

Handsome Hounds News

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

As the dead leaves of winter make way for green growth, blue skies and colourful flowers, spring creates a nice sense of optimism for the warmer, brighter days ahead. It really is so lovely to think that the longer evenings will soon be with us and it'll be so much more pleasant to head out in the evenings with our little four legged friends.

Spring really is a time for huge change so please take as much time as you can to get out and about to see nature stretch up her arms and reveal her beauty. Have the most wonderful Spring and I'll speak to you soon.

Sue

Preparing for the Arrival of a Puppy!

Puppies are simply delightful and with lots of love and extra guidance from their owners they can settle into their new lives quite nicely. But, of course, it's not always easy to raise a puppy and, although all dogs thrive from lots of care, they really need heaps of attention and direction during their younger years. As they wean from their mother's milk and care, it's up to us to provide them with all they need for health and happiness.



High-quality puppy foods benefit their **nutritional** needs, and it's important that they never receive dairy milk as a substitute for their mother's. A set feeding schedule can go a long way with **housetraining**, too, as you'll know to take them out soon after they've had each meal—and of course lots of times in between!

Positive reinforcement is helpful in all types of training and is often much more effective than scolding them for bad behaviour. Dogs strive to please their owners, so it's usually a matter of showing them what it is that you expect from them. But because they're naturally driven to some destructive activities, such as **chewing**, it's always good to direct those behaviours towards something harmless and acceptable from the very beginning. Praise them for chewing on their toys, and keep them away from anything that could hurt them, such as electrical wires.

Tired dogs are really the most well behaved dogs, so give them lots of **exercise** each day and praise every little bit of obedience they show you as you work on **obedience commands** afterwards. Many people are concerned that their puppies will cause trouble or be frightened at the groomers, but this is something you can prepare for and prevent in most cases. Play with their paws and gently wet their hair with water to prepare them for **grooming**, and get them in for their first appointment as soon as they're old enough. It's much easier for you, your dog and the groomer if the dog gets used to grooming before getting into a muddy or matted mess!

Handsome Hounds Grooming Salon

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

Tel: 07887 987954

Email: mail@handsomehounds-grooming.co.uk

www.handsomehounds-grooming.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.

Spring and Summer Appointments

The salon always becomes very busy during the spring and summer months so it is best to book your appointment early to ensure you get a date and time to suit you. Although appointments with short notice are sometimes available we are usually booked about two weeks in advance at this time of year. So please book early to avoid disappointment.

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! Oscar, a tortoiseshell cat from Rhode Island, USA has predicted the impending deaths of about 50 patients in a New England nursing home over a period of five years. Oscar is typically uninterested in human interaction, according to the Telegraph, but he instinctively curls up with elderly patients in the final hours of their lives. Dr Dosa, who has studied Oscar's uncanny ability, notes that his predictions are often more accurate than those of the staff. Although Oscar's sudden presence may seem a bad omen, his company often comforts the patients and their families—he's even been mentioned in eulogies and obituaries.

! Hunter, a Border collie, saved three girls who were trapped in the earthquake in Haiti. According to PR Newswire, Hunter caught the girls' scent, though they were beneath four feet of broken concrete, and barked to alert his firefighter companion, Bill. Hunter and Bill had been paired by the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation for search and rescue missions. The girls were removed from the rubble and treated for their injuries.

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



"Man's best friend that we all love lots, keep them well brushed to remove those knots"

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**

First Aid for Dogs!

It's normal to feel alarmed when your dog has suddenly fallen ill, got into something dangerous or had a serious accident, especially when you don't know what to do to help them. These emergencies often require veterinary care, but first aid can lessen pain and damage, and even save their lives. Preparing for these emergencies can help you stay calm and focused should they need immediate help. First aid is not a substitute for medical care, though, so it's important that you ring your vet for help as soon as possible.

The goal of first aid is to stabilise the situation, so it's good to keep a few supplies on hand in case your vet instructs you by phone to use them. First aid items include water, sterile cloths, saline solution, a digital thermometer, saline eyewash, Benadryl (for allergic reactions), and peroxide (for some cases of poisoning).

Keep your vet's phone number on hand, and ring them immediately, especially if you see your dog drinking or licking a chemical, poisonous food or medication. Let the vet know exactly what the substance was and they should be able to advise if you should induce vomiting or take them in for medical care. Whatever you do don't wait to see if your dog has any symptoms before ringing the vet. Just like in humans the sooner that they are treated the better their chances are.

Use caution when approaching an injured dog, because they may become aggressive from pain or fear—you may also need to muzzle them to apply first aid and get them to a vet safely.

Common first aid procedures include:

- * Applying pressure with a sterile cloth to reduce blood flow from a wound. However be very careful if the wound has been caused by glass, as there may be some glass still in the wound.
- * Flushing fire and chemical burns with cool water.
- * Gently placing them in a blanket or on a hard surface for transport if you suspect broken bones.
- * Keeping them warm if they go into shock.
- * Wiping the stomach, armpits and neck with cool water for heat stroke.

The variety of emergency situations can make it difficult to prepare yourself for anything that may arise, but it's good to look over such procedures and to learn about CPR for dogs, too—it can really make a difference in the event of unfortunate circumstances.

Reminder!

A daily brushing does wonders for your dog's skin and coat, and it's an excellent way to spend some quality time with them. For best results, go for brushes that suit the texture and thickness of your dog's hair, and get into those hidden spots!

Doggy Humour!

Mrs Smith dropped by her neighbour's home to tell him she saw his dog out chasing a young boy on a skateboard. When she asked what he planned to do about the dog's rotten behaviour, he turned to her and said, *"Well I know for a fact that my Rufus wasn't out doing such things—he doesn't know how to ride a skateboard!"*

A Look at Golden Retrievers

The golden retriever got its start over 100 years ago in the Scottish Highlands, and is now one of the many popular breeds among dog owners.



A look at their traits, skills and overall needs can provide some insight to these gorgeous dogs.

Although they were originally bred for hunting, golden retrievers also do search and rescue, and serve as seeing-eye dogs. They're widely known for their pleasant and friendly temperament, and they've often got quite the charismatic facial expressions.

Retrievers benefit from lots of exercise and from activities that entertain their high level of intelligence. They are unfortunately prone to a few health conditions, such as cataracts and joint problems, so it's important to be on the lookout for such things.

Keeping the thick coat in tiptop shape is usually a matter of monthly grooming, but this can vary by the dog. A good daily brushing helps control the shedding and can prevent mats from forming in their coats.

Quiz

Can you match the dog breed to its place of origin?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chihuahua | A. Cuba |
| 2. Saint Bernard | B. England |
| 3. Basenji | C. Afghanistan |
| 4. Havanese | D. Mexico |
| 5. Beagle | E. Central Africa |
| 6. Afghan Hound | F. Egypt |
| 7. Dachshund | G. Switzerland |
| 8. Saluki | H. Germany |

When Dogs Eat Inedible Objects!

Dog owners are often confused when their dogs eat strange and inedible objects, such as faeces, carpet, wood, dirt, and rocks. We think they ought to know better than to eat inedible or potentially harmful things, but sometimes this behaviour comes from a condition known as Pica.

Rather than eating an assortment of inedible things, a dog with Pica usually goes after the same inedible object over and over again, be it soap or rubber bands. This behaviour can be incredibly dangerous, as they're not always able to safely digest whatever it is they're eating. Some dogs may vomit or experience diarrhea with it, but it isn't always accompanied by other symptoms.

The causes of this condition vary, and it's widely believed to come from nutritional deficiency, underlying health conditions, or behavioural problems. In puppies, and in some adult dogs, this obsessive behaviour over one inedible object may come from boredom, which can be alleviated with extra exercise.

Some dogs with Pica may benefit from a well-rounded diet, behavioural management plan, or help with an underlying health condition, such as diabetes.

Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you every 3 months 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.

Answer To Quiz:	1. D	2. G	3. E	4. A	5. B	6. C	7. H	8. F
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Did You Know?

! The most likely reason why your dog barks at the postman is because he's guarding your house! When the postman comes to the door and tries to get in (or so your dog thinks) he barks and then the postman leaves. In their mind they're just guarding your home!

! If your dog likes to roll in disgusting smelling animal droppings, he's doing it to make his scent stronger. In dog language it is widely believed that the stronger and more foul a dog smells the more superior he will appear to other dogs.

This may explain why a dog likes to roll around the garden or rub up against furniture straight after getting bathed.

Dog Appreciation!

We sometimes lose sight of the special bond we share with our dogs, and as the days run into weeks and years, we can end up taking them for granted. But because it's so very important to them—and us—that we make the best of our time together, it's a great idea to go look for new and exciting activities to do with your dog.

Some dogs may love to join an agility course, training program, or just to go for a swim. A walk through a new area can be the highlight of a dog's day, too, so it doesn't always take lots of time or innovation to find fun and healthy activities to do with them.

What's important is that you're able to look back on the time you shared with them and think, We really had a great time together! So go on and set aside some time in your schedule for one-on-one activities with your dog, or maybe even try a weekly training or activity time with your dog and the whole family. Each endeavour is one more bit of valuable time spent with your best little friend.

Get This Newsletter Every 3 Months!

To continue providing you with information, help and a little bit of fun about dogs, we publish this newsletter every 3 months. There will always be a copy available for you. So, 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 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 whenever they're available.

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