



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

Springtime and warmer weather is just as delightful for our dogs as it is for all of us, as everything is brimming with life and providing them with new things to sniff, chase, explore and chew on. So, if you and your dogs have gone stir-crazy from too much time spent indoors over the winter months, this is an excellent time for you both to get back into a regular walking and exercise routine.

One thing to be watchful for at this time of year is all the discomfort that comes from seasonal allergies. Some dogs are actually bothered by the same environmental allergens that get to us in the spring and autumn. Pollen, grass, ragweed, trees, dust and all the other typical allergens can affect them too. Thankfully, it's only a temporary condition in most cases—lasting a few weeks or so—but it can be enough to make you and your poor dog wonder if relief will ever come.

Some of the symptoms are the same for dogs as they are for us: constant sneezing, and runny eyes and nose. More commonly, however, it involves dry and itchy skin. Dogs will often lick their paws or chew on them, and they'll rub their faces and scratch at themselves when irritated by these allergens.

Severe allergic reactions require medical attention, and it's always a good idea to discuss any health changes with your vet just to be sure that all is well. Don't forget to mention any symptoms when your dog is in for their next grooming appointment as sometimes a milder or different shampoo is a better option for their dry or itchy skin.

That's not all that you can do for your dog if they've got allergies. Keep the carpets vacuumed to reduce dust and pollen, and consider keeping the dog indoors for most of the day if there's an incredibly high pollen count. Wipe their paws and face off with a damp cloth after they've been outdoors, too. Sometimes an antihistamine or saline solution can be helpful with reducing their symptoms; though this is something you'll have to talk with your vet about to be sure it's the right option for your dog.

Hopefully you and your dog will stay free from seasonal allergies during the change over to spring, and that you both get to enjoy lots of long walks and beautiful weather this April.

Joan

Best Friends Dog Grooming

Tel: 01928 701129

Email: joan@bestfriends-doggrooming.co.uk

www.bestfriends-doggrooming.co.uk

My Boys 'Big Adventures':
BIRTHDAY BOYS



Mum wanted to let you all know that it's our turn for the birthday treats. We are both 11 years old this month and don't feel our age at all. In fact everyone who meets us thinks we look and act younger than our age, and I guess we do feel young at heart. Mum has told us we are gonna get lots of treats and toys so we can't wait for our big day's to arrive. Bobby wants to say that he turns 11 on 20th April, which is a whole 10 days earlier than Sammy who wants to say that he turns 11 on 30th April. We both love the beach, and mum has promised that if the weather is nice she'll take us there. Maybe she'll take some photos of us playing and running along the water's edge for you all to see.

Happy Birthday Sammy and Bobby, love Mum xx

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.

The Dachshund is the smallest breed used for hunting and is also one of the oldest dog breeds.



I'm an approved member of the Pet Care Trust, and British Dog Groomers Association. So you can have peace of mind knowing that while your dog is in my care it will be groomed to the highest standard and will be given the greatest level of care at all times.

"Give lots of exercise to your dogs is what we say, so grab their lead and walk them today"

THE DOG WHISPERER

What a fantastic night I had at the Cesar Milan 'Dog Whisperer' tour at the Liverpool Echo Arena on Saturday 20th March. I had a VIP ticket, which meant I had a front row seat, and participated in Cesar's 'question and answer' session after the show. The whole show was very entertaining, and he's a really funny guy. He had a few of the general public and their 'problem dogs' on the stage and showed us how to overcome the particular behavior each dog was exhibiting. All in all, it was a brilliant night, and one I'll never forget. Here are some photos I took of him at the 'question and answer' session after the show.



Xmas Donation to Cheshire Dogs' Home

Following on from the article in January's newsletter, last week it gave me great pleasure to present a cheque for the amount of £70 to the Cheshire Dog's Home. This amount being a percentage of the total grooms done in December 09. The staff were delighted with such a large amount, and said it would be put to very good use. Here are some photos that were taken on the day.

If you are thinking of getting a rescue dog, then the Cheshire Dogs' Home is the place to visit. For more details go to <http://www.dogshome.net/index.html> or Tel: 0844 504 1212.



National Pet Month!

April is National Pet Month, and this year's theme of 'healthy pets make happy pets' is a reminder to all on the importance of responsible pet ownership. But that's not all that National Pet Month encourages; it's also about pet appreciation and a look at the welfare needs of animals.

If you wish to keep with the spirit of the month and honour our best little friends, have a look at the following suggestions for some ideas of what you can do for your own dog and others.

- * Get on a routine for exercise with your dog, and think on any beneficial changes that you can make to meet their nutritional, medical, and psychological needs.

- * Consider adopting a rescue dog this month if you had planned to bring another dog into your family.

- * Volunteer your time to an animal welfare cause, or donate some money or supplies to an animal welfare organisation.

- * Organise a National Pet Month event, or attend or support one in your area.

The smallest change or contribution can make a big difference in the life of a dog, so know that whatever you choose to do—be it something for your own dog or for other dogs—is truly a large step towards more love and appreciation of dogs everywhere.

Doggie Humour!

A woman takes her Saint Bernard to the vet and says, *'My dog's eyes are crossed; what's the matter with them?'* The vet picks the dog up, takes a look at her eyes and says, *'I'll have to put her down.'* The woman gets very upset and says, *'You have to put her down because of crossed eyes!?'* The vet says, *'No, it's because she's really heavy.'*

A Look at the Labrador Retriever!



The Labrador is a popular family pet—and for good reason! Their friendly and playful nature tends to amuse and charm people, and a well-trained Labrador is an easygoing gentle giant. Although they can be quite stubborn—especially in their younger years—they're highly intelligent and responsive to solid leadership.

Labs originally helped fishermen in Newfoundland, and then they became hunting companions, search and rescue workers, seeing-eye dogs, drug sniffer dogs and are even trained to detect cancer in patients.

This is an incredibly active breed, and so they require lots of exercise to be their best and to remain focused on the mission at hand. Play a game of fetch with them to get them running and retrieving; it'll likely become one of their favourite activities! Try out a tracking activity, too, and take them for a long swim whenever you can. What's important is that they get lots of opportunities to expend their energy and put their athletic skills to use.

Labs are typically low maintenance concerning their grooming needs, though they can shed an awful lot when the seasons change. Once a month grooming is generally good for this breed, as is daily brushing.

Be on the Lookout for Fleas!

It's getting to be that time of year again when fleas and ticks start to double—and triple—in number. A preventive treatment, such as spot-on repellent, can save you and your dog from lots of irritation, and it's always good to be on the lookout for signs of fleas and ticks. Prevention and early treatment of any problems reduces the chance of full-blown infestations and other flea- and tick-related concerns and illnesses.

Overcoming Dog Walking Troubles!

Walking is one of the most important activities to share with dogs but, unfortunately, many situations discourage people from doing this regularly. Trying possible solutions for these situations or even a change of perspective can be the key to making it an everyday routine for the benefit of dogs and their owners.

One such issue is a dog's behaviour. Even when they're absolute angels in most settings, some dogs will frustrate and embarrass their owners by acting up when out on a lead. It's certainly understandable why a person would want to avoid walking their dog under these circumstances, but it's far from being a hopeless situation. Daily walks reduce a lot of the energy that contributes to this behaviour and obedience training can help you keep your dog focused whenever there's a distraction, such as other dogs in the area.

Run them first to get their energy out, and then work on obedience commands, such as "come," "sit," "stay," and "heel." Gently tap their hind leg with your own leg whenever they get distracted during a walk; and remember to stay calm and focused when walking or training them. Daily walks and practise of basic commands can bring remarkable improvement in their behaviour and strengthen the bond between you.

Another common issue is that of the owner having no time or energy for dog walking. Consider getting a dog walker if you haven't the time in your schedule, or try to start your day 15 minutes earlier to at least fit in a short walk. Perhaps the best thing about walking them is that it actually gives you more energy but decreases their energy. That little bit of exercise promotes mental clarity, good physical health and energises you, and it helps dogs relax and stay in good physical shape, too. So have a look at any issues that stop you from walking your best friend each day, and try out possible solutions.

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to find a dog breed!

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. GPKENIESE | 7. HEEPDOGS |
| 2. KASLUI | 8. LOODPE |
| 3. HIS-UTZ | 9. BIPTLLU |
| 4. GROCI | 10. FLOWDNOUH |
| 5. ZSREAUNHC | 11. SHALA PASO |
| 6. OINPERT | 12. TREAG NADE |

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!

Please Pass This Newsletter Around!

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.

Answers To Quiz:

1. Pekingese
2. Saluki
3. Shi-Tzu
4. Corgi
5. Schnauzer
6. Pointer
7. Sheepdog
8. Poodle
9. Pitbull
10. Wolfhound
11. Lhasa Apso
12. Great Dane



ESCAPE THE COLD WEATHER AND HEAD FOR THE SUN. LET ME TURN YOUR HOLIDAY DREAMS INTO A REALITY

UK, overseas, cruise, flight only, package or tailor made. Fully financially protected and Abta bonded for your security

CONTACT ME TODAY FOR A GREAT HOLIDAY DEAL WITH LOW LOW PRICES GUARANTEED

01928 238153 or email me hayley.doyle@hays-travel.co.uk
Book on line at www.hays-travel.co.uk/hayleydoyle
Become a fan on facebook find me - hayley at hays travel

QUOTE- BEST FRIENDS DOG GROOMING FOR A 5% DISCOUNT

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! Nettle, a dog belonging to Edward and Ros Tate of Shrewsbury, is caring for her litter of pups with the help of a hen. According to Ananova.com, Mabel the hen has been roosting on top the pups to keep them warm whenever Nettle is away from them. Mabel watched Nettle's behaviour with the pups and soon took over as if they were her own little chicks.

! Dane Andrew's Chinese Crested won the 2010 Ugly Dog contest in California. Rascal was beat in 2009 by a Boxer with an under bite, but he's back in the top spot again!

! An elephant caused £200,000 in damage at a Hindi wedding in India. He was on the loose for 15 hours and crushed 20 limos, according to Ananova.com. Turns out, he was trying to reach another elephant that was in heat.

To make an appointment or if you just want to ask a question please contact me at:

Best Friends Dog Grooming

Tel: 01928 701129

Email: joan@bestfriends-doggrooming.co.uk

www.bestfriends-doggrooming.co.uk

The information provided in this newsletter and on any additional documents herein is for guidance purposes only. It must not be construed as veterinary or legal advice. Always seek fully trained veterinary advice if you have a health issue with your pet. As far as is reasonably practical the publisher endeavors to ensure that this information is accurate and correct. However the publisher cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies, omissions or mistakes. Neither can we be held liable for any damages, howsoever caused, resulting from the information contained in this document.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please let us know.