

Handsome Hounds News

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

I know it's hard to believe that another issue of this newsletter is out already. It seems like only five minutes ago that I was getting the last one out. I guess that's what's good about being busy – you never get bored!

Anyway, how did you enjoy Easter? I hope you had time to have a nice break and to spend some time with family and friends. I think it's really important to do that, plus it's good to get the batteries recharged from time to time, don't you think?

So summer is coming. Isn't it wonderful? I think it's going to be a great summer this year. I'm looking forward to warm summer evenings, barbecues and just good old fashioned outdoor fun. I feel excited and reinvigorated just thinking about it!

Anyway, back to the present. In this month's issue, I've given you the usual mix of useful tips and helpful articles. I think you might particularly enjoy the 'Dogs in the News' section this month. There are some really heartwarming stories there.

It's also the time of year when we see many dogs with fleas, so I've included an article, which should help if your dog is unlucky enough to get them.

Please remember to share your thoughts and ideas about this newsletter, as I love getting your feedback. Let me know if you like the articles and find them useful and interesting. That way I'll know what to keep doing and what to change to make it even better for you. And please do pass the newsletter to someone you know once you've finished with it. You'd be really helping me, and your friends will appreciate it as well.

As always, thank you so much for reading. Speak to you soon.

Sue

Dogs in the News!

! A cat in China has adopted two puppies and is now teaching them how to catch mice. According to Ananova.com, the cat, who had recently given birth to three kittens of her own, took over the caring duties of the two orphaned puppies. Their mother had died while giving birth to them.

The pets' owner says that the cat is looking after the pups very well. *"Each day she feeds them and is showing them how to pounce from behind the sofa and it's clear that she's teaching them how to hunt mice."*

Unfortunately, the two little canines lack the agility and speed needed to copy their feline foster family.

! A pet dog has been found alive and safe after being lost at sea for four months. According to the BBC, an Australian cattle dog, Sophie Tucker, was lost overboard on a sailing holiday off the northeast Queensland coast. She somehow managed to swim to a deserted island and she survived for four months on a diet of baby goats. Visiting rangers found Sophie and reunited her with her ecstatic owners.

"She surprised us all," said Mrs Griffith. "She was a house dog and look what she's done, she has swum over five nautical miles, she has managed to live off the land all on her own. We wish she could talk, we truly do."

Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon

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Are you new to this Newsletter!

If you are a new client or this is your first time reading our newsletter you'll be able to find out lots more about us on page 2 and will see how we can benefit you and your dog.

"The best way to get a puppy is to beg for a baby brother - and they'll settle for a puppy every time."

~ Winston Pendelton

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.

Fascinating Facts about Dogs:

! On average, taking account of all the various sizes, mixed breed dogs live, on average, 1 year longer than purebred dogs.

! Dog breeds that tend to live the longest include Toy Poodles, Border Terriers, and Tibetan Spaniels.

! Dachshunds were originally bred for fighting badgers.

! Bernese Mountain Dogs were first used as farm dogs to draft sheep and cattle in the Swiss Alps. Remarkable given the huge size of the breed!

! Sexual maturity in both male and female dogs tends to happen between 6 & 12 months of age. Although in some large breeds, it can take up to 2 years.

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



"This is my dog you can shout aloud, we make them gorgeous so you can be proud!"

This page is for new clients or anyone who is reading this newsletter for the first time.

Five important benefits that any good Groomer must provide for you!

It's important to remember that not all groomers are the same and the service they provide will not always be what you'd expect. It's so important to you and your dog that who you choose to groom and care for them is doing it to the highest standard. Having confidence in this person is critical so in this section I've highlighted the five most important benefits that a good groomer must provide for you:

1. They should leave you without any doubt that the Care and Welfare of your dog is their top priority.

Any good groomer will be first and foremost a dog lover, where caring for your little buddy is second nature and top of their to-do list. This caring approach should be given at all times while your dog is in their care. The clipping and bathing process should be stress free and little breaks should be given to your dog during the process. A good groomer will ensure that they are always safe, secure and never left unsupervised and will take care of their basic needs, such as providing them with clean drinking water.

2. They should groom your dog to a high standard and put the needs of your dog and you first.

A good groomer should be able to demonstrate the ability to provide a groom and finish on your dogs coat that is of an adequate standard and an appropriate look for your pet. They should also be able to advise on different options available on style and finish, as other options may sometimes suit your needs better. To do this they must have the ability to correctly determine your needs. A good groomer will never inflict unnecessary pain or stress on your pet just to achieve a certain finish or look.

3. They should have an ability to read and understand the different temperaments and characters of different dogs.

As not all dogs are the same they cannot all be approached and handled the same. For example a shy, backward, slightly fearful dog must be approached and handled a lot differently than a lively, bouncy, friendly dog. A good groomer will be able to adapt their approach and handling of different dogs to reflect their nature so that all stress or worry is removed from their grooming experience.

4. They should always use the best products and systems to leave your dog looking great but without risking him in any way.

A good groomer will never compromise on the quality of the products they use on your dog. There are cheap dog products available everywhere but many can cause severe problems with your dog's health. Therefore you need to be confident that the products being used on your dog have been properly tested and are of the highest standard. A good groomer will make sure they are always using the best and safest products. Plus, they will never cut corners in grooming your dog just to save money.

5. They should be able to provide you with advice, knowledge and information about other aspects of dog ownership.

It is important that you have someone to turn to when you have a problem or need advice on anything to do with your dog and a good groomer can be this person. While it wouldn't be expected that they would be able to have all the answers they should at least be able to point you in the right direction. A good groomer should also look for and be able to see changes in your pet that may indicate health worries. They should be able to advise you of the direction to take. This can mean so much to you as early detection of ailments in your pet can make all the difference in their recovery.

The above five benefits are the basis of everything I do for you and your dog in my salon. All of what I do everyday comes from my adherence to these principals. So you can be assured that by bringing your dog to me to be groomed, you are getting the best of these benefits and will receive what you and your dog deserves.

A little about Handsome Hounds and 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

Sad, but True!

In some parts of the world where predatory animals live, such as wolves, coyotes, tigers or leopards, dogs end up becoming a food source for them.

- * In Croatia, wild predators kill more dogs than they do sheep.
- * In Russia, wolves frequently attack and actually control the number of feral dogs.
- * In Wisconsin, USA, paid compensation for dogs lost to predatory animals is higher than that of livestock.
- * And in some parts of India, hyenas kill many village dogs in remote areas.

Did You Know!

Male dogs frequently sniff and urinate while out walking, as it's a form of communication with other dogs. Their urine contains pheromones that tell other dogs if they're male or female. It also reveals their dominance and what stage they are at during their reproductive cycle, if they're female.

Females only tend to scent mark during their season. But males try to communicate as much information about themselves as they can, as often as they can. Dogs that live in the country tend to scent mark less than those in towns do.

Why Dog Grooming is Not Like Hairdressing!

Dog grooming and hairdressing may seem similar (it's all about haircuts, right?), but they differ greatly from one another, which is why you may notice differences in price and the amount of time it takes.

Here's a little list of the big differences between hairdressing and dog grooming.

* Firstly, when you go to a hairdresser you know exactly what to expect, so you're rarely apprehensive. Your dog, however, may not be so sure of what is happening when he comes in for grooming. Therefore, it's really important that we take the time to be as gentle as possible to avoid any unnecessary stress.

* Every part of your dog needs to be washed thoroughly, but your hairdresser only needs to wash the hair on your head!

* You no doubt wash your own hair every few days but it's usually 8 weeks or more since your dog's last wash. So it requires good technique, quality shampoos and above all the time to thoroughly clean its coat.

* We cut your dog's nails, clean wax and dirt from his ears and boogies from his eyes - services that hairdressers are unlikely to provide!

* Many hairdressers offer hair waxing for eyebrows, upper lip, and the "bikini area". Our version of the "bikini wax" (which is included in the service) includes shaving around the private areas of your pet. This sometimes requires removing fur-matted excrement – not a pleasant task! But our focus is not only on style, but also the health, safety and welfare of your pet.

* Hairdressers can dry your hair quickly. Although dogs' coats come in various lengths and density, most require significant time and physical labor to get them completely dry. A thick undercoat can act like a sponge!

* It's likely that you sit very still for your hairdresser, but it's seldom that dogs do so for us! It requires a high level of patience and specific skills for us to safely groom dogs of all energy levels.

* In the hairdressers you follow direction of where to sit, how to bend and when to move etc. Whereas dogs must be lifted onto the table, carried to the bath and moved when required. This is physically intensive work, which in some cases means lifting pretty heavy dogs!

* Scratches, bites and cleaning up little accidents are a common daily occurrence for dog groomers. Your hairdresser is unlikely to face these problems or at least we hope not!

As you can see, grooming differs greatly from hairdressing so you'll understand why they cannot be compared with each other!

Fleas - It's Their Time of Year!

In some countries and areas, fleas can be present all year round but they do prefer warmer, humid conditions. Therefore, with the rise in temperature as we move from Spring to Summer, there is always an increase of flea infestation on pets at this time of the year.

Many people feel a little embarrassed about the presence of fleas on their pets or believe that only dirty, unwashed pets get fleas. This is definitely not the case. Any pet, no matter how well looked after, can pick up Fleas if the right precautions are not taken. Your pet can get fleas from just being close to another infested animal or an area where an infested animal spends a lot of time. Therefore, your pet could easily get fleas from outside in the garden where animals such as hedgehogs, rabbits, squirrels or badgers have been. Even meeting another pet while in a park or out for a walk can allow fleas to easily transfer from one pet to another.

While fleas do not have wings and cannot fly, their powerful legs allow them to take huge leaps. In fact, they can jump over 300mm, which is over 100 times their body length. This also allows them to easily transfer from a pet's bed, onto their body and back again. Fleas live on and suck the blood of any warm-blooded creature so they can and do transfer onto humans as well.

The signs that your pet has fleas are quite obvious. Sustained and obsessive scratching is the most obvious. This is due to the itching caused as the flea bites into and sucks the blood from your pet's skin.

Another sign is a layer of dusty, ash type substance on your pet's coat or bed. Although fleas are hard to see, if you look closely at your pet's skin you will be able to see them. They are between 1.5 and 3.5mm long.

To prevent fleas from getting on your pet in the first place, it's important to use a regular flea treatment, such as a 'Spot-on' treatment. But when a pet has already become infested, you should first bathe your dog with flea control shampoo. This will kill the immediate infestation. You must then wait 3 days before applying a spot-on treatment because it requires bodily oils to transfer throughout the fur.

Please note, washing a pet in ordinary shampoo will not get rid of fleas. Plus, even washing your pet in a flea shampoo will not prevent them from catching fleas again. For every flea that's on your pet there will be many more in and around your home and where your pet sleeps. So it's also vital that you treat your pet's bed and areas where they spend a lot of time. Also check your other pets and around your garden for signs of wild animal nests or areas where fleas might be coming from.

Also, wash all bedding in hot water to eliminate fleas and eggs and thoroughly vacuum your floors and furniture. Be sure to immediately discard the vacuum bag because fleas can crawl back out of your vacuum cleaner.

If your pet has also been in contact with your neighbour's pets it may also be a good idea to speak to them as well.

Where Do They Come From?

Can you match these dog breeds to the countries they originally came from? Answers are on the back page.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Red Setter | A. Scotland |
| 2. Labrador | B. Croatia |
| 3. Basset Hound | C. Canada |
| 4. Bearded Collie | D. China |
| 5. Boxer | E. England |
| 6. Chow Chow | F. Germany |
| 7. Dalmation | G. Ireland |
| 8. Jack Russell | H. France |

May – The Month When Summer Begins!

With May comes another change of the seasons from Spring to Summer. The warmer weather is just great as it makes everything so much more pleasant. The gardens and countryside look so lovely as the warm sunshine starts to perform her magic on everything.

May also has lots of historical importance. Many events occurred in May. Here's a few of interesting ones:

3rd May - 1494 Christopher Columbus first spots the America's (Jamaica).

5th May - 1818 Napoleon died.

6th May - 1840 The world's first postage stamp, the 'Penny Black' stamp, became valid for use in the UK.

6th May - 1954 Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes.

8th May - 1945 VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

10th May - 1994 Nelson Mandela became the President of South Africa.

15th May - 1970 The Beatles' last LP, Let It Be, is released.

29th May - 1953 Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

29th May - 1917 John F. Kennedy was born.

Please Pass it On!

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 or offered a newsletter from another groomer with similar information and articles, I'd be grateful if you'd let me know.

8E

7B

6D

5F

4A

3H

2C

1G

Answers
to Quiz

"A dog can express more with his tail in seconds than his owner can express with his tongue in hours"

~ Author Unknown

My Dog Keeps Jumping up on People!

It always happens when your friends or family come round with their best clothes on! Your dog has just been wallowing in the dirtiest, wettest part of the garden, sees your friends and decides it's time for a hug. Or worse, he does it to strangers in the park! What can you do? You're left embarrassed and desperately apologising and they're left with a new muddy stain on their nice clothes!

Well this is something that needs correction. Not only can it cause you embarrassment, but an over-exuberant dog can cause fear in many people. Also, the legal implications need to be thought about if he happens to knock someone over and hurts them.

Like everything with your dog he needs training and management so that he learns that jumping up is unacceptable behaviour. This starts with making sure that your dog fully complies with your command to 'Leave' and returns to you when instructed. If they understand and adhere to this command then you will have the control needed to then teach him to stop jumping up on people. As always, talk to a knowledgeable and reputable trainer before training your dog.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for putting your trust in me to groom your little friend. I always strive to reward your trust and please know that I never take you or the business you continue to give me for granted.

Should I ever fail to meet your expectations please do let me know. Thank you.

"How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it!"

~ George Elliston

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:

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