



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

It's CHRISTMAS!

Well not quite but close enough to start getting really excited!

Hi and welcome to the first issue of the Best Friends Newsletter. Every month I'm going to be bringing you this free newsletter which will be packed full of interesting, useful and fun articles and facts about our four legged friends. I'm doing this to give you back a little bit extra and to say thanks for being such a great client.

I really hope you enjoy reading the stories and articles and that you get a little something from it to help you and your dog. There should be a few laughs for you as well!

But please let me know what you think of it. I really want to make it as good as I can for you every month.

Ok, so it's almost Christmas! I know there are plenty out there who just hate to see it coming around but I'm not one of them. I love it. Roasting chestnuts, having a little tippie of mulled wine, opening the presents and all that jolly Christmas music – just fantastic!

And of course it's just a lovely time of the year to see so much kindness going around. People volunteering to help the less fortunate! Others buying extra presents to give children whose families are a little short! And some people doing extraordinary things to raise money to help people and animals! Isn't that just what Christmas is all about?

Of course for me it's also the busiest time of year. Every one wants their dog looking great for Christmas and just right you are! Why should all the hustle and bustle of Christmas be allowed to let us forget about our best little buddies. So in this issue I've given you lots of ideas to help you out this Christmas. If I don't see you - have a fantastic Christmas and I'll speak to you in the New Year.

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*"A dog's smile runs from the
depth of his eyes
to the tip of his tail"*
(Unknown)

Fascinating Facts about Dogs:

- ! A print of your dog's nose is unique and is the equivalent of your own finger prints.
- ! It is widely believed that the Labrador is the most popular breed of dog in the UK, Canada and USA.
- ! A Pomeranian, a Newfoundland, and a Pekingese all survived the sinking of the Titanic.
- ! The Basenji, a hunting dog from central Africa, is the only breed of dog that cannot bark. Instead it produces a unique yodel-like sound.
- ! The Border Collie, Poodle and Golden Retriever are thought to be the most intelligent breeds of dog.



"Man's best friend is what we say, so let's treat them well on Christmas Day"



Don't let your dog gobble up the Turkey bones!

Unfortunately this year hundreds of dogs will end up spending Christmas in the vets, getting operated on to remove bones that they've been given to eat from the Christmas dinner!

So whatever you do this Christmas please don't feed your dog bones from your Christmas dinner!

The small bones from Turkeys, Ducks, Geese or Chickens shatter and splinter when bitten into. This leaves them with sharp edges and points that, when eaten by your dog, can easily get lodged in their mouth or throat or even pierce through their gut.

Vets around the country report Christmas as being one of the busiest times of the year for operating on dogs with bones stuck in them.

Of course it can happen at any time of the year so it really is best not to feed small bones, of any kind, to your dog.

Now I know it's difficult not to - their little eyes gazing up at you and their mouth watering, as you tuck into the delights of your Christmas dinner! It just doesn't seem fair that your best little buddy has to miss out, after all it is Christmas Day!

But please don't be tempted. Giving your dog bones from your dinner will put them at great risk! And that's not doing them or you any favours at all.

Try also to make sure that the leftovers from your dinner are stored where the little rascals won't be tempted to scavenge through them!

If you want to treat your dog on Christmas Day get them some tasty doggie chews or stock up on doggie treats. Your dog will love them (and you) just as much and they'll be safe for them to eat as well!

Doing this will ensure that you avoid spending Christmas Day in the vets and being left with a very ill dog and a hefty bill to pay!

*"If properly trained man can
be a dog's best friend"
(Cory Ford)*

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 his mind he's just guarding your house!

! 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.

A Special Christmas message from someone you know!

I got a message the other day from a dog who is obviously very happy and really smart. The message didn't say who it was from but I'm pretty sure it was from your little four legged friend. So I've included the message here for you to read:

"Hello,

I wanted to write and tell you about how happy and how lucky I am to have a fantastic home with my owner and family. They just luv me to bits and I need sum way of telling them that I luv them too.

I even learnd to type (won't they be so pleased with me?) but I have to says I'm not so sure about this speling lark. (Complicated things these human words!).

Anyways this is what I'd say to my owner if I could:

** * **

Thank you so much for letting me be your dog. I feel like the luckiest dog in the world cause:

*You have given me a great home.
You feed me everyday with good food.
You make sure I'm healthy even low somtimes I don't like the vets.
You play with me, exercise me and give me everyting a dog could ask for.
You take me to get groomed so that I'm always looking my best and feeling great.
You buy me nice collars and toys and treats.
And you forgive me when I make little mistakes. (I do try real hard not to be bad and when I somtimes bark at things it's only to protect you)*

I just luv it that you are my owner. So that is why every day i wagg my tail and try to lick your face. You're my bestest friend ever.

Thank you soooo much".





So what do you buy a dog for Christmas who has everything!

I'm sure dear old Santa won't forget about your little four legged friend this Christmas. After all he's a member of the family as well!

But what on earth do you buy a dog for Christmas – surely he has everything he needs, doesn't he?

Well here are a few ideas to help you out:

- What about some nice new toys or squeaks so he'll have lots of fun on Christmas day as well.
- What about a nice new collar and lead.
- A nice water bowl or water fountain so he'll always have fresh water.
- A Goodie box or Christmas stocking full of delicious doggie treats.
- Specially homemade treats for dogs that are healthy and all available to buy.
- A little wooly jumper or coat to keep them warm and dry. There's loads of trendy little body warmers and sweaters out there that will have them looking as cute as custard.

Some dogs have all the bad luck!

! An 11-stone Great Dane had to be operated on after it swallowed a 2 foot long stick! According to the *Daily Mail*, Hector swallowed the 63cm long stick when playing at his home in Hertfordshire.

! Cymbeline, a Scottish Terrier had the misfortune of having his teeth glued together, according to the *Daily Telegraph*. It happened when he carried out his daily task of picking up the mail from his front door. A high-gloss leaflet, from a fast food restaurant, had turned into a strange paste, like paper mache. It got between Cymbeline's teeth, locking them tightly together! A vet had to gently pick away the glue before his mouth could be freed.

! A very lucky pooch survived with only a broken leg and bruising, after being hit by a car traveling at 70 MPH in Southern Italy. According to *Ananova.com* the driver didn't stop after hitting the one-year old pup and it had to cling onto the grill of the car for a further 15 miles!

Famous TV Dogs Quiz!

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

1. The most famous Rough Collie of all?
2. This dog starred with Dick Dastardly & Penelope Pitstop in the "Wacky Races" cartoons?
3. Little Orphan Annie's best friend?
4. The little Jack Russell who knows all the tricks in the US sitcom "Frasier"?
5. This Old English Sheepdog became "The Biggest Dog in the World"?
6. Dorothy's little Cairn Terrier in the "Wizard of Oz"?
7. The crime stopper who starred along with Turner?
8. Along with Fred, Velma, Daphne and Shaggy this famous cartoon dog always runs into trouble?
9. The St Bernard who was named after a famous German composer?
10. Mickey Mouse's pet Dog?

How do you know when your dogs nails need cut!

Just like humans your dog's nails will grow continuously. When or if they need cut will depend on the lifestyle and breed of your dog. Dogs that walk or run a lot on hard surfaces will naturally wear their nails down. But dogs that are less active or prefer to walk on softer surfaces will need to have their nails cut more often.

When a dogs nails get too long they will protrude past the pad of its foot. When walking you'll hear a clacking sound. But an easy way to check is to have a look at your dog's foot when it's flat on the ground. The nails should not touch the ground. If they do they normally need cut.

Some dogs also have dewclaws which are a little further up their leg. It's important to check these as well. If left unchecked they could grow into to your dogs leg causing them pain and discomfort. If you're in any doubt give me a ring and I'll help with any questions you might have.



A month to look forward and a year to look back!

A new year will soon be upon us and it's exciting to look forward to what's ahead. But it's also good to have a look back over this year as well and have a think about the joys of the highs and of course, the lessons of the lows!

It's important to take stock of where we're at and to be thankful for everything we have.

The doom and the gloom that our media seems intent on spreading should be ignored. Because you know what; as long as we have our health, our families and of course our best little buddies, who love us so much then it's never so bad!

I'm also lucky enough to have you as well, my loyal clients and for that I have to say one really big THANK YOU! With having you and your lovely dogs, who brighten up my every day, it's easy to look forward to the New Year with optimism!

So have yourself a really lovely Christmas and I'll be back in the New Year with another issue of this newsletter.

*"I can no other answer make, but,
thanks, and thanks, and thanks"*
(William Shakespeare)

Answers to Quiz

1. Lassie
2. Mutley
3. Sandy
4. Eddie
5. Digby
6. Toto
7. Hooch
8. Scooby Doo
9. Beethoven
10. Pluto

You know you love your Dog when:

- ♥ You've more photos of the dog than your family!
- ♥ You let your dog decide if a new partner is right for you!
- ♥ You send Christmas cards from you, your dog and your family!
- ♥ Your dog is groomed to perfection but your own hair's a mess!
- ♥ Every present you ever get always has dogs on it!
- ♥ Your choice of a hotel depends if dogs are allowed!
- ♥ Visitors to your house know not to sit on "his seat"!
- ♥ You point to the door if your spouse says "it's me or the Dog"!
- ♥ You give them a bite of your sandwich before you have some yourself!
- ♥ When you go to a party wearing half your dog's hair – and you don't mind at all!
- ♥ You insist on buying them the healthiest food available and then stop off for a "Burger and Chips" on the way home!

Your Thoughts Count!

As always, what you think about the service I provide to you really matters to me. If you have any ideas or thoughts on how I could make what I do for you better then please let me know.

Where I can improve I will and you can be assured that I'll always try my best to do the best for you and your dog.

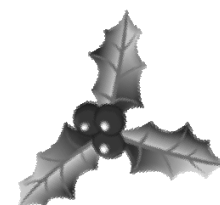
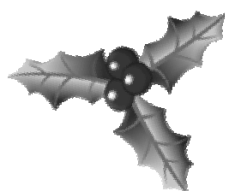
To make an appointment or if you just want to ask a question please contact me at:

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