

Inside Job



Best in show Bobi puts John through his paces and (inset) Wallace gets a facial.

Dog days

John Ovans is trying every job in Shanghai.
This month: Dog carer

While in the workplace, we may occasionally moan about having to clean up after other people's shit, we should be thankful that said shit is usually figurative. For a dog carer, that shit is literal, and at any given time it's being shat out in about 80 different places. And then, as is the case with Zangye the angry Shiba, you have to suffer the indignity of being aggressively barked at while you try to clear it up with an industrial poop-a-scoop.

Luckily not all the residents of Buddydog, a dog training and boarding facility on the outskirts of Pudong, are as poorly mannered. The individual kennels are divided into indoor and outdoor areas, with a small door separating the two. My first job is to let each dog outside to do their business and just generally enjoy Shanghai's famous fresh air (they're also given proper, off-leash run-arounds twice a day in the facility's ample 3,000sqm field).

I can hear anxious scrambling on the other side, and as I unlock each door, I have no idea what kind of pooch will emerge. It's very exciting, probably a bit like *Blind Date* if the contestants came on stage and crapped everywhere: first comes Wallace the British bulldog (not much of a looker, but a heart of gold); followed by grey border collie Kaka (young, dumb, and horny); followed by Potato the terrier, a sweet little mite that is too terrified to come anywhere near me.

Each dog has his own requirements as instructed by its owner: the meek

Potato, for instance, has come to Buddydog to be 'socialised' with humans and other dogs, according to Tony the carer who is guiding me through his daily responsibilities. Wallace, meanwhile, who is burdened with a big flabby face with folds of skin that can get easily irritated, needs to be cleansed daily with baby wipes. Each dog also has its own diet which has to be adhered to; later in the kitchen I'm to mix up kibble with four different types of vitamins and a raw egg.

So let's just briefly recap: faeces, face wipes and raw eggs. If you were considering owning a dog in Shanghai but hadn't thought through the finer details, you'd sadly be in good company. Many of the tenants at Buddydog are permanent, thanks to owners that drop them off and

don't come back. Such orphans are put up for adoption, and are given daily obedience training – which customers can pay an extra fee for – to increase their prospects of finding a new home.

Armed with a waist pouch full of congratulatory treats, I first train with collie Bobi in the central yard, which is equipped with an obstacle course of jumps and ramps. I am told that Bobee was abandoned because of his manic energy, and I immediately feel an affinity with him because we are both pale, ginger and misunderstood. We practice walking, heeling, showjumping, playing dead, and leg waves, and Bobi – who admittedly, has had three years of practice – proves extremely compliant. I have less success with Baozi, a giant white fluffy Siberian Samoyed that resembles a life-size Sylvania Family toy, whom I command to stay, when all he wants to do is go.

It's an exhausting, unglamorous afternoon, a world away from the

dip-dyed ears, velour hoodies and neon booties that tend to be favoured by Shanghai's dog lovers (and their dogs). Later on, as I perform the ridiculous task of giving Wallace a facial, receiving a crotchful of drool in the process, it strikes me that affection for your wards seems

key to this job – although I suppose every dog should have the right to feel beautiful, even if it is at the expense of your trousers.

For more on Buddydog, visit buddydog.net. To see John in action, go to timeoutshanghai.com/insidejob.

It's like *Blind Date*, if the contestants came out and crapped everywhere



Next month Eat your way through the city's best old-school restaurants

TimeOut
Shanghai

新旅行
Voyage
www.timeoutshanghai.com

主管 湖北省新闻出版局 主办 湖北省华楚报刊中心
国内统一刊号 ISSN 1674-5116 CN42-1750/G0
Publisher 出品人 Wang Boming 王波明
Executive Editor 主编 Sun Zhantao 孙占涛
Editor-in-Chief 总编 Kenneth Tan 陈庆仁

编辑部 Editorial

Editor Jake Newby 白杰
Deputy Editor John Ovans 欧伟
Food & Drink Editor Victoria Brownlee 多莉
Mind & Body, Books Editor
Helen Roxburgh 罗海伦
Stage Editor Nancy Pellegrini 南茜
Things to Do Editor Cat Nelson 纳佳韵
Office Manager Suzie Wu 巫素菊
Editorial Assistants Nina Brennan 蒋欣, Low Yi Yu 于瑜, Corine Tiah 欣怡, Serena Yeh 士菱

网络部 Online

Website Editor Tom Clark 柯天若
Website Developers Luo Hong 罗红, Zibo Wang 王致博

视觉部 Art Department

Senior Designer Ta Na 塔娜
Designer Li Wei 李薇
Photographer Yang Xiaozhe 杨晓喆

广告市场部

Sales & Marketing

Sales & Marketing Director
市场销售总监 Terry Meng 孟庆
terrermeng@timeoutcn.com
Account Managers
高级客户经理 Jojo Jiang 江洁
客户经理 Helen Shen 沈海伦
客户经理 Yining Yang 杨奕宁
客户经理 Frank Wu 伍洋禾
客户经理 Joanna Liao 廖璐璐
Project Manager
项目经理 Kingbell Wang 王振豪
Marketing Managers
市场经理 Icy Zhu 朱丹萍
市场专员 Lilian Dan 但炼
Sales & Distribution Manager
广告发行经理 Sunny Zhang 张晓明
Advertising hotline
广告部电话 (021) 6172 3050
Email 广告部邮箱 timeoutsh@timeoutcn.com
Distribution 发行电话 (021) 6172 3157
Address 上海办公站 Room 1, Eighth Floor, Lucky Mansion, 660 Shangcheng Lu, near Nanquan Bei Lu, Pudong 200120 浦东商城路660号乐凯大厦8楼座, 近南京北路
Email 编辑部邮箱 infosh@timeoutcn.com
Office tel 编辑部电话 (021) 6164 4963

SEEC 财讯传媒集团
SEEC MEDIA GROUP
Time Out China is a member of the SEEC publishing group

Information listings The information listings are a free service. Listings will be included wherever possible but are limited by space. All listings information is correct at the time of going to press but it is advised to call the venue before setting out.

Copy dates Time Out Shanghai is published on the 28th of every month. Time Out does not assume responsibility for unsolicited materials.

Copyright All content published in Time Out Shanghai is owned by Time Out and may not be reproduced in any print or online publication.

版权声明: "Time Out Shanghai" 英文杂志及英文网站所有的文字和图片, 未经授权, 不得编辑转载。对侵权行为, 将保留进一步法律追究的权利。

Get more from your city, follow us on WeChat

