



# Spring is in the air

**Anna Webb** is looking forward to the warmer months, following a trying winter with Miniature Bull Terrier, Prudence.

**N**o one is more excited about saying goodbye to winter than Prudence. Winter can be a difficult time for Mini Bulls, and Prudence isn't keen on temperatures below nine degrees centigrade.

When torrential conditions are added to the equation, there's no hope of getting her to go out. On a dark, wintery morning, the heating has to be on for an hour before Miss Prudence's selective hearing gets turned off silent mode.

As a fair-weather walker, Prudence can create havoc when she gets into a 'Princess and the Pea' tantrum about

bracing some rain. We've left so late and missed several trains, all because Prudence didn't want to get wet. Even though her trusty Equafleece jumper keeps her body warm and dry, her head still gets soaked, as do her feet. She looks up in disbelief and gives me the guilt trip, her ears flattened back with a sorry, weather-beaten expression. I've thought about a doggy Sou'wester and wellies, but is this really necessary?

After surviving Prudence's second season, I think I deserved a medal. At least we didn't miss out on much outdoors activity time, due to

the adverse winter weather.

In the first week, she pushed me to my limits with behaviour traits I'd never seen before. She developed a high-pitched wail, combined with a mania for food. At one point, I found her almost inside my fridge, guzzling my carrot cake, having already eaten cat Gremlin's lambs' hearts, and a large chunk of cheese. She then took herself promptly to her crate and burped. All her manners and charm disappeared; she was Neanderthal.

It couldn't be possible that the second week would get worse. I tried to structure the days with garden playtime, hide and seek, and training our new trick — the rollover. There was little point. She'd become a brazen hussy with a one-track mind. Like a battering ram, she'd

headbutt the front door, whining and scratching.

I couldn't believe it when my friend, stylist and photographer Marco Cerrone, announced he was popping over to take some urgent shots of Prudence wearing a crown. She'd be the subject of the only canine portrait in his new photographic collection of people wearing crowns. I accepted on her behalf, hoping Marco would prove enough of a distraction for Princess Prudence to get a grip and give me a break.

She excelled in her princess role. With an audacious glint in her eye, she held a sit-stay for ages as Marco stage managed.

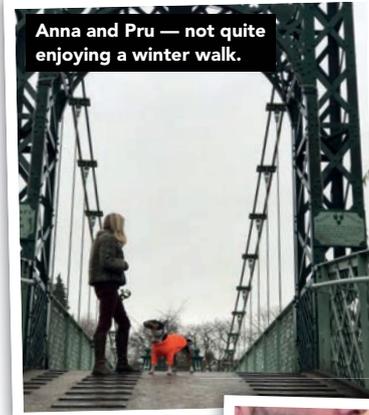
There was relief in week three, as she calmed down significantly. The desperate, wailing banshee became the cheeky Prudence with a devilish wit again. We ventured out for a walk on a dry day; it was as if the storm had passed.

Here's to March: not a moment too soon for the fair-weather walker.



ABOUT ANNA

Anna Webb is co-presenter of BBC London's 'The Barking Hour' and also appeared regularly on 'The Alan Titchmarsh Show'. She recently moved out of London to enjoy an alternative lifestyle with her pets. Find out more at [www.annawebb.co.uk](http://www.annawebb.co.uk)



Anna and Pru — not quite enjoying a winter walk.



Pru and Marco.



Well wrapped up for a brisk run around the garden.



"Is that rain I can feel?"