

# Handsome Hounds News

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

## October: A Month of Beauty and Celebration!

The leaves are beginning to change colour while the days are getting shorter and shorter—it's that time of year again! Autumn is here and with the chillier weather she brings delightful scenery, which is a wonderful time for walking our best little friends outdoors. But she also leaves with a host of ghouls and frightening goblins, so we've got to prepare our dogs for the sight of people in scary costumes and masks, as well as the noise of fireworks.

So this month I've included some good tips to help you and your dog through this frightening time of year. Of course, when combined with a little consideration for our dogs' needs, it's also a fun time of year, so I do hope that you and your dogs have a lovely time this month.

As usual enjoy the rest of this newsletter. I truly hope it brings you helpful and enjoyable reading for the changing season.

Sue

## How to Stop the Demons Getting to Your Dog!

Even if we're having lots of fun on Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night, it can be absolutely terrifying for our dogs. Some dogs dread the noise so much that they'll do anything to escape and can even injure themselves while trying to find safety. That's no reason to forego the festivities, though, because there are things you can do to help your dogs relax and enjoy the evenings along with you.

- Desensitization: This is more of a long-term process that helps dogs adjust to loud noises, but it's never too late to start! You can play a recording of fireworks, thunder or gunshots in your home, beginning at a low volume, to introduce the noise to your dog. Slowly increase the volume over time so that they can adjust. Reward them when they remain calm with the noise and they'll associate it with good things.

- Limit Affection: This is the hardest thing to do when our dogs are frightened, because we want to comfort them and let them know that everything is OK. But when we pet them and say, "It's alright," while they're in a state of panic, it reinforces the behavior. Instead, use commands such as "sit" and reward them for following your direction. They'll soon understand that listening to you means nothing bad will happen to them, which helps them stay calm.

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## Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon

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## 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:

- Grooming Nervous or Frightened Dogs!
- Don't Drop that Fruit!
- Doggy Humour!
- Keeping Your Dog's Ears Clean!

## A Wonderful World of Dogs!

! A Tibetan mastiff has reportedly become the most expensive dog ever sold. According to ananova.com, the dog named Yangtze River Number Two, was sold to a woman in the Chinese province of Shaanxi for around £350,000. This price beats the previous record by a staggering £260,000.

! A Border Collie puppy named Pixie is learning sign language after it was discovered that she is profoundly deaf. Liz Grewal, who has been an owner of deaf dogs for six years, is teaching the youngster to recognize hand commands. So far the bright young pup has learned to sit, lie down and come on command with hand signals.

! A dog who was left tied to a railing while it's owner went into a shopping market has been given a parking ticket. According to the Northern Territory News in Australia, the dog received an infringement notice tied to its lead after two traffic wardens decided that it was 'parked' illegally. A council spokesman said, "You cannot just leave a dog tied up and leave it".

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



Groomed really well and left so nice, gasps from your friends they're sure to entice!

# 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**

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- Remain Calm: Dogs often mimic what they sense in us, their owners, so when we're anxious or fearful of loud noises, you can bet they will be too. By ignoring loud bangs (when possible) and staying relaxed, we help our dogs do the same.

Most importantly, we must not punish dogs for their fears, as this only makes it more stressful for them.

These things help our dogs get used to the noise, but taking some extra precautions will ensure they stay safe. To lessen the impact of fireworks, you can draw your curtains and let them stay in an area that helps them feel safe—even if it's under the couch! But if they'll be out in the garden or if there's any chance of them escaping your home, be sure to lock your gates and have proper identification attached to their collars. This is the worst time of year for dogs running away, so it's important that we do all we can to keep them home safely.

If you'll be seeing lots of masks and costumes around your home this year, try wearing one around your dog beforehand so that they can get used to the sight of it. To do this, let them sniff the mask before you put it on and let them watch you do this. Stay calm and cheerful while letting them sniff at your hands; reward them with a little treat if they stay relaxed at the sight of you in a mask. And if you have little ones, remind them not to jump out at the dogs while in their costumes. But because some dogs can become aggressive when frightened, it's best to keep them on a lead and under your calm command if you'll be around costumed strangers.

### **Grooming Nervous or Frightened Dogs!**

While grooming is a pleasant experience for most dogs, a few can become very nervous. They may not like getting bathed, having their hair blown dry, their nails trimmed or even just the strange settings and various grooming tools.

This can happen for many reasons; unfortunately, some dogs may have had a bad experience with less than reputable groomers or weren't introduced correctly to grooming during their first visit as a puppy. Others just have anxiety over things they're not overly familiar with.

When dogs become nervous during grooming, it can make the process a bit difficult, as they can be fidgety or even become aggressive from their fear. When this happens, extra special care and consideration is required. It's so important that grooming is as pleasant and stress-free as possible, and thankfully, there are methods to use in the shop and at home that help dogs overcome any fears they may have.

The following list of strategies is the at-home version of methods we use during grooming, which can help make the whole process feel like second nature for your best little buddy.

\* Whenever you run a bath or use the sink, you can cup a little bit of water in your hand and let your dog sniff and lick at it. Eventually, you can run the little bit of water over their heads and down their backs, while praising their calmness, so that they find it a relaxed and

enjoyable experience.

\* To help them with the noise of dryers and clippers, you can turn on a hair dryer or hair clippers while they're in the room with you and calmly talk to them. Once they approach you, praise them. If they remain calm, continue praising them as you blow a light whoosh of air over them with the dryer or hold the handle of the vibrating clippers near to them. What's important here is that they don't perceive it as being a "big deal".

\* Handle their paws as often as possible, as this encourages them to be less protective of their feet.

When dogs have a great deal of anxiety at home or with grooming, one of the best things we can do for them is give them lots of exercise. If you're concerned about your dogs' nervousness or behaviors during grooming, try taking them for a walk before their appointment—this gives them a chance to relieve themselves and to get rid of some excess energy. 30-45 minutes of walking is ideal, but of course, there's not always time for that, so any little bit can help.

If you have any questions or concerns about your dog's comfort level with grooming, please let me know, and we can figure out the best course of action to make it the most pleasant experience for all of us.

### **Doggy Humour!**

A traveler was checking into his hotel when he noticed a dog sleeping on a chair close by. He asked the rather grumpy receptionist, "*Sir, does your dog bite?*" to which the receptionist replied, "*No*". The traveler reached out his hand to pet the dog and it immediately leapt from the seat and sunk its teeth into the man's hand. "*I thought you said your dog doesn't bite!*" exclaimed the traveler. To which he got the reply "*Sir, that is not my dog*".

### **Don't Drop that Fruit!**

Last month we talked about the toxic effect that chocolate has on dogs, but unfortunately, it doesn't end there. There are actually fruits that can make dogs very ill, too. All unripe fruit can make dogs sick and should be avoided, yet there are ripened fruits that they shouldn't eat either.

Two of the biggest culprits are grapes and raisins. You may have already fed some of these to your dogs without seeing any harmful effects, but they can and do poison dogs. Grapes and raisins contain a canine toxin that has not yet been identified—what has been identified is kidney failure resulting from these two foods. So even though they may love them, it's best not to let them have any whatsoever.

Two other harmful fruits are avocados and black cherries. Again, it's best not to let dogs eat any of these, as it's too dangerous. But if your dogs are fond of apples, it is okay to give them the occasional slice so long as it doesn't have any seeds or stem attached—seeds contain a tiny bit of cyanide which can cause illness. And if that weren't enough, the pits of peaches and plums are harmful, too!

Dogs love to share our favorite treats, but with chocolate and these fruits, it's just not worth the risk.

### More Doggy Humour!

#### **'A Dictionary for Dogs'**

**LEAD:** A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

**DOG BED:** Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

**SOFAS:** Are to dogs what napkins are to people. After eating, it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

**BATH:** This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

### Word Search!

The following Word Search contains 8 common words relating to dogs. The words are listed below:

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

**Groom, Neuter, Vaccinate, Microchip, Brush, Exercise, Socialize, Train.**

### Keeping Your Dog's Ears Clean!

Something that can easily go unnoticed in dogs is the cleanliness of their ears, because unlike us, most of them have flaps hanging down over the openings. But their inner ears can develop a build-up of dirt and waxy residue that can lead to problems, such as ear infections. To complicate matters, some breeds grow an enormous amount of hair from their inner ears that can trap this dirt and wax.

To prevent infection from dirt and debris, it's important to keep their ears clean and to pluck out excess hair. Some dogs, such as poodles, require hair plucking more often than others, but it's usually best to do it monthly.

Hair plucking requires a gentle process with specialized tools, so it's best to leave this job for the groomer. To help keep their ears clean between appointments, you can use cotton balls and canine ear solution to wipe dirt and wax away from their inner ear flaps. But be sure to avoid their deep inner ear and to use large cotton balls rather than the little swabs. However, monthly grooming is usually adequate for clean ears.

If you notice any strange odors from their ears or if they're scratching at them and whining, it's best to contact your veterinarian, as this could be from mites or an inner ear infection.

### Did You Know!

When out walking your dog it's better to choose different routes as much as possible. Walking is great for your dog's physical health, but taking them to new places where they can find new scents and smells can really help keep them in good mental shape as well.

Most dogs need plenty of mental stimulation to keep boredom at bay. So letting them experience new things and new places will really help perk them up, get them excited and keep them from getting bored.

### 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:

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