's history, even hardware designers were enchanted and inspired by our best friends.



Dog Door Knob and Rose  
Enoch Robinson & Co.  
c. 1868  
original patina over gold  
plated bronze





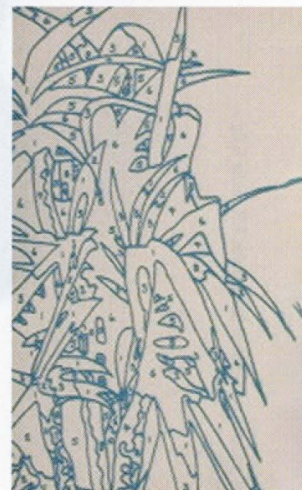
# Hardware

Conventional and “careful” European classicism was the standard in architectural design in the United States up until the 1840s. At that point, a break from rigid and predictable Colonial- and Federal-era constraints occurred, and a desire for highly decorative door hardware and house design was born. This coincided with the emergence of a large number of newly established homeowners who were both financially secure and excited about the endless possibilities offered by home fixtures and furnishings. Beginning in the 1860s, an obsession with mythical characters and whimsical beasts and a newfound interest in nature drove almost every detail of decorative embellishment.

Door hardware designers took history and recreated it through the use of heroic themes, great variety and imaginative detailing. Dogs, perceived as masculine, mighty and brave, began appearing on select doorknob styles, many of them



**Poodles in the bedroom, Setters in the study,** Labs in the laundry—want dogs on your walls to go with the ones sleeping on your couch? York Wallcoverings, the oldest and largest wallpaper manufacturing company in the U.S., offers a range of canine-themed patterns and colors that will allow you to achieve almost any dogs-on-walls decorating scheme you can imagine. Since about 200 BC, when the Chinese glued rice paper to walls in their homes, to today’s high-tech materials, wallpaper has been used to decorate our interiors. Contemporary compounds render the dog-pattern wallpaper washable, long-lasting and ready to hang, making it suitable for use where children and dogs frolic. [www.yorkwall.com](http://www.yorkwall.com)



Poodle Spot wallpaper (above left),  
Working Dogs border, 9.5 inches ht. (bottom left).  
York Wallcoverings



# Hard Wear

crafted by Enoch Robinson, Ludwig Kruzing, Russell & Erwin or MCCC (Metallic Compression Casting Company). Eventually, the dog motif was applied not only to doorknobs, but also to key escutcheons with swinging covers and doorbell and bin pulls.

Today, Rhett Butler boasts possibly the largest collection of antique dog-themed door hardware in the world. Owner of E.R. Butler & Co. as well as Enoch Robinson & Co. (which may hold claim to the oldest dog-knob design) and W.C. Vaughan & Co., Butler is a serious collector with an eye for detail and beauty; fellow collectors have been known to salivate over the pieces he's assembled. While items in Butler's personal collection are not for sale, one of his companies, W.C. Vaughan, offers two beautifully engraved dog-knobs at the more affordable price of about \$400 each.

To seasoned and serious door hardware collectors, especially those who are also obsessed by and in love with their dogs, some things are priceless.

—Sage Meridyth Jacobs



Dog Bin Pull  
maker unknown  
c. 1880s  
Black enamel over iron



Dog Double Key escutcheon  
Russell & Erwin  
c. 1875  
Original patina over bronze



Wallpaper-by-Numbers® by Jenny Wilkinson

## Ever daydream about drawing on the walls?

Or painting a scene over your bed? Recent college graduate Jenny Wilkinson has hit upon a groovy way to do it: paint-by-numbers wallpaper. Her pattern, available through British interior-design distributor 2Jane, features the outline of a dog and her pillow sitting in a plant pot, complete with tiny numbers. (The image took its inspiration from the artist's own dog, a Jack Russell named Tilly, who enjoyed sunbathing in a yucca plant.) Wilkinson's whimsical creation recently won fans at the international Design Downtown 2004 at the Chelsea Hotel in New York, and sales are climbing. Housepainters and closet artists can color in a section or the whole roll, or leave it unpainted. The paper is sold in 20.5-inch-by-10-foot rolls, with an optional set of coordinating acrylic paints in 13 colors. Prices are \$114 per roll with paints, or \$67 without. Let playtime begin! Info at [www.2jane.com](http://www.2jane.com).