



Bubbles N' Bows Dog Salon

Tips, advice and some fun facts about our best little friends who mean so much to us!

Hi and welcome to the first issue of my Newsletter. Every 3 months I'm going to be bringing you this free newsletter which will be packed full of interesting, useful and fun articles and facts about our four legged friends. I'm doing this to give you back a little bit extra and to say thanks for being such a great client.

I really hope you enjoy reading the stories and articles and that you get a little something from it to help you and your dog. In this issue I've included some great tips to help you and your dog. So why not sit yourself down, put your feet up, relax and enjoy this newsletter. Thanks and have yourself a wonderful day.

Karen

Planning for Summer with Your Dog!

With people and dogs both spending more time outdoors in summer, it's always good to take some extra precautions. There's a higher chance of dogs running off or getting separated from their owners. To reduce the chance of this happening to you, be sure to keep your dog on a leash whenever you're out in open areas, even if your dog is typically obedient. Sometimes there's just no stopping them when they get the urge to chase after something!

Also, keep a tag with your contact information on your dog's collar at all times, and if you haven't already done so, consider having your dog micro-chipped. These simple precautions can really make all the difference in your efforts to find your dog if they get lost.

If you'll be traveling, try to plan for your dog's needs well in advance to be sure that you have everything ready for them beforehand. When taking them along, it's helpful to put a checklist together of all you'll need for both the trip and destination.

Airlines often require proof of vaccination and a recent report from the veterinarian noting the dog is healthy. If traveling abroad, it's important to let your vet know where you're going, as you may need to take additional precautions against foreign disease or parasites.

Travel by car is a little easier in terms of documentation, but it requires just as much preplanning! Be sure to take plenty of water, food and toys for the journey, as well as a leash. It's helpful to take along a map of pet-friendly areas and lodges along the way, too, as it saves you time with looking for rest areas.

But, of course, you can always board your dogs or hire a pet sitter if you're unable to take them along. Whatever the case may be, what's important is that you give yourself time to make all the necessary arrangements before leaving. By doing so, you and your dogs can leave the stress behind and get on with having a good time!

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A Wonderful World of Animals!

! RSPCA staff thought a dog was deaf when he didn't respond to their commands. They later realized the problem was not his ears—he simply didn't understand English, because he was raised by a Polish family. The staff got a response from him after learning Polish commands, according to the BBC, and they then worked with him to become "bilingual."

! A woman in Australia went outside to gather her laundry from the line—and saw it covered in 20,000 bees! The bees were drawn to her colorful clothing, according to Orange News. The woman called a beekeeper, Brian Gardiner, who explained that the queen bee had taken worker bees with her to cluster together on her laundry while scouts looked for a new hive. This sometimes happens in the springtime when hives become overcrowded.

Did You Know?

The spine-chilling green colour you see at night in the eyes of dogs and cats is due to a reflective area of the eye that helps them see more clearly in darkness. This area, called the tapetum lucidum, is especially helpful to them during low-light hours, which is when they prefer hunting for their prey.

A dog's habit of spinning in circles before lying down is also due to instinct. This behaviour in the wild was meant to push long grasses down to form a soft bed.

"Your dog's hair getting dirty can be a real bummer, give us a call and we'll make them gorgeous for Summer!"

An Inside Look at Grooming!

You leave your dog off at the groomer's shop, come back at the scheduled pickup time—and your dog's now looking and feeling fabulous! One thing people always say is that their dogs never look and feel as good after a bath at home as they do after professional grooming. It's really not likely to happen either, because there's so much more to grooming than meets the eye.

If you've ever tried grooming your dog at home, you know they're not always delighted about the process. But, good groomers are well-prepared for all types of behavior, be it shyness or hyperactivity. Our knowledge of dog behavior helps us safely and effectively calm and comfort the dog, which then eases the process for the dog and the groomer.

Although our love of dogs helps with all aspects of grooming, the profession requires a lot of technical knowledge as well. Proper use and maintenance of grooming tools, such as nail and hair clippers, keeps the dog safe and looking their best. With all the variations in breeds, we must also know which of the top methods, products and tools to use for all kinds of breed-specific hair and styles.

None of this knowledge comes easily, as it requires a lot of study and hands-on training. In addition to knowledge on behaviors, tools and techniques, we must be aware of all the health issues that affect grooming.

Good grooming is a very detail-oriented process, as some dogs need trimming between their paw pads while others require specific procedures to keep their inner ears in tiptop shape. Behind all this, though, is a professional who cares very much about the dog's health, comfort and safety.

Some dogs are easier to groom than others are, of course, but each dog has its own set of individual care and grooming needs. Good groomers note all these nuances about each dog so they can ensure the absolute best care for them.

Helpful Hint!

It's difficult to keep the yard nice-looking when it's also the dog's bathroom. But if you want to keep your grass green and healthy, try pouring water on urine spots immediately after the dog urinates. Water neutralizes the nitrogen in urine, and so it stops the grass from turning brown in those spots.

Cleaning up the Dog at Home

Dogs can get into huge messes between grooming appointments—or even directly after one! When you're unable to schedule them in right away for grooming but have to clean them up, be sure to use a safe shampoo and dry them off well. Some of the human-grade shampoos and conditioners are much too harsh for a dog's skin and fur, so avoid using those whenever possible. And know that just because a shampoo is marketed for dogs doesn't necessarily mean it's any better for their skin, as some of them contain harsh chemicals as well.

Dry them off as much as possible with a towel to lower the chance of hair matting, and if you use your hair dryer on them, keep it at a good distance from them so they don't get too much heat on their hair or skin. It's generally unsafe to do any hair trimming without proper tools and grooming experience so, even if you must clean them up, it's always best to leave any sort of hair cutting to the groomers!

Did You Know?

Dudley nose is a harmless condition in which a dog's nose loses color pigment; it's more common in dogs with a lighter hair color.

The Dachshund is the smallest breed used for hunting and is also one of the oldest dog breeds.

When your dog violently shakes a toy around with their mouth, they're following their hunting instincts for conquering prey.

Dog Skin Care!

Bathing is helpful for nearly all types of common skin and coat problems in dogs. These common problems include dry and flaky skin, greasy hair, and objectionable odors.

It is really important that products used on the dog are safe and effective, though, as some products could worsen the condition. Professional grooming products specially formulated for dogs are the best products, of course. If routine grooming does not reduce the problem, or if you notice other symptoms, consider the possibility of an underlying health condition.

Mites and allergies contribute to poor skin health, and poor skin often leads to an unhealthy look and feel in the dog's coat. Have a chat with your veterinarian to find the best possible approach to managing hair and skin conditions.

Remember too that frequent brushing supports healthy skin and hair, as it removes tangles and stimulates their skin.

A combination of nutritious foods, adequate medical care, and regular grooming is often the top solution to common hair and skin complaints in dogs.

Doggie Humour!

A family's pets were out in the enclosed yard: their dog was running around and the cat was walking on top of the fence. The cat says to the dog, *'You know they love me more than they love you, or they'd allow you free from the yard to wander the streets like I do'*. The dog replied, *'No, Kitty, they let you free from the yard because they don't want you to come back'*.

A Look at the Maltese!



The Maltese is one small-breed dog that has captured countless hearts over 28 centuries. Popular as a family dog and as a show dog, these friendly little pooches will likely remain a fashionable pet!

This toy breed was kept by royalty, adored by the Greeks and Egyptians, and is still considered a posh pet today. The Maltese has brilliant white, silky hair that draws a lot of attention when grown long to the floor. As a family pet, however, the "puppy cut" (as pictured above) is much more manageable and easy to maintain.

The mild-mannered Maltese is typically gentle with people, but is also incredibly brave for its small stature. They enjoy lots of play time and affection from their owners, as well.

Maltese dogs require frequent brushing and grooming to maintain their silky hair and clean color. Depending on their lifestyle, they may need grooming as often as once weekly, though a shorter hairstyle is generally less demanding.

Word Search

Find the hidden grooming words listed below!

G P T U N E U T E R G O D P
U R E G I G Y Z P X R C C U
S O O S M O Q S A P A D M P
S E I O I U G A W V T A J P
N B L B M C I R P M O F G I
D V A H I I R Z A K L R O E
A T I S A G N E D R Y E R S
H I C U W W C G S T M U L T
A W O R J M K T I X E W F R
I O S B I C R E M G E K L E
R K G N I T T A M A J P F U
C T E D I I Y S C T O O L P
U B R N O A S H A M P O O S
T B E T C L I P P E R S Q D

PAW PADS GROOMING BRUSH CLIPPERS HAIRCUT
MATTING DRYER PUPPIES SHAMPOO BATH

Getting the 'Look' you want for Your Dog...

The easiest way to get the 'look' you want for your dog is by knowing what you want and clearly communicating it. Misunderstandings can be quite common in regards to dog haircuts and styles, just as they are for people having their own hair done up in salons.

The main reason for this is that it's often difficult to accurately describe a look you may have in mind. You know you want the hair to be shorter, for example, but your idea of 'trim it up a bit' might be completely different from a dog groomer's idea.

Don't lose hope, though! There are a couple of things you can do to better communicate your ideas of how you want your dog to look. Firstly, try to find a picture of the style you want for your dog or ask to see photos of different styles for your particular breed.

Then you need to think on the hair length because different blades are used to achieve vastly different hair lengths. For instance, sometimes people ask to leave only an inch of fur on their dog, but are then shocked to see how short that really is! If you're unsure of the measurement, hold the dog's hair between your fingers to show how much hair you want removed.

Most importantly you'll need to consider the state that your dog's coat is in first. If you've been unable to keep their coat maintained through regular brushing and matts have built up in their coat then it's very unlikely that you'll get your dog back in the fluffy long style that you may want. De-matting during grooming is painful and cruel to the dog and just not worth it to achieve a certain look.

Feed back after the grooming appointment is also very important. Your likes and dislikes can be recorded on your dog's record card which will help to ensure that your dog is always left looking the way you want it.

Choosing a Doggie Bone!

Chewing is a favorite pastime of dogs, and is very effective for keeping their teeth clean and healthy. When choosing bones for your dog to chew, here are a few things to keep in mind:

Dog's Size – Most dogs prefer chewing on bones that aren't too big or too small for them to comfortably gnaw and carry around with them.

Safety – Cooked bones from the kitchen can be dangerous to dogs, as they might splinter, so fulfill their chewing needs with dog-approved bones.

Chewing Habits – A softer texture is better for dogs that gnaw gently and have small teeth, whereas a firm and condensed treat is usually better for large, aggressive chewers.

A Summer Gone to the Dogs!

If you're looking for truly special activities to share with your dogs this summer, look into the sports and tasks your dogs were bred to master, and then practice those tasks with them.

For scent hounds, set up a tracking game or play hide and seek to let them put their noses to work. Play lots of fetch with your retrievers, and remember: some retrievers love to fetch toys from the water!

If your dog's a herder, talk with trainers on how to set up a herding activity. Or, maybe see if there is a dog agility team or course near you. Toy herding will do if this isn't possible; what matters to the dog is that they're able to practice their instinctual skills.

Your dog's breed and personality can help you choose the best games for them, so it's really a matter of identifying their strengths and finding activities to suit them.

If you have a mixed-breed dog, try to figure out which of their genetic traits they lean toward, as this will help you choose a game they're naturally inclined to play.

And, of course, you can always enroll them in specialized dog training courses to give them practice and exercise throughout the season.

Get This Newsletter Every 3 Months!

To continue to provide you with information, help and a little bit of fun, we publish this newsletter every 3 months. There will always be a copy available for you. So, please drop in to pick one up (it'll be nice to catch up) or if you'd like your newsletter emailed to you just leave us your email address or request your newsletter by sending us an email. Once you're on our list we'll send your copy direct to you.

Caring for Your Dog's Eyes

Canine eye care is typically left to veterinarians, and for good reason, but there are a few things you can do to prevent some of the common canine eye troubles and protect your dog's eyes.

- 1) Keep hair clipped away from your dog's eyes, because long hairs can scratch at their corneas. These hairs also trap moisture in the fur around their eyes, which leads to matting, irritation and discoloration.
- 2) Use a canine-approved ophthalmic solution or ointment to protect their eyes from soaps and water before they swim or bathe at home.
- 3) Gently wipe the hair around their eyes with a soft, wet cloth if they have any drainage or buildup on the hair. It's much easier to remove these irritants before they've dried against the skin.
- 4) Have a thorough look at your dog's eyes regularly, and contact your veterinarian if you see anything abnormal. Eyes are susceptible to infection and injury, especially within certain breeds, but early detection can lessen or eliminate the long-term impact they have on a dog's eye health.

Doggy Humor!

Two dogs were discussing their lesson plans during a break from obedience class. One dog said to the other, "You know, the thing I really hate about obedience school is that you have to learn all this stuff you'll never use in the real world."

Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you so that I can give a little bit extra back to you. The content has been carefully selected in order to provide you with the best possible information. Hopefully you find it entertaining and useful.

Much of the information and articles have been sourced from a Dog Grooming publication company and it is strictly copyright protected. So I'm afraid it can't be copied or re-used. If you are ever given a newsletter from another groomer with similar information and articles, I'd be grateful if you'd let me know.

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