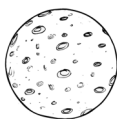


FORGET KIDS – GET A DOG

SAMPLE

A HALLATT



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Alex Hallatt was born and brought up in the West Country in England. She emigrated to New Zealand, where she met her partner, Duncan and his dog, Billie. They spent a few years living in Australia, England and Spain before moving back to New Zealand. Billie is buried under an apricot tree in their back garden.

You can read more about Alex's cartooning life in NZ in her monthly *Illustrated Epistle* (sign up at alexhallatt.com).



For more about Alex, go to:

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For Billie.

We miss you, Bill.

INTRODUCTION

Kids are great. When they are well behaved and belong to other people. When you can play with them and their marble runs and hand them back before tears set in. When you can treat them to ice creams, but you don't have to pay for them to go to university. When you can read them a bedtime story, but don't have to go near them when they are hosting a mucus-borne, highly contagious disease.

Having children made sense in the days before social security, pensions and retirement homes. Children were slave labour on your farm or in your factory and it was worth having more than a couple, as few of them survived into adulthood. When you became too old to work for yourself, they took on more of the burden and looked after you too. Now they are more likely to sell your house, put you in a home and visit you as little as their conscience allows. And you wouldn't expect or ask otherwise.

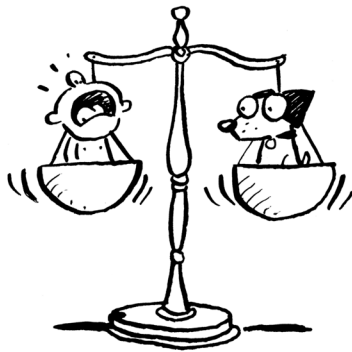
Things have changed. You don't need children to inherit the farm (if you have a farm, they probably don't even want it).

INTRODUCTION

You can look after yourself in old age, or the State might do it for you. But you can't rely on children now. Best not to bother with children and get a companion you can rely on until the end of their days.

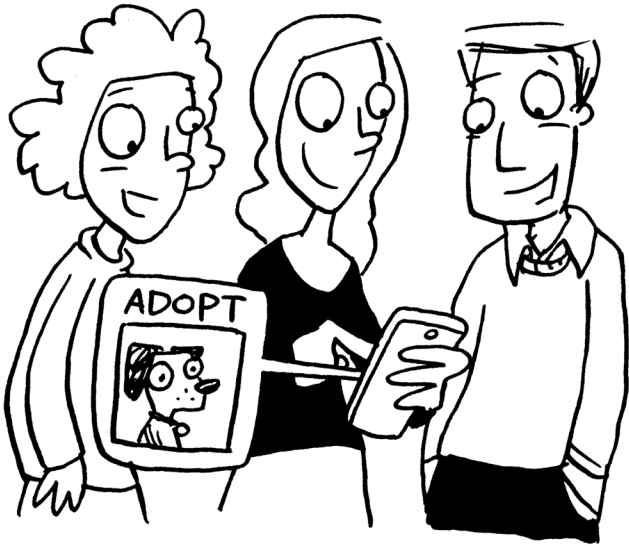
Forget kids — get a dog.

Baby vs. Dog





You're never too old to have a dog.



No one thinks you're unwise to get a dog on your own.



You don't have to give up drinking when you
decide to get a dog.



A dog won't give you morning sickness, swollen ankles or varicose veins.





Getting a new dog rarely results in stitches.



You'll never have to try to manoeuvre your dog in an oversized pushchair into a boutique shop.



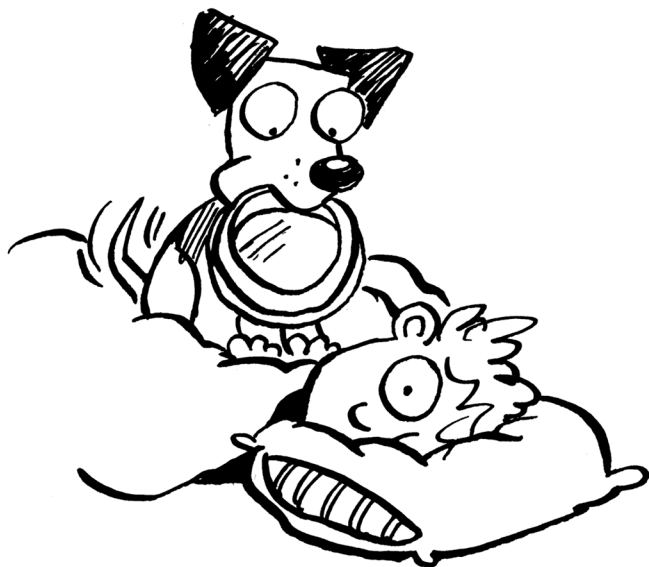


The name you choose for your dog won't upset any relatives (unless you call it something really rude).



You don't have to buy a special car seat for a dog.





A dog won't wake you up in the middle of the night to be fed.

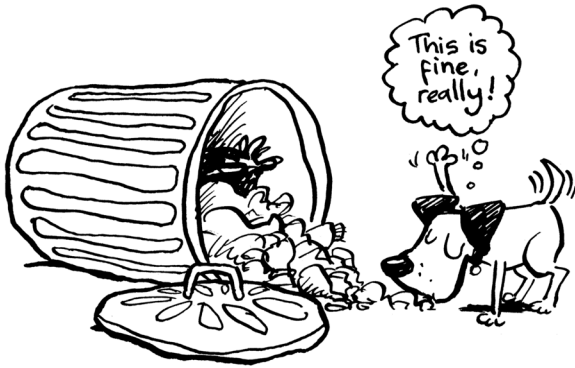


If a dog does wake you up in the middle of the night, it will have a good reason.

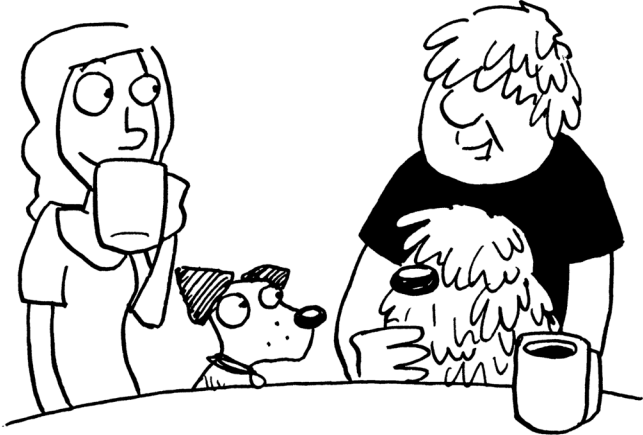


You won't feel guilty buying a dog food rather than breast-feeding it.





Dog food doesn't have to be sterilised.



There's rarely any discussion about whether a dog looks more like you or your partner.



Dog-owners don't compare their dogs' developmental progress ad nauseum.



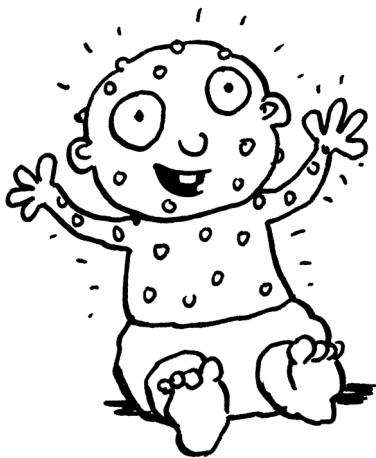


No matter how good your intentions, having a child really wrecks your eco-credentials.



If you want to have a night out, you won't have to pay a fortune for a babysitter.

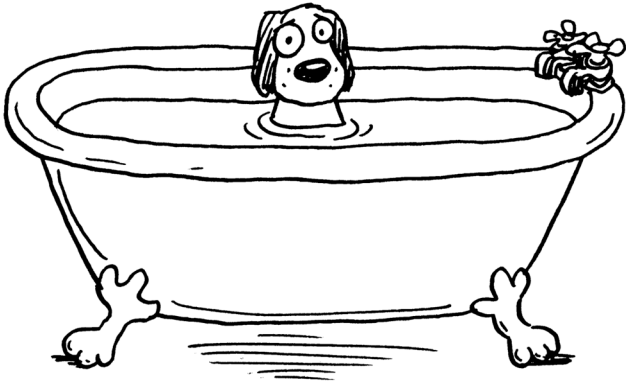




A dog won't develop a worrying rash every other day.



You never have to change a toxic nappy with a dog (and it won't pee in your face).



A dog rarely needs a bath.



Your dog won't outgrow its clothes/shoes every month or so.





Your dog won't throw up down your favourite top.



You can be secure in the knowledge that your dog will never grow up to be a mass murderer...even if it would like to have a bloody good go at the squirrel population.

AFTERWORD

I hope you enjoyed this book sample.

You can find the rest of the reasons why dogs are better than children on Amazon and in all good book stores.

<https://amzn.to/2Ki8IYM>

If you'd like to receive illustrated emails about other things I'm working on, please subscribe to my mailing list.

<http://eepurl.com/cCOOeD>



ALSO BY A HALLATT

For more on these books, head to alexhallatt.com/books.

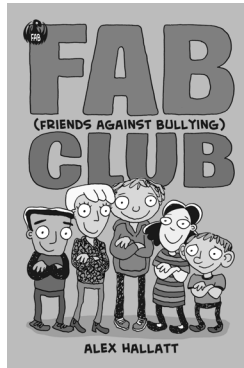


The Book of Culls: The Best Human Cull Comics

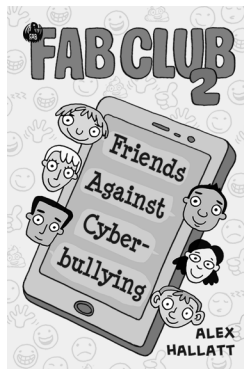


Arctic Circle Comics: An Introduction

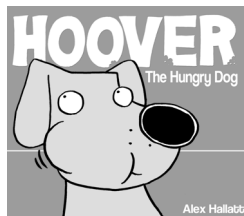
And for younger readers:



FAB (Friends Against Bullying) Club (for kids 8-12)



FAB Club 2 - Friends Against Cyberbullying (for kids 8-12)




Hoover the Hungry Dog (for preschoolers)

alexhallatt.com/books

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