

# Handsome Hounds News

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

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer, I know July was a bit showery but the weather is meant to be picking up again for August (so they say!!).

I'm sure you all heard about that dreadful incident with the two police dogs being left in a vehicle, what an awful thing to happen, those poor dogs must have suffered terribly. I'm sure this is a reminder to us all about the dangers of the heat when it comes to our best friends. So if the temperatures do soar again please remember to take extra care of your pets and keep them indoors during the hottest part of the day and of course, never leave them in the car even on a warm day.

On a lighter note, as always in the summer, the salon has been extremely busy, and during the 'heat wave' I struggled to fit everyone in. Please be aware that we are generally booked up about a week in advance and appointments get snapped up extremely quickly if we have a hot spell. With a little forward planning and by being aware of how often your dogs hair needs cutting you can book your appointment in advance to ensure your dogs get groomed when they need it to keep them happy, comfortable and looking and feeling their very best.

Again, thanks for taking the time to read my newsletter and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sue

## Are you new to this Newsletter or trying to find a good Dog Groomer?

If you're reading this newsletter for the first time or are looking for a Dog Groomer, please read page 2. There you'll find out how we could really benefit you and provide you with exactly what you're looking for.

## It's a Dog's World!

! A new pet-only airline has been launched in the US. Pet Airways is the first airline to carry pets in the main cabin of the aeroplane rather than the cargo hold.

The furry 'pawsengers' won't have to put up with annoying human travelers either, as it's only pets that travel on these flights!

The pets are monitored during the flight where fresh airflow and temperature in the cabin are maintained. This ensures the pets arrive at their destinations happy and healthy.

## Which Shampoo?

I'm sure many of you find the need to give your dogs a bath at home in between having them groomed, whether it's because they've rolled in something disgusting or they are just in need of a freshen up. If you do then I would just like to give a few words of advice about which shampoo to use.

There are many dog shampoo's available in the supermarket or pet shop, and I'm sure some of you have been known to just grab the nearest bottle of human shampoo in the bathroom, which I would strongly advise against; human shampoo is designed for humans, not dogs and contains lots of harsh chemicals, but so can some dog shampoo's too. When choosing a dog shampoo be sure to choose a good quality one, natural if possible and not just the cheapest one in the shop.

Here at Handsome Hounds we use only the best quality shampoo's, avoiding chemicals where ever possible. I have carefully chosen a range of natural, soap free, chemical free, biodegradable shampoo's that contain essential oils that are gentle on your dogs skin and coat (as well as respecting the environment).

There's a Hypoallergenic - a tearless shampoo, very mild, ideal for puppies and dogs with sensitive skins (We use this on most of the westies that come in).

There's also the Oatmeal shampoo - ideal for use on flaky or dry skins - smells like cinnamon

We have a natural Whitening shampoo - smells great and contains essential oils that repel fleas and ticks, and makes white coats gleam.

Then there's the "Filthy Animal" shampoo - will get rid of the nastiest of smells if you've got a dog that is fond of rolling in the stinkiest stuff it can find. This will also repel fleas and ticks.

We have all of these shampoo's available to buy in the salon, they are very good value as because they are such high quality, a little goes a long way. If you need any advise on which shampoo to use just pop in or give us a call. We also offer a Bath and Blow dry service if your dog requires a freshen up in between grooms.

If you do bath your dog at home I would ask you to remember two things; firstly a good quality shampoo and secondly rinse well, make sure rinse out every trace of shampoo or it may irritate your dogs skin.

## Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon

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

**Tel: 07887 987954**

Email: [handsomehounds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:handsomehounds@hotmail.co.uk)

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



Your dog getting pampered in a bath full of bubbles, groomed to perfection & given plenty of cuddles!

# 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 also understand that you may have a busy lifestyle so I make my appointments flexible to suit you. If you work during the day you won't have to worry about getting your dog to the groomers. You can make your appointments at a time that makes it easier for you.

Your pet will always be groomed by me at every appointment as this ensures that your preferences and your dog's character can always be accounted for. It's also important that you have someone to look out for and see changes in your dog that may be potential health issues in your pet.

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.
- ✓ Flexible Appointment Times to suit your busy lifestyle.
- ✓ 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**

## Doggy Word Search!

The following Word Search contains the names of 8 breeds of dogs. The breeds included are listed on the back page but can you find them first before looking at the names.

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

## Choosing the Style that Fits Your Lifestyle

We've all heard about choosing a dog breed that fits our lifestyle (highly active vs. laid back, etc.), but we must also consider the lifestyle of our own and of our dogs when choosing an appropriate style or haircut for them.

Although the fluffy or long and shiny coat on a show-quality dog is astoundingly beautiful, it's not always practical for the everyday activities of dogs and their owners. Of course, your dog should always look great after being groomed, but it's really important to choose a style for which the amount of maintenance works for both you and your dog.

For example: Many people love the long and glossy look of a full-coated Shih Tzu, Maltese or Yorkshire Terrier; however, maintaining the look of this coat is very time consuming for dog owners, as it requires extensive daily brushing.

Because most dogs love to get into messes or run around the garden, it's not always practical to keep them in a long, high-maintenance coat. If your dog always finds herself frolicking outdoors or if you don't have the time for a lot of daily upkeep on their coat, you can always keep them in a shorter, yet stylish haircut.

There is actually a variety of styles to choose from for many dog breeds, so there's no need to worry about choosing between practical and stylish – you can easily have the best of both worlds. I'd be happy to talk with you about different options that would suit the lifestyle shared by you and your dog.

Perhaps you prefer a longer length on the overall body but wish your dog would stop getting water and food stuck in their beard; you can always opt for shorter hair on the face blended into a longer coat on their body.

Perhaps your larger dog is always getting mud and mats in the wisps of fur on their belly but you don't want to clip their coat off; you can always keep the belly stylishly trimmed whilst keeping the overall coat intact.

By styling your dog's coat in accordance with lifestyle, you really cut down on the amount of time and maintenance required for a certain look.

So please take some time to think about the ordinary lifestyle of your dog as well as the amount of time you have to devote to coat maintenance.

By knowing your needs and talking it over with me, it can save you and your dog a lot of aggravation between appointments!

## Microchips are saving lost Pets!

Although we all keep a close eye on our dogs when we're at home or outdoors, there is an unfortunate variety of circumstances that can occur in the blink of an eye, which can leave a dog nowhere to be found. These things can happen regardless of training and a dog's obedience to their owner, because nature and the ill intent of other people can often override obedience.

Many people have been left in shock over the disappearance of their dog, especially because they've never run off or escaped from their back yard before. But there's always a first time for everything. In nature, sometimes it's nothing more than a loud clap of thunder that sends a dog running; it's also quite common for dogs to follow the scent of another dog for mating – and that other dog might be far away from home! And there's also the occasional thief who will steal a dog from its loving owners.

While you can do plenty of things to ensure that it doesn't happen, if your dog does disappear, you'll want to know that you've got the best possible chance of being reunited again.

So you should strongly consider having your dog microchipped, if you haven't done so already. A microchip is a small computer chip that is quickly and easily inserted directly beneath your dog's skin (by a professional, of course).

The great thing about microchips is that animal shelters and veterinarians are able to scan dogs for chips in the event that they've been separated from their owners. With your contact information in the database of microchips, it's much easier for people to locate you if they've found your dog.

The good news is that there are thousands of dogs being reunited with their owners, sometimes after months – or even years – of disappearance!

Let's hope it never happens to you but just think that without a microchip, there's just no way possible that someone finding your dog would ever know that you're their owner. So it makes lots of sense to get your pet microchipped.

## Did You Know?

Dogs are omnivorous, which means they eat meat as well as plants. Although no one is 100% sure why dogs eat grass, it's thought that one reason is because they get a craving for greens. In fact, some dogs graze on grass every day. Others may just eat grass occasionally and it's thought that some do so because they have an upset tummy and want to make themselves sick.

## Is it Time to Shed the Pounds?

Does your dog look at you with longing eyes as you're trying to eat your own food? It can be difficult to say no to your best friend when they want a bite of whatever you're eating, but it's really important to keep their weight in mind.

Just as we can experience a host of health problems from being overweight, so can our dogs. Obesity in dogs can lead to diabetes, heart conditions, joint pain, decreased immunity, difficulty breathing and a range of other concerns.

To ensure the highest quality of life for our beloved friends, it's essential that we find the proper balance between exercise and food intake. Exercise becomes much more difficult for dogs when they pack on extra pounds, which makes it harder to meet their physical and psychological needs.

If you're wondering whether your dog is at a healthy weight, just take a look at their rib cage. You should be able to feel your dog's ribs without feeling a thick layer of fat. Dogs, depending on breed, should also have a visible inward curve between the chest and hind end.

Any concerns about a dog's weight should be discussed with a veterinarian, as weight problems can result from or lead to illness. But to help your dog stay fit, you can reduce the amount of snacks and treats given and provide food portions appropriate to his level of physical activity.

Although most dogs love to munch on anything they can get their paws on, it's up to us to decide on what they can eat and to keep them fit and trim!

### Doggy Humour!

! The chief constable of a small English town was also an expert veterinary surgeon. One night his telephone rang. "Is Mr. Smyth there?" said an agitated voice. Mrs. Smyth answered, "Yes, do you want my husband in his capacity of veterinary surgeon or as chief constable?" "Both, lady," the caller replied. "We can't get our new Bulldog to open his mouth, and there's a burglar in it."

! Maureen Perlmutter, the happy Hancock Park homemaker, tells about Darby, a Dachshund who loved country sausages. When he begged hard enough, his mistress wrote out an order for a few, and the dog grasped it between his jaws and trotted off to Barney's Butcher Shop with it.

In time, Barney took Darby's appearance as a matter of course and counted off a half-dozen sausages without even consulting the order the Dachshund dropped at his feet. One day the dog showed up at the store four times and Barney decided to check. The paper was absolutely blank. Whenever he wanted sausages, the wise old dog simply snatched up any piece of paper and trotted off to the butcher's shop with it.

! John was planning a holiday and didn't know what to do with his Collie. He wrote to the resort hotel and asked if dogs were allowed. He received this answer from the manager:

Dear Sir:

I have been in the hotel business for over thirty years. Never yet have I had to call in the police to eject a disorderly dog in the small hours of the morning. No dog has ever attempted to pass off a bad check on me. Never has a dog set the bedclothes on fire through smoking. I have never found a hotel towel in a dog's suitcase. Certainly, your dog is welcome. P.S.: If he will vouch for you, you can come too.

*"When a dog barks at the moon, then it is religion; but when he barks at strangers, it is patriotism!"*

~ David Starr

### 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.

### Answers to Word Search!

Afghan Hound, Westie, Bull Terrier, Chinese Crested, Irish Wolfhound, Lhasa Apso, Pug, Samoyed

*"My little dog - a heartbeat at my feet"*

~ Edith Wharton

### Four of Our Dog's Basic Needs

Dogs are our best friends through both good and bad times and all they ask in return is that we take care of their basic needs. Unfortunately, many people do not realise that a dog's basic needs go beyond that of food, water, and shelter. So, what else does a dog need for a happy and healthy life?

#### **-Exercise-**

All dogs need a minimum of 30 minutes physical activity per day, more for larger or highly energetic dogs. Otherwise, they release their pent up energy in destructive ways or develop psychological / behavioral problems. People often believe that because they have a big house or a big yard that the dog has plenty of room to exercise itself. But this is not true. We go stir-crazy at home and so do our dogs, because it begins to feel like a cage.

#### **-Mental Stimulation-**

There is a reason that dogs love games! Just as we like to have a purpose in life, so do our dogs. All dogs require some level of psychological challenge to stay mentally healthy and this is especially important for dogs that are bred for specific activities. Retrievers love to retrieve; hounds love to track scent, and so on.

#### **-Attention and Affection-**

Dogs are social creatures and they do become lonely without companionship. When left alone for long periods, they become depressed and often develop psychological / behavioral problems to cope with the stressful situation. While they do appreciate a good belly rub, their favorite form of attention is that of activities and exercise with their owners.

#### **-Grooming-**

An unkempt coat causes many more problems than just an odour or unsightly hairdo. When mats form in a dog's fur, it becomes very painful as the mats pull the skin. Unattended mats will leave open sores on a dog's skin, and these open sores are prone to infection. Regular grooming prevents this from happening while also preventing overgrown, painful nails.

### 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**

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**Email: [handsomehounds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:handsomehounds@hotmail.co.uk)**

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