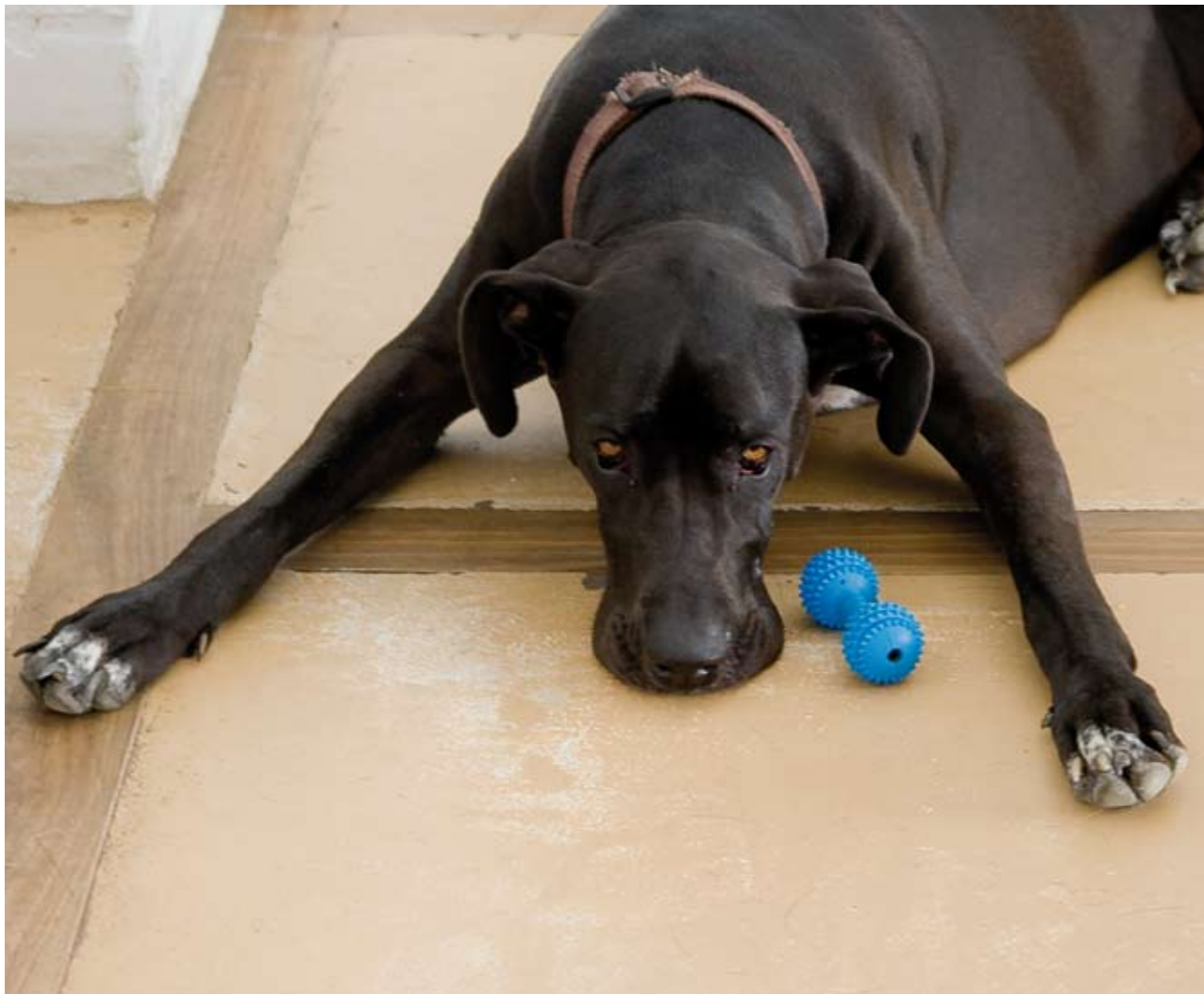


# *Ear piece* By Annalize Mouton



**Birthday girl.** Anna is getting to be a big girl now, in more than one sense. She'll be celebrating her second birthday in April, so she is going into her teens in human terms. She has also grown a bit, not so much in height as in girth around the chest. Recently the vet couldn't get all of Anna to stand still on the scale, but the guess is that she now has a mass of about 57 kilograms – still short of her father's solid 73 kg. When she was little she had a brown teddy bear which lasted a surprisingly long time; since then she has chewed her way through innumerable rubber balls and plastic toys, not to mention lengths of garden hose, potted plants, charcoal and sticks. She survived biting through a power cable to a table lamp (which was fortunately switched off at the wall), but inflicted her worst damage when she bit through a specially-made power cord to Annalize's laptop. That was when we learned that our insurance does not cover damage by pets, in this case R1 600! Her favourite toy now is a tough plastic dumbbell, which she shares with her canine pal Kerneels, but not with humans. The large ears also visible in the picture are purely decorative – she only listens when there is a treat afoot!