



HANDSOME HOUNDS

NEWS

Hello again to you and your fabulous pets! It's not long till Christmas now and oh what an exciting and busy time it is for us all. I hope you're getting some well deserved time off to spend with your family and friends – and your dogs as well of course! Simply having a little more time to share with our dogs at Christmas can make it extra special. Our dogs will no doubt be quite pleased to have us around a little more as well, making feasts and curling up for cosy evenings indoors.

You may find, however, that your dogs act a little out of the ordinary if your routine changes, though. They tend to prefer strict schedules and are often calmer when they know exactly what to expect each day—when to eat, walk, play, go outside, and sleep. When our routines change for holidays, they can get excited or anxious. They can also have trouble adjusting back to their old routines once we do. For this reason, it's good to keep things as normal as possible for them even if you're home more or less, travelling, or around more people than usual.

If your home will have lots of noise, visitors, and rambunctious activity, it really is a good idea to give the dogs a quiet place of their own to retreat to as needed. As much as many of them love to socialise, they also like to take a moment to themselves to relax sometimes, especially when lots of people or children are doting on them. Maybe put their bed in a room that no one's using or even make them a little hiding spot. A blanket over a low-lying table makes a nice doggy fort.

They certainly won't mind coming out if you serve a Christmas feast though! While it usually doesn't hurt to share a little with them on occasion, don't forget to keep those cooked turkey bones well away from their drooling mouths.

Chocolates, grapes, ham, onions, and potato skins are also a no-no. All those foods can cause awful problems, including digestive upsets, poisoning, and injuries.

As always, however, a little precaution helps us all to enjoy a delightful time for both our families and pets. So please have yourself the very best Christmas and a brilliant New Year!

Sue

Happy
Christmas!



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Inside this Issue:

- Oh, Christmas Tree
- Preparing Dogs for Guests
- Keeping Dogs Clean, Comfy & Dry in Winter!
- Gift Ideas for Dogs!
- Helping Dogs on Holidays

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! Wildlife experts have witnessed a miracle in Austria. A Bengal tiger named Burani gave birth to three white cubs, which are incredibly rare. Usually, only a single white cub is born when it happens. These albinos are growing quickly and doing quite well in the Kernhof zoo, where they will be raised and continue their lives. They would have difficulties hunting in the wild due to their colouring but will receive a lifetime of care from their mother and then trained staff.

! A woman in the US was surprised to see her cat, Zeus, looking calmly out the glass door—at a mountain lion looking right back in. She said normally Zeus hisses at other animals, such as squirrels and dogs, but he remained unfazed as this large beast stood at the door. Animals are often prey to mountain lions, but she didn't feel threatened, according to *The Denver Post*. The thrilling encounter was captured in photographs.

facebook

You can now find
'Handsome Hounds
Grooming' on Facebook!

To make it a little more convenient for you I now accept the following cards for payment:



"Take some time to just sing & play, and have lots of fun on Christmas Day!"

Why I'm the Right Choice to Groom your Dog!

Five Important points to look for when choosing a good Dog Groomer!

It's important to remember that not all groomers are the same and that the service they provide will not always be what you'd expect. It's so important that the person who grooms and cares for your dog does so to the highest standard. Because it's critical that you have trust and confidence in this person, I have highlighted the five benefits that a good groomer will provide to you:

1. Assurance that the care and welfare of your dog is their top priority:

Any good groomer is first and foremost a dog lover, so caring for your little buddy comes as second nature to them and is given at all times. By providing breaks during the clipping process and by never leaving your dog unsupervised, they reduce unnecessary stress while ensuring safety and security. They also attend to your dog's basic needs by providing them with such things as fresh drinking water.

2. Grooming of the highest standard that reflects the needs of you and your dog:

A good groomer must be able to demonstrate the ability to groom your dog to high standards and to provide an appropriate look for your pet. They must have the ability to accurately determine your needs while advising you on different options for style and finish. A good groomer will never inflict pain or undue stress on your pet just to achieve a certain style.

3. Understanding of the different temperaments and characteristics of dogs:

As not all dogs are the same, they cannot all be approached and handled the same. For example, a shy and slightly fearful dog requires calmness and patience, while a lively bouncy dog may require immediate leadership. A good groomer will be able to adapt their approach to meet the psychological and behavioral needs of different dogs to ensure minimum stress during the grooming process.

4. Quality products and methods that do not risk the health of your pet:

A good groomer will never compromise on the quality of products they use on your pet. Cheap dog products are available everywhere, yet they can cause severe health problems for your dog. Therefore, you must be confident that your groomer uses quality controlled professional grooming products. A good groomer will never cut corners with their products just to save money or to provide cheaper prices.

5. Advice and information on all aspects of dog ownership:

It's important that you have someone to turn to when you need advice or help with your dog, and a good groomer will be this person. While groomers cannot offer all of the answers, such as a medical diagnosis, they should be knowledgeable enough to offer some assistance and to point you in the right direction. A good groomer will always attempt to identify and inform you of any physical or behavioral changes that may indicate a health problem. This can make all the difference in recovery, as early detection ensures early treatment.

As a groomer, the above five benefits are the guide by which I provide my services. Dogs and grooming are my passion, not just my business. By bringing your dog to me for grooming, you can be assured that you and your dog will receive all five benefits as well as the care and service that you deserve.

What you can Expect if you Bring your Dog to Me!

Please don't think I'm including this section to brag or bore you. I just think it's so important that you know a little about who you're dealing with and who you're leaving your precious little pet off with to be groomed.

First of all a little about me.

I'm Sue Duffill. I've been a dog groomer for 17 years so I've seen my fair share of dogs and I've just loved them all. Because of my experience I'm thrilled to say that I have lots and lots of happy clients who keep returning and who trust me to groom their little buddies.

My objectives in grooming are simple – to leave your dog looking great while ensuring that he has a calm, safe and fun experience at the same time. I never compromise on the safety and welfare of your pet and I'd certainly never do anything on another person's pet that I wouldn't do on my own.

So what's this Newsletter all about?

Every season I do this free newsletter for all my clients. It's always full of interesting, useful and fun articles and facts about our little four legged friends. I do it to give you a little bit extra back and to say thanks for being a loyal client.

I really hope you enjoy reading the information included here and that you get something from it that will help you and your dog. Hopefully there will be a few laughs for you as well!

What can you and your dog expect from me!

My love for dogs ensures that if your dog visits me to get groomed, it will get the best care and kindness going. I believe that the grooming of your dog should be a pleasant, enjoyable experience for him, in a relaxed clean environment. You should always feel confident that he's in the safest of hands and with me I can assure you that he will be. Not only will he be left looking and feeling great but he'll also have a fun time being pampered in the process.

With my experience you can be assured that your best little buddy will be groomed to the highest standard where you'll be proud as punch to show him off to your friends and walk him down your street. Just like the hundreds of others who've been my clients over the years.

It's important that you have someone to turn to if you have questions or issues regarding your dog. This is also part of the service I love to provide. Advice and help is something I'm happy to give and you can call me at any time if you have a problem.

I always take your preferences and your dogs' character into account when grooming. With me you'll have someone looking out for changes in your dog that may indicate potential health issues.

Cleanliness in any grooming parlour is essential for your dog's safety so I make it a priority of mine. Your dog will be in a safe, clean salon and will get all the 'one to one' attention that he needs. Everything I do is highly visible, so you'll never have to worry about what goes on behind closed doors.

Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon. *"an outstanding reputation"*

- ✓ 17 Years of Grooming Experience with hundreds of happy clients who return time and again.
- ✓ Fantastic Customer Service including providing you with advice on all aspects of dog ownership.
- ✓ A Safe & Clean Environment for your best friend.
- ✓ Only the Best Quality and Safest products used on your pet.
- ✓ A highly visible, open-plan salon where you can see what goes on and your dog can see the outside world as it's groomed.
- ✓ The same groomer at every appointment ensuring continuity of care for your pet.
- ✓ A Calm, Relaxed, 'tender loving' approach where Patience, Praise and Kindness towards your pet is assured.
- ✓ A standard of grooming that will make you proud of how your pet looks.

**Call for an appointment
today. Tel: 07887 987954**



"I don't mind his size, however, my groomer isn't so pleased."

Oh, Christmas Tree

Many dogs love Christmas trees as much as we do—but for completely different reasons. We see a piece of nature indoors; they see a new bathroom. We see beautiful lights and decorations; they see a bunch of new toys. Unfortunately, this can be very dangerous for them as well as maddening for us.

If you've a live tree inside, you may want to try blocking the water dish beneath it. The water can contain pesticides and fertilisers from the tree, which sicken dogs if they drink it. Some dogs are also drawn to wires, thinking they're rubbery chew toys, so it's good to keep the cords from lights hidden when possible.

Yet another potential danger for dogs and cats is tinsel. They bat and chomp at the thin strands and sometimes end up getting them stuck in their throats or digestive systems. Some people avoid using tinsel altogether if they've pets at home; however, with dogs, you may just want to do some extra training to keep their noses out of the tree.

Lights and tinsel aside, there's all the candy canes and bulbs they find quite interesting too! Rather than reprimanding them for going near the tree, you might want to try teaching them to sit or lie down within a specific distance from it. Place a small blanket or dog bed on the floor, name the spot, and use treats and/or a clicker to get them using it. Then, when they get into the tree, say no and redirect them to their spot.

With a little caution and training, you can enjoy your tree without worrying much about the dog enjoying it too!

Quiz

Can you match the breed to its country of origin?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Vizsla | A. Switzerland |
| 2. Greyhound | B. England |
| 3. Saint Bernard | C. Hungary |
| 4. Bull Terrier | D. Croatia |
| 5. Dalmatian | E. Germany |
| 6. Pomeranian | F. Egypt |

Keeping Dogs Clean, Comfy & Dry in Winter!

Keeping a dog's coat looking and feeling nice in winter can be difficult, especially if they spend a lot of their time outdoors.

If you have a fenced-in garden for your dog or if they run round outdoors throughout the day, you may want to hang a tarp or provide an enclosed area where they can escape the rain or snow. Putting an elevated area outdoors for them can also help them stay dry and warmer when the ground gets soggy. If nothing else, they benefit greatly from clean, dry blankets and a supply of fresh water along with their toys and meals.

To keep their coats and your home clean when taking them in and out, you might consider keeping a stack of towels near the door. Toweling them off—even if they're only slightly damp from moisture in the air—can remove dirt and excess hair while also preventing mats. Rinsing their paws with warm water and then drying them helps them stay clean and comfortable, too. Of course, you also have the option of doggy boots and coats, but you may find that your dog isn't fond of wearing clothing!

Brushing out any mats before they form, keeping their coats trimmed, and having them washed regularly can also make the wintertime mess much more manageable.

Preparing Dogs for Guests (and Vice Versa)!

Unfortunately, not all people are dog lovers and not all dogs are comfortable with new people entering 'their' home. Even if dogs and guests are moderately accustomed to each other, there can be a bit of confusion over house rules and acceptable behaviours.

If you'll have guests or children over for the holidays and aren't sure how your dogs will handle it, you can practise with them by having people ring the bell, knock on the door, and greet them. This helps you identify any potential problems, such as excessive barking or jumping up on people, and gives you an opportunity to provide real training prior to your celebrations. It's much easier to manage problems beforehand than it is to stop them on the special day!

For the comfort of your dogs and guests, you might also ask people ahead of time to behave a certain way towards your dog. For example, ask them not to pet them unless they're sitting and behaving and that they do not give them 'people food' which could make them sick. Knowing ahead of time helps everyone settle in, relax, and have a great time.



Doggy Humour!

A Labrador walked into a telegram office, took a blank card from the desk, and wrote, 'Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof, woof, woof. Woof. Woof. Woof'. The clerk looked at the card and said, 'You might as well add another woof. Ten words is the same price as nine'. 'But,' the dog replied, 'then my message would make no sense at all'.

Gift Ideas for Dogs!

Dogs have fun when people are opening gifts whether they get anything or not. To them, ribbons, balls of paper, and people in high spirits are all the entertainment they need! But because they're family, you may want to include them in the gift exchange as well.

A popular hit with dogs and children alike is a stocking stuffed with goodies. Letting them dig out all the toys and treats can be lots of fun for everyone (though, of course, you may want to put them out of reach afterwards and let them have one or two at a time).

Another fun gift is an oversized ball. Lots of dogs can entertain themselves for hours trying to pick them up and catch hold of them. With or without someone tossing the ball, some dogs rarely tire of chasing it round the room. A large ball is also good because dogs usually can't bite them into pieces.

Functional gifts are equally appreciated by them. A new dog bed, a box of gourmet treats, and even a clean and comfortable collar or harness make excellent doggy gifts. There's no shortage of quirky or luxurious gifts, either, such as meat-flavored doggy champagne or a trip to the doggy spa for a massage and pampering.

Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you every 3 months 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.

Helping Dogs on the Holidays

The true spirit of the holiday season has many of us thinking about those who are less fortunate than we are, and, sadly, that includes many people and animals around the world and in our own communities. If you wish to help dogs during the season, there are many small things you can do to make a big difference in their lives.

Shelters and rescues are always appreciative of monetary donations, which they put towards food, veterinary care, and rescue missions. If some of your friends and family are avid dog lovers, you might consider making donations on their behalf as gifts.

Money is not all they need, though. Supplies or even a little bit of your time are also helpful. You could contact local shelters to see what types of items they need, such as blankets, bags of food, materials for the actual shelters, and more. The dogs would certainly enjoy some treats or toys too. If they need lots of items, you could make it a group effort with family, friends, and co-workers.

Volunteering is another option. Some shelters allow people to serve as dog walkers or come in to play with the dogs. Doing so can help both you and the dogs enjoy brighter, warmer, happier days this season.

6.	5.	4.	3.	2.	1.	Quiz Key
E	D	B	A	F	C	

Get This Newsletter Every 3 Months!

To continue providing you with information, help and a little bit of fun about dogs, 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 as well). Or if you'd like your newsletter emailed to you just leave me your email address or request your newsletter by sending me an email. Once you're on my list I'll send you a copy whenever they're available.



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