

Handsome Hounds News

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

Hi again everyone and welcome to the September issue of this newsletter.

With the kids going back to school and the cooler weather soon to be with us (sorry for reminding you!), it's likely that some of you will be warming yourselves up with delightful evening treats of hot cocoa along with a chocolate biscuit or two. Although these may be some of our favourite treats, we must keep a tight eye on our dogs whenever chocolate is around.

Shockingly, reports made to the Veterinary Poisons Information Service of dogs being poisoned by chocolate has increased dramatically in the last year. Chocolate can cause severe health issues and even death to our dogs because it contains Theobromine, which is a toxic poison to canines. While many people know not to let their dogs eat chocolate, it is difficult. The real trouble is that dogs love the taste of chocolate and they know how to make us feel guilty, but they really shouldn't get any at all.

The absolute worst type of chocolate for a dog is baking chocolate, because it has the highest concentration of Theobromine. The least harmful is white chocolate and all other types fall somewhere in the middle regarding toxicity. There is no standard amount of chocolate that's okay for a dog to eat, as their ability to handle this toxin is dependent on their size, overall health and the type of chocolate.

If you find that your little friend has dug into your chocolate cake then please be on the lookout for symptoms of poisoning! As the toxins begin to spread through the body, you may notice that they become hyperactive or that they're panting a lot. In more severe cases, there will be vomiting or diarrhoea. Regardless of the symptoms you see, it's important that you contact your vet as soon as possible.

If your dog has already developed a taste for chocolate, you can purchase dog treats that contain carob. Carob tastes a lot like chocolate – you might enjoy it, too – but it does not contain Theobromine. Just be on the lookout for specialty dog treats and you're likely to find some.

Of course it's important not to overdo it on the treats as well – wouldn't want them getting overweight or unhealthy!

Maybe with all that talk of chocolate you should go put on the kettle, grab a couple of chocolate digestives, sit yourself down and enjoy the rest of the information I've shared with you in this newsletter.

See you soon and have a safe and enjoyable time with your best little friends!

Sue

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.

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A Wonderful World of Dogs!

! A blind collie has got himself his own guide dog. Clyde, who is completely blind, relies totally on his companion, Bonnie, who is also a collie. Bonnie stays close to Clyde all the time and guides him to his food and water and when they're out for walks.

The pair were given up for adoption to Meadow Green Dog Rescue centre in Loddon, Norfolk, UK and are looking for a good home where both of them can go together.

Centre manager Cherie Cootes said, "Clyde would be lost without Bonnie and [they] have to be re-homed together. If Clyde's unsure where he is, he will suddenly go behind her and put his face on her back so she can guide him where he is going. He totally relies on her the whole time. When she walks she tends to stop and make sure he's there - she does look out for him."

! A six inch high Yorkshire Terrier has scared off an armed robber in Austria. Cica who lives with her owner in a post office started growling and barking at the robber when he tried to hold up the post office. "When she realised he was threatening me, she began barking like mad and jumped at him." said postmistress Gabriella Dreyer. "She didn't bite him, just scared him. He was petrified." The robber dropped his gun on the encounter and fled the scene.

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



My best little friend you shout aloud, groomed to perfection so you can be proud!

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**

The Correct Way to Brush Your Dog!

You've no doubt heard me talk quite a bit about the importance of keeping your dog brushed regularly. It stimulates their skin, removes excess hair and helps to prevent tangles and matting. Whether your dogs have short or long hair, they really do benefit from having a full-body brushing whenever possible.

But while it's important to brush your dog regularly, it's even more important to brush your dog thoroughly using the right brush. A quick run with any old brush over your dog's back and sides will not be enough.

For longhaired dogs or for hair that easily tangles, it's ideal to brush them daily. Shorthaired dogs will also benefit from a weekly brushing.

But what type of brush should you use, and what exactly does a thorough brushing include? The type of brush you should use depends on the length and thickness of hair, as well as susceptibility to tangles.

If your dog's hair is medium to long in length or tends to mat, it's often best to use a slicker brush. These brushes usually have a square or rectangular head of thin wire bristles and they're available in all sizes. For shorthaired dogs, consider using a rubber currycomb. When used in light circles, these feel great on a dog's skin and help you remove excess, dead hair. For curly and thick-coated dogs, you can use a wire-pin brush but it's recommended that you also use a rake if your dog has a thick undercoat.

Of course, brushing should be an enjoyable experience for our dogs, which is why it's important that we're always gentle. This can be difficult when the hair mats or tangles, so think of it as a tangle in your own hair. By holding onto the tangled portion of hair with one hand placed close against the skin and brushing with the other, you can prevent the painful pull to their skin as you would on your own head.

When brushing your dog, you can begin by brushing from the back of the head to the base of the tail. Then brush the chest and sides by going with the grain from top to bottom. If your dog has a very thick undercoat, you can also brush against the grain to remove some excess hair.

Then comes the tricky part! Many dogs end up with mats on their stomachs, in their armpits and on the backs of their hind legs. For large dogs, encourage them to lay down so that you can thoroughly brush out their stomachs. For small dogs, you can hold their front paws with one hand to help them stand on their hind legs whilst you brush their bellies with your free hand. But also try to get under that tail if they'll let you!

Frequent brushing provides a nice bonding time between you and your dog, but it also saves you both from a lot of hassle that comes from mats and tangles.

If you think you need some spray-on conditioner to help with tangles, or need a little more advice on brushes or brushing technique, please just ask, I'll be happy to help.

Did You Know?

Unneutered female dogs are ready to mate (*'in heat'*) only twice a year. On each occasion, their *'season'* lasts, roughly, a total of 20 days.

Famous TV Dogs Quiz!

The following dogs are all TV stars. Can you guess their stage names? Answers are on the back page. Don't be looking!

1. This Poodle was owned by Den Watts in Eastenders
2. This Neapolitan Mastiff has been a star in the Harry Potter films since 2001
3. The slobbering St Bernard who stars in this film of the same name
4. The little Cairn Terrier who went with Dorothy to the Land of Oz
5. This Belgian Shepherd was rescued by Robbie Jackson in Eastenders and more recently looked after by Gus
6. This Bloodhound struck it rich along with the Beverly Hillbillies in the 1960's
7. The Pug who starred in both 'Men in Black' films
8. The most famous Blue Peter dog who was inseparable from John Noakes, who would say, *"Get down????"*

Choosing a Bed for Your Best Friend!

Many of us don't mind at all when our dogs sleep in our own beds with us; that is, of course, until they start stealing our pillows or taking up more space than we do! But when they sleep elsewhere or if they're not allowed on the furniture, a doggie bed is the next best thing.

There is an unbelievable selection of dog beds on the market, from simple and low cost to extravagant and expensive designer beds. But choosing the right bed is more than a matter of taste; it really all depends on your dog's needs.

When shopping for a bed, it's important to consider your dog's size, how they lay when sleeping, whether they have any health issues and the average temperature of where they sleep.

For smaller dogs that like to curl up in a ball, it's usually best to get a circular or donut-shaped bed that has a nice cushion. You can get a plastic one with a liner or one that is cloth and filled with stuffing. Larger dogs or dogs that like to stretch out will enjoy a larger mat-style bed, doggie mattress or a lounge.

When it's colder, you do have the option of buying a heated bed but they're really not necessary. Dogs are thrilled to have a little blanket and this helps them choose their preferred amount of warmth. If your dog stays outdoors in a shed or kennel, it's often best to get an elevated plastic bed, as this allows for air circulation and keeps them above any wet ground.

You'll find that there are a few different bed filler options, such as foam or stuffing. When testing out beds, look for something that is dense enough to hold your dog's weight but soft enough to provide some comfort. This is especially important if your dog has hip problems or any type of health or age-related soreness. Although some of the nicer fillers raise the price of the item, they tend to last longer and endure more wear and tear.

Last but not least, it's better to opt for something with a removable and washable cover. This is great for when our dogs get dirty, shed a lot of hair or bring those dreaded fleas home! Plus, with all the gorgeous designs, it's nice to keep them looking great in our homes.

But of course what's most important is that our dogs have a comfortable place to rest their little heads for a nice long doggie snooze.

The Devil Dressed in Disguise!

'A limerick about a mischievous little puppy dog'

Because I'm a puppy I know I look cute
So I'm sure you're not really going to give me the boot,
I know you'll forgive me just as those times before
Because with a wag of my tail your heart melts to the floor.

You get all alarmed at the things that I do
But for me it is fun when I chew that big pot of glue,
And what's the big deal if I poop in your shoe
I thought I was being nice leaving it right there for you!

Why don't you have fun when we go to the park
You get to run through all that mud and stay out 'til it's dark,
I thought we were playing chase when you had that big fall
That's why I ran off and refused to come when you called.

When I ate all that chicken I'd forgotten the rule
With it there on the counter I had started to drool,
And I couldn't have known the cat would say no
Maybe I shouldn't have but boy did he go.

I really didn't mean to burst that little boy's ball
You looked awful scared when you saw his dad was that tall,
Maybe it didn't help when I peed on his leg,
It seemed really painful the way he then made you beg.

Ok I'll admit I know I could do better
I'll stop eating the plants and chewing your letters,
I'm sure I'll get forgiven when I flash my big puppy eyes
Even though you keep saying I'm the devil dressed in disguise.
- M.J.Hill

Did You Know?

While it is undesirable, wolves and dogs can successfully mate. While neither wolves nor dogs are keen to interbreed it does happen, however, the offspring can be very unpredictable.

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 Quiz**
1. Roly
 2. Fang
 3. Beethoven
 4. Toto
 5. Wellard
 6. Duke
 7. Frank
 8. Sheep

Dog Dandruff!

Just like humans, dogs get dandruff too. It tends to be seen more in the shorthaired dogs but all breeds get it.

Dandruff is usually just the aging dead skin cells scaling and flaking off. While it's normally harmless, in some cases it can indicate an underlying health issue in your pet, such as an infection, allergy or parasites.

So if your pet starts to show signs of dandruff, do not just put it down to its skin. Do a little investigation and maybe see your vet to make sure there are no bigger issues causing the problem.

Please Know That I Really Appreciate It!

You've all been a blessing to me, to my business and, most importantly, to your dogs. I am very thankful that you choose me to groom them with the care and attention they deserve.

It's always nice chatting with you when you get your dog groomed, and there's really nothing like working with your lovely little friends throughout the day.

You have helped to make my business a success, and the opportunity to provide pet grooming in our community is simply fantastic. So thank you for all your support.

It's great that you look after your pet so well because there are many who don't. To give your dog the love and care you do is everything they ask of you.

Please be sure to let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns about your dog or any of the services I provide. Your happiness and satisfaction are my top priority (alongside the absolute best care for your dogs!), and it's my pleasure to provide the best experiences for you and your special pet.

Thank you

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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