

Handsome Hounds News

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here already? Isn't this just the best time of year for little children? Seeing the delight on their faces as they open their presents from Santa is just wonderful.

Of course it's a pretty exciting time for our dogs, too, as they get to spend lots more time with us during the holidays. Some will especially enjoy all the mischief they can get into with the gifts and decorations.

While it's great to relax and enjoy Christmas, it's also worth taking a little extra care with our dogs over this period. A change in routine and all the new strange objects in our homes can provide extra risks for our dogs. So, here are a few pointers to make sure your little buddy has an enjoyable and safe Christmas too.

First of all keep an eye on your Christmas tree, especially if you see that your dog loves it as much as you do. It's not hard to imagine a large dog knocking it over and trailing it across the living room! Of course, there's always the lights and bulbs and tinsel to watch, too, because mistaking a bulb or electric lead for a new chew toy is not the smartest thing for your dog to be doing!

The festive season brings a temporary change in routine for many dogs, so it's not surprising that some get anxious over the new and noisy kids' toys or over all the family gatherings. If you'll have lots of excited little children in your home this season, maybe remind them to play gently near the dogs and to slowly introduce them to their new toys. While a remote control car whizzing along the floor can be hilarious for children, it can be absolutely terrifying for dogs!

It's likely your dog will beg for a bite of that delicious turkey dinner. Of course the occasional scrap of dog-friendly food won't hurt them a bit if you want to give them a special treat—just be very careful with turkey leftovers, because dogs tend to get right to the bones and can get them lodged in their throats. It's best to give them a little piece of the meat that has no bones in it if you want to give them something tasty to enjoy with the family. Remind the kids, too, that chocolate agrees with them much more than it does with dogs!

Anyway, the most important thing this Christmas is that you really enjoy it and that you, your family and your dog stay safe and well. I really do hope you get plenty of time to relax and spend precious time with your family because, before you know it, we'll be starting a New Year once again. Have fun and have a lovely Christmas.

Sue

Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon

Spernal Ash Nurseries, Alcester Road, Studley,
Warwickshire B80 7PD

Tel: 07887 987954

Email: handsomehounds@hotmail.co.uk

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handsomehounds-grooming.co.uk

I am pleased to announce the arrival of our new website:



www.handsomehounds-grooming.co.uk

If you get a spare moment you might like to take a look. You'll find all the back issues of this newsletter, plus lots more information about our services.

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



"Man's best friend is what we say, so let's treat them well 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. That's me in the photo below with my dog Blue. I've been a dog groomer for 15 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 month 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"



Sue, outside her Grooming Salon along with her beloved Springer Spaniel, Blue. Blue has been Sue's faithful companion for 15 years.

- ✓ 15 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**

Don't Forget the Dog at Christmas!

While some people may decide not to include the dog on Santa's list, more and more of you aren't forgetting about your four-legged member of the family. Christmas gifts for dogs can range from a necessary item to an over-the-top extravagant gift. But however you choose to celebrate Christmas with your dogs, you're sure to find something special for them that's within your budget—because some of the best gifts are free!

Some extra play time or a walk through a new area is one gift that a dog is sure to love, as they'll adore the time spent with you and will feel good from the exercise. A new area delights them with new smells and a sense of adventurous travel so, if Christmas gifts for doggies is not your style, you can still make it a special occasion for them, too.

Go for something practical if your dog's belongings are wearing thin. A new collar and lead or a doggie backpack is something useful that you both can enjoy during walks. Or, pick up some nice dishes for their food or a comfortable new dog bed.

There are plenty of edible and non-edible treats to fill a gift basket for dogs if you'd rather go that route. Gourmet dog cookies, a few bones, some new chew toys, a doggie blanket and spa-quality brushes or conditioners will give your dogs lots of enjoyment throughout the festive season!

But if you really want to go all out with your Christmas gifts, you can find fun and interesting presents for your canine companions. There's actually a dog-friendly non-alcoholic wine for dogs now, so you can sip your own wine and offer your dogs a beef or chicken-flavored beverage to share at your side. How about a canine canopy bed or a plush convertible automobile bed? Anything you can imagine for your dog is probably out there, so take a look at dog gifts online or shop around your local pet stores for that perfect find.

However, a dog's happiness comes from their loving owners and from having all of their needs met, so whatever you choose to do with your dogs for the festive season it's sure to please them!

Doggy Quiz

Dogs were bred for specific jobs and activities. Can you match each breed to its historical use?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Poodle | A. hunt wolves and bear |
| 2. Rottweiler | B. house pet for Ming dynasty |
| 3. Pug | C. retriever of game |
| 4. Labrador | D. herding and guarding |
| 5. Weimaraner | E. game retriever from water |
| 6. Shih-Tzu | F. pet of Buddhist monasteries |
| 7. Pomeranian | G. sheep herder |

Doggy Humour!

Woman to dog trainer: "My dog goes into the corner whenever he hears a bell ring."

Dog trainer: "Well this is normal—he's a boxer!"

Have you heard of the latest cross-breeds?

There's the cross between a Pekingese and Lhasa Apso, known as the Peekasso. A Pointer and Setter makes the Pointsetter! Then the financial experts out there probably love the cross between a Newfoundland and Bassett Hound, as this is the Newfoundland Asset Hound. Don't know about the Spitz and Chow-Chow mix, though, because a Spitz-Chow sounds like a really messy dog to have around the home!

8 Signs Your Dog is Happy and Healthy!

The little differences in a dog's behaviour and appearance can tell you a lot about whether they're feeling their best or if they could use a visit to the vet. Is your best little friend showing the signs of health and happiness?

1. Plenty of tail wagging and normal behaviour: Dogs can show a change in character when they're not feeling their best. There's no cause for concern here if your dogs are interested in all of their favourite activities and if they maintain their normal levels of energy. Check behaviour changes with your vet and then a dog trainer if your dogs don't seem their usual selves.
2. Bright and shiny eyes: Redness, cloudiness, discoloration, sensitivity or coloured discharge can signal eye health problems, such as injury, infection or disease.
3. Soft and shiny coat: A clean and silky coat comes from proper grooming and overall dog health. Watch for mats, ticks and fleas to keep a gorgeous coat, and check their diet and skin if you notice any problems.
4. Smooth and healthy skin: Skin that's free from sores, itching, redness and parasites is skin your dog loves to be in!
5. Clean ears: Odor, itching, redness or waxy buildup can indicate a problem with a dog's ears, which may require medical treatment.
6. A Healthy Mouth: Pink gums, clean teeth and non-offensive breath are all signs of good health in dogs. Foul breath can come from a variety of internal issues, so please contact your vet if your dogs have bad breath or if you see sores in their mouths.

7. Clean Anal Glands: If your dog scoots their bottom on the floor or has soreness around the rear, it's time to have their anal glands checked for buildup or infection.

8. Wet and Cool Nose: Dog's noses are so very important to them! It should be slightly moist and cool to the touch without discharge or cracks in the skin.

Why Dogs Bark!

Some dogs bark inside the house and others do it outside, but why? A social bark is used to greet you and to bark along with other dogs outside, while an alarming bark is used to warn dogs away or to warn you of an intruder. Other barking can come from anxiety or attention seeking. If you're working with your dog to bark less often, the first step is figuring out why he's doing it!

Thinking of Less Fortunate Dogs This Christmas!

Your dogs, and all those who belong to loving families like yours, are so very lucky to have a wonderful home throughout the year. However, there are many, many homeless and less fortunate dogs who have not yet found owners as good as you. Hopefully they will receive some of the care and attention they deserve when the spirit of Christmas reminds us all to do what we can to help them out.

Please take a moment to think on the needs of rescue dogs as you celebrate Christmas with your own dogs. These less fortunate dogs of the world truly appreciate whatever it is we can offer them, from a small gesture to a major change in their lives!

There are lots of ways to help. Maybe a dog lover in your family would appreciate the gift of you making a donation to a rescue shelter on their behalf. Or, ask the local shelters if there are any items or supplies they specifically need this season.

While the donation of money is often the best way to help these dogs they can also get lots of benefit from a donation of your time. Maybe offer to walk a shelter dog with your family one day, or stop by to give them some love and attention.

If a puppy is on your family's wish list for the New Year, please consider a dog adoption, as this will bring joy and fulfillment to the dog and to you!

If you could help a dog in need this Christmas that would be so kind of you. The smallest things really can make a world of difference to their lives. Plus, it will leave you feeling great knowing that you've made the lives of a few defenceless animals that little bit better.

Your old Towels and Blankets are needed!

Old blankets, towels and sheets are greatly in need for stray dogs in Redditch and Bromsgrove. If you have any you would like to donate, they can be in any condition, please drop them into me here at the salon and I will pass them on. Alternatively you can contact the Redditch and Bromsgrove dog warden for further details.

**Answers
to Quiz**
1 - E
2 - D
3 - F
4 - C
5 - A
6 - B
7 - G

Exercising Your Dogs

Did you know that small dogs may need more exercise than a great big dog does? The amount of exercise needed by dogs depends on their age, breed and level of energy, though they may need more if they have any behavioural problems. Aim for 30 minutes to 1 hour each day, and split the time up if needed. You and your dogs will feel good from that extra lap around the park!

Does Your Dog Have Tear Stains?

Eye tear stains are quite common in some dog breeds and are caused by a variety of factors, such as allergies or genetics. The dark staining can come from bacteria or yeast that grows in the moisture, but there are things you can do reduce and remove these stains.

The first step is to cut back or eliminate foods and treats that contain artificial colours. A quality dog food will reduce the tear staining and also keep stains from forming around their mouths! Provide your dog with bottled or filtered water, too, as a concentration of minerals in the water will contribute to the stains.

Use a wet cloth to wipe the tears away each day, and talk with your veterinarian about tetracycline or calcium carbonate used for reduction of tear stains. You may also want to have your dog's eyes examined for any possible infection or underlying problems.

Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you every month 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.

Get This Newsletter Every Month!

To continue providing you with information, help and a little bit of fun about dogs, we publish this newsletter at the beginning of every month. There will always be a copy available for you. So, in a month that's between your appointments 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 every month 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 every month.

To make an appointment or if you just want to ask a question please contact me at:

Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon

**Spernal Ash Nurseries, Alcester Road, Studley,
Warwickshire B80 7PD**

Tel: 07887 987954

Email: handsomehounds@hotmail.co.uk



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