

Handsome Hounds News

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

Hello again,

With the arrival of June many of us will be looking forward to our summer holidays, I know I am! And of course, if we're having a holiday then so are our dogs.

If they are staying behind then hopefully you have found a good boarding kennels or dog sitter so you have peace of mind while you are away that your best friend is happy and cared for. However, if you choose to take them with you there is preparation to be made for them too, so here's a few tips on travelling with your dog.

Firstly, there is the obvious; dogs and hot cars. Obviously you should never leave them in a stationary vehicle even on a warm day, but also watch out for those rising temperatures whilst on the move too. Don't forget to have fresh water and a bowl close to hand and not buried under all the other luggage. Also be aware of the heat when out walking your dog, they don't have to be in a car to suffer from heat stroke.

Then there's the local wildlife to think about. Check if the area you are visiting has adders and if it does keep your dog on a lead. A bite from an adder can kill a dog and will certainly make them very ill. If you suspect your dog has been bitten get them to a vet asap!

Another good idea is to gather addresses and phone numbers of all the vets in the areas you will be visiting and keep them with you when out with your dog. This can easily be done on the internet before you go away.

One final tip, just in case the worst should happen, ensure your dog is wearing a tag with your relevant holiday contact numbers and address. Even if your dog is microchipped a tag with a phone number is a much more instant way for you to be reunited with your dog, I know this from experience!

So hopefully, with a bit of careful planning everything will go smoothly, our dogs will stay out of mischief and we will all have a wonderful time.

Sue

Funny Animal Quirks:

! A cat in Norwich has become a vegetarian. According to the Daily Mirror, Becky Page rescued Dante from near starvation when he was just a kitten.

When Becky tried feeding him the usual food that cats like, he just turned his nose up at it. Then one day she found him tucking into a plate of organic vegetables that were left to be thrown out.

Now Dante refuses to eat anything other than organic vegetables. It's very rare for cats to be vegetarian as they are obligate carnivores.

Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon

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

Tel: 07887 987954

Email: handsomehounds@hotmail.co.uk

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- * Why I'm the Right Choice to groom your Dog.
- * My Dog Growls at us when he gets his Food.
- * Will Swine Flu affect my Pet?
- * Mats – Why are they such a Big Problem?
- * Keeping your Pet's Teeth Clean.

Summer Appointments!

The salon always becomes very busy during the Summer months. For this reason it's so important that you book your appointments as early as you can, to ensure that you get the date and time that suits you. Maybe even book your next appointment during your existing one. I just hate seeing people disappointed but once the appointments are taken, there's little I can do. So please book early.

Summer Holidays!

The Salon will be closed for my summer holidays from Sat 4th July and will re-open on Tues 14th July.

Interesting Dog Breeds!

Irish Wolfhounds were originally bred as war dogs in ancient times. They were also used to guard land and property.

Later the Irish used this breed to hunt wolves and wild boar. They were obviously good at this task as both are now extinct in Ireland.

While some people believe that the Wolfhound is the national dog breed of Ireland, this is not the case. In fact, there is no official nationally adopted dog breed in Ireland.

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



"I love grooming your dog I'm sure you can tell, for me it is fun and I get cuddles as well!"

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**

My Dog Growls At Me When He's Eating!

If your dog snarls, growls or even snaps when you go close to him while he's eating, then you have a fairly serious problem. With this behaviour there is a clear dominance issue going on in your pet's mind. You can imagine it as being similar to a pack of wolves in the wild when they feed. The more dominant members of the pack get to eat first and if any lower members of the pack try to get close, they are growled and snapped at.

In your dog's case, they see everyone else as lesser members of their pack, so they claim the dominant position when eating.

While you may be careful around your dog when he's eating or even be ok with this behaviour, it's a problem that you really must address. Say a child or a visiting toddler unwittingly ventures too close while your dog is eating--the consequences could be very serious. But also, your dog is not in a happy relaxed state when he's eating like this. Wouldn't it be better to see him relaxed and happy when he's eating rather than gulping down his food while being tensely on guard all the time?

To help stop your dog from being territorial with his food, here are a few tips. But please note that when your dog is extremely aggressive and threatening physical harm toward you, you'll need to get advice from a reputable dog trainer.

- First of all, to show your dog that you are the dominant member of your pack you must "own" the food, so that he's only allowed to eat with your permission.

- To do this, command your dog to sit before placing the food down. If he tries to move toward the food without permission then physically block him (stand between him and the food). Keeping very calm but assertive, tell him to sit again. Depending on your dog's dominance and determination, this can take a lot of repetition.

- If your dog growls while he's eating, step between him and his bowl. It's so important that you don't snatch the food away from your dog as that creates a game and makes him pursue it more. Again, it's so important to remain calm but assertive during this training.

- Your dog may try to circle around you to get to the bowl, so to counteract this, just circle around with him while continuing to face him and blocking access to the bowl.

- If you have two or more dogs, make them sit before placing the food on the floor. You should then stand between them while they eat from their separate dishes. Carry out the above corrections if one becomes aggressive.

Over time when their behaviour improves, you can reduce the need to monitor them as they eat. But at any sign of this behaviour returning, repeat the corrective actions again.

"I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult."

~ Rita Rudner

Will Swine Flu affect my Pet?

All the recent media publicity and worry over Swine Flu has been centered on it affecting humans, but could our pets also be at risk from such a virus?

Well the good news is that at the time of writing this there is no evidence to suggest that Swine Flu will affect dogs or cats. So there's no need to worry just now.

While dogs and cats do have their own versions of influenza viruses, historically there never has been any known transmissions of these types of viruses from humans to dogs/cats or vice-versa.

But all viruses can change, so it's best to keep an eye on the news and, of course, if we hear anything we'll be sure to let you know.

Please note: If you happen to own a pet Ferret you may want to seek further advice. Ferrets are generally susceptible to human influenza viruses. Speak to your vet to get more information.

Famous Dog Owners?

Can you guess the breeds of dogs that these famous people own or have owned in the past?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Justin Timberlake | A. Chocolate Labrador |
| 2. Mariah Carey | B. Cocker Spaniel |
| 3. Minnie Driver | C. Rottweiler |
| 4. Roy Rodgers | D. Black Labrador |
| 5. Bill Clinton | E. Yorkshire Terrier |
| 6. Will Smith | F. German Shepherd |
| 7. Oprah Winfrey | G. Bichon Frise |
| 8. Barbara Streisand | H. Shih Tzu |

Mats! - Why Are They Such A Big Problem?

Mats are formed in your dog's coat when individual hairs tangle together. These tangles, if left un-brushed, tighten into thick knots that then become resistant to brushing.

Tangles in the hair can be caused by something as simple as the daily activities that your dog gets into. If the coat gets wet and muddy, or if debris such as little twigs, grass, grit or dirt gets into the hair, tangles can form. Even the way your dog lies down can be enough to tangle the fur in certain areas of his body.

Mats are more common on medium to longhaired dogs but thick undercoat on shorthaired dogs can also become matted. So what's the big problem? Surely, if mats form we can just brush them out—right? Well no, we can't because if the tangles have already formed into mats, it's too late as we've got to think about your dog's welfare!

When tangles form into mats, they become tighter and thicker over time. So if they're left, it becomes impossible to untangle the hair by pulling a comb or brush through the coat. If you then try to force the brush through the mats, you will simply be pulling on the remaining hair that is attached to your dog's skin.

Ask a friend to grab a small amount of hair on the side of your head and pull it as hard as they can—that's how mat pulling feels to a dog! While you shouldn't really have a friend do this, you can imagine how painful it would feel. By allowing mats to form in their coat, and then by trying to brush them out, it causes a lot of pain, which is just too cruel!

So what's the solution if the coat has become matted? If your dog's coat is already tightly matted, then in most cases, it requires the entire coat to be clipped off. At this stage there is really little choice as it's the kindest option for your pet.

However, the good news is that your dog's hair will grow back again. By taking the necessary steps to keep a coat tangle and mat free, you will be able to avoid full body clipping in the future!

Please note, however, that when allowing several months to pass without grooming or regular brushing, many dogs' coats become a matted mess. Some form into one solid pelt that resembles that of a sheep, which is painful and distressing for your dog. Mats tighten into the skin, thereby restricting movement and possibly making the dog unbearably warm.

Severe skin irritation, hair loss and other health issues are common with matted hair on dogs. Taking all precautions against hair matting is vital to the good health of your dog, which will surely please both you and your dog.

So how can you keep your dog's hair from becoming matted? Well, the key to keeping your dog's coat mat free is to straighten out the tangles before they form into mats! This requires regular brushing, sometimes as often as every day. But that's what it may take to ensure the knots come out!

Mats can form in very hard to reach areas, so daily care may require specialised brushes and technique. I'm happy to advise you on the correct tools and techniques, as I know that you, your dog, and certainly I will all be thrilled with a mat-free coat!

Doggy Fun – Owners Thinking on Their Feet!

Two men are walking their dogs, a Daschund and a Labrador. They decide they'd like to go into a bar for a drink. "But we can't bring our dogs into that bar," says the Daschund's owner. "Hey, no problem," says the Labrador's owner. "Just watch this." He pulls out a pair of sunglasses and walks into the bar. "Hey, no dogs!" yells the bartender. "But this is a seeing eye dog," says the Labrador's owner. The bartender apologises and shows them to a chair. So, the Daschund's owner decides to follow suit, whips out his sunglasses, and walks into the bar. "Hey, no dogs!" yells the bartender. "But this is a seeing eye dog," replies the owner. The bartender objects, "Hey, Daschunds can't be seeing eye dogs!" The Daschund's owner gasps, "Daschund? They told me they were giving me a Labrador!"

Fascinating Doggy Facts!

! Dogs have a strong natural instinct to defend themselves or their pack against attack. This defensive instinct can cause them to be fearless against a much bigger attacker.

A small Yorkshire Terrier once saved its elderly owner by fighting off an Akita, who was almost 70lbs heavier, and much, much larger. The brave little battler survived, needing only 9 stitches.

Please Pass This Newsletter Around!

If you know of anyone that you think could benefit from my services or who may like to read this newsletter then please pass this copy on to them.

Maybe when you've finished reading it you could leave it in a place where others might get to read and enjoy it as well. What about in your hairdressers, dentist or doctors' reception. Or could you take it to your work so that your colleagues could benefit from it as well.

It's always good to reuse and recycle so by passing this newsletter on or leaving it where others could get to read it really would be benefiting everyone.

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.

Keeping Your Pet's Teeth Clean!

You may not have realised it but pets can have dental problems too! Tartar and plaque can build up on your pet's teeth, just as it would on your own if they were not kept clean. This can lead to gum disease from which bacteria can lead to other more serious health issues.

If your pet's breath constantly smells bad, it's possible that they have a dental problem. Taking care of your pet's teeth is just as important as any other aspect of their health care.

One of the biggest effects on your pet's teeth is the food you are feeding them. In the wild, dog and cat teeth were naturally cleaned by the food they ate. The tough, fleshy fibers of other animals would "scrub" their teeth as they bit through hair and skin. This 'scrubbing' effect, combined with a high flow of saliva in their mouths, would help keep all the teeth clean and free from the build up of plaque.

However, in many manufactured pet foods there is no provision for this natural cleaning process. In fact, soft and sticky canned food can contribute greatly to the build up of plaque on your pet's teeth. So it's important to brush your pet's teeth regularly. When possible, try to do this no less than 3 times weekly.

There are various types of pet toothpastes available, which unlike human toothpaste, don't contain fluoride, can be safely swallowed by your pet and don't froth during brushing. You can also use a wet washcloth to scrub his teeth if you do not have any toothpaste available.

It's important to try to make brushing your pet's teeth fun for them, so start when they are young and make it enjoyable for them. This will make it much easier for you too.

Also try to provide your pet with the opportunity to create the natural teeth 'scrubbing' process. This can be done by giving them dental type chews or toys such as Kongs. As they chew and bite into these, the plaque will be naturally scrubbed off their teeth.

If you're in any doubt about your pet's dental hygiene, please speak to your vet.

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.

Answers
to Quiz
1E
2H
3D
4F
5A
6C
7B
8G

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

The information provided in this newsletter and on any additional documents herein is for guidance purposes only. It must not be construed as veterinary or legal advice. Always seek fully trained veterinary advice if you have a health issue with your pet. As far as is reasonably practical the publisher endeavors to ensure that this information is accurate and correct. However the publisher cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies, omissions or mistakes. Neither can we be held liable for any damages, howsoever caused, resulting from the information contained in this document.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please let us know.