

Handsome Hounds News

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

It's great to welcome the month of June in this newsletter, as it brings us the official beginning of summer! 21st of June will be the longest day of the year, too, so let's all hope it's a day—and month—filled with sunshine. Not only is summer a lovely time for going on holiday, it's the time of year when there's lots of fun activities to be had outdoors with our best little friends.

The dogs are really preparing for summer's arrival, too, by shedding off the rest of their heavy coats. So, you might find it a bit difficult to keep them (and your furniture) looking neat and clean at the moment. Due to all the excess hair, many people are asking if they should get their dogs clipped or have their hair shortened for the summer months, but the answer to this really depends on the needs of each individual dog.

Clipping doesn't necessarily reduce the amount of hair a dog sheds; in most cases, the dog simply sheds shorter hairs, then! If shedding is your primary concern, it's usually best to brush their coat at least once daily, so you can then gather most of the excess hair at once and put it in the bin. Don't forget; routine professional trimming and grooming will also keep it much more manageable, as well.

A dog's coat protects them from colder weather, yet it also helps protect their skin from the sun and other elements. Therefore, the best coat length really all depends on the dog's hair type, lifestyle, and living conditions. Sometimes, the dogs kept in one climate were bred for another, so this is something else to think on in regards to your dog's comfort. Have a look at the history of your dog's breed to see where they were originally bred.

Dogs that benefit from getting their coats clipped off are those that tend to get really matted and messy, and those that are bred for shorter styles. Certain skin conditions, such as hot spots, are also good reason to keep the hair shorter. The choice is ultimately up to you, of course, but it's good to take all these factors into consideration before deciding on a full clip.

Good Dog Groomers will always take style, breed, health, comfort, and ease of management into consideration when advising people of whether they should fully clip their dog's hair, with the health and welfare of the dog being the most important factor.

Let's hope you and your dogs find a seasonal style that works for you both, and that you find lots of ways to enjoy the fun of summertime together!

Sue

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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:

- An Inside Look at Grooming!
- Cleaning up the Dog at Home!
- Dog Skin Care!
- Caring for Dog's Eyes
- A Summer Gone to the Dogs

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! RSPCA staff thought a dog was deaf when he didn't respond to their commands. They later realised the problem was not his ears—he simply didn't understand English, because he was raised by a Polish family. The staff got a response from him after learning Polish commands, according to the BBC, and they then worked with him to become 'bilingual'.

! A woman in Australia went outside to gather her washing from the line—and saw it covered in 20,000 bees! The bees were drawn to her colourful clothing, according to Orange News. The woman rang a beekeeper, Brian Gardiner, who explained that the queen bee had taken worker bees with her to cluster together on her washing while scouts looked for a new hive. This sometimes happens in the springtime when hives become overcrowded.

Did You Know?

The spine-chilling green colour you see at night in the eyes of dogs and cats is due to a reflective area of the eye that helps them see more clearly in darkness. This area, called the tapetum lucidum, is especially helpful to them during low-light hours, which is when they prefer hunting for their prey.

A dog's habit of spinning in circles before lying down is also due to instinct. This behaviour in the wild was meant to push long grasses down to form a soft bed.

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



"Your dog's hair getting dirty can be a real bummer, give us a call and we'll make them gorgeous for Summer!"

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**

An Inside Look at Grooming!

You leave your dog off at the groomer's, come back at the scheduled pickup time—and your dog's now looking and feeling fabulous! One thing people always say is that their dogs never look and feel as good after a bath at home as they do after professional grooming. It's really not likely to happen either, because there's so much more to grooming than meets the eye.

If you've ever tried grooming your dog at home, you know they're not always delighted about the process. But, good groomers are well-prepared for all types of behaviour, be it shyness or hyperactivity. Our knowledge of dog behaviour helps us safely and effectively calm and comfort the dog, which then eases the process for the dog and us.

Although our love of dogs helps us with all aspects of grooming, the profession requires lots of technical knowledge as well. Proper use and maintenance of grooming tools, such as nail and hair clippers, keeps the dog safe and looking their best. With all the variations in breeds, we must know the various styles for each breed. Also, we must choose the correct methods, products and tools to use for all the different kinds of breed-specific hair and styles.

None of this knowledge comes easily, as it requires lots of study and hands-on training. In addition to knowledge on behaviours, tools and techniques, groomers must be aware of all the health issues that affect grooming.

Good grooming is a very detail-oriented process, as some dogs need trimming between their paw pads while others require specific procedures to keep their inner ears in tiptop shape. Behind all this, though, is a professional who cares very much about the dog's health, comfort and safety.

Some dogs are easier to groom than others are, of course, but each dog has its own set of individual care and grooming needs. Good groomers note all these differences for each dog so they can ensure the absolute best care for them.

Word Search

Find the hidden grooming words listed below!

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

PAW PADS GROOMING BRUSH CLIPPERS HAIRCUT
MATTING DRYER PUPPIES SHAMPOO BATH

Cleaning up the Dog at Home!

Dogs can get into lots of messes between grooming appointments—or even directly after one! When you're unable to schedule them in right away for grooming but have to clean them up, be sure to use a safe shampoo and dry them off well. Some of the human-grade shampoos and conditioners are much too harsh for a dog's skin and hair, so avoid using those whenever possible. And know that just because a shampoo is marketed for dogs doesn't necessarily mean it's any better for their skin, as some of them contain harsh chemicals as well.

Dry them off as much as possible with a towel to lower the chance of their hair matting, and if you use your hair dryer on them, keep it at a good distance from them so they don't get too much heat on their hair or skin. It's generally unsafe to do any hair trimming without proper tools and grooming experience so, even if you must clean them up, it's always best to leave any sort of hair cutting to us groomers!

Here at Handsome Hounds we will only ever use premium quality shampoos on your dog for the finest and safest results. Most of our shampoos are Natural, Chemical free and contain essential oils. Not only are they kind and gentle on your dog but are environmentally friendly so kind to the Earth too.

We have a range of these wonderful shampoo's available to buy here at the salon, including a Hypoallergenic for sensitive skins and puppies, and the fabulous 'Filthy Animal' shampoo which contains essential oils to repel fleas and ticks and is also great for really dirty dogs, making it especially useful on dogs that like to roll in the smelliest stuff they can find! These shampoos dilute up to 50:1 making them great value too.

Did You Know?

Dudley nose is a harmless condition in which a dog's nose loses color pigment; it's more common in dogs with a lighter hair color.

When your dog shakes a toy around with their mouth, they're following their hunting instincts for conquering prey.

Dog Skin Care!

Bathing is helpful for nearly all types of common skin and hair problems in dogs. These common problems include dry and flaky skin, greasy hair, and objectionable odours.

It's really important that products used on the dog are safe and effective, though, as some products could worsen the condition. Professional grooming products specially formulated for dogs are the best products, of course. If routine grooming does not reduce the problem, or if you notice other symptoms, consider the possibility of an underlying health condition.

Mites and allergies contribute to poor skin health, and poor skin often leads to an unhealthy look and feel in the dog's hair. Have a chat with your vet to find the best possible approach to managing hair and skin conditions.

Remember too that frequent brushing supports healthy skin and hair, as it removes tangles and stimulates their skin.

A combination of nutritious foods, adequate medical care, and regular grooming is often the top solution to common hair and skin complaints in dogs.

A Summer Gone to the Dogs!

If you're looking for truly special activities to share with your dogs this summer, look into the sports and tasks your dogs were bred to master, and then practise those tasks with them.

For scent hounds, set up a tracking game or play hide and seek to let them put their noses to work. Play lots of fetch with your retrievers, and remember: some retrievers love to fetch toys from the water!

If your dog's a herder, talk with trainers on how to set up a herding activity. Or, maybe see if there is a dog agility team or course near you. Toy herding will do if this isn't possible; what matters to the dog is that they're able to practice their instinctual skills.

Your dog's breed and personality can help you choose the best games for them, so it's really a matter of identifying their strengths and finding activities to suit them.

If you've a mixed-breed dog, try to figure out which of their genetic traits they lean towards, as this will help you choose a game they're naturally inclined to play.

And, of course, you can always enrol them in specialised dog training courses to give them lots of practise and exercise throughout the season.

Choosing a Doggie Bone!

Chewing is a favourite pastime of dogs, and is very effective for keeping their teeth clean and healthy. When choosing bones for your dog to chew, here are a few things to keep in mind:

Dog's Size – Most dogs prefer chewing on bones that aren't too big or too small for them to comfortably gnaw and carry around with them.

Safety – Cooked bones from the kitchen can be dangerous to dogs, as they might splinter, so fulfil their chewing needs with dog-approved bones.

Chewing Habits – A softer texture is better for dogs that gnaw gently and have small teeth, whereas a firm and condensed treat is usually better for large, aggressive chewers.

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.

Doggy Humour!

Two dogs were discussing their lesson plans during a break from obedience class. One dog said to the other, 'You know, the thing I really hate about obedience school is that you've got to learn all this stuff you'll never use in the real world'.

Caring for Your Dog's Eyes

Canine eye care is typically left to vets, and for good reason, but there are a few things you can do to prevent some of the common canine eye troubles and protect your dog's eyes.

1) Keep the hair clipped away from your dog's eyes, because long hairs can scratch at their corneas. These hairs also trap moisture in the hair around their eyes, which leads to matting, irritation and discoloration.

2) Use a canine-approved ophthalmic solution or ointment to protect their eyes from soaps and water before they swim or bathe at home.

3) Gently wipe the hair around their eyes with a soft, wet cloth if they've any drainage or buildup on the hair. It's much easier to remove these irritants before they've dried against the skin.

4) Have a thorough look at your dog's eyes regularly, and contact your vet if you see anything abnormal. Eyes are susceptible to infection and injury, especially within certain breeds, but early detection can lessen or eliminate the long-term impact they have on a dog's eye health.

Helpful Hint!

It's difficult to keep the garden nice-looking when it's also the dog's loo. But if you want to keep your grass looking green and healthy, try pouring water on urine spots immediately after the dog urinates. Water neutralises the nitrogen in urine, and so it stops the grass turning brown in those spots.

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 send me an email. Once you're on my list I'll send you a copy whenever they're available.

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