



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

Hello again, and welcome to the February edition of this newsletter.

We all know that the weather for the first two weeks of the New Year was horrendous. Snow and ice put a stop to any grooming, as those with appointments were unable to drive to me, and I was unable to drive to those who use my collection/return service. Plus, the pipes to my grooming cabin burst, which didn't help matters. I would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you all those who were affected by the weather for your patience and understanding. You were wonderful, and all prepared to wait until the weather improved so I could begin grooming again. I'm happy to report that after workings Saturday's and Sunday's to catch up with appointments, my diary is now 'back on track'.

Besides dealing with the weather I hope you're having a fantastic new year and making great progress with any resolutions you'd set for yourself. Hopefully you haven't sworn completely off sweets or chocolates, though, as Valentine's Day can bring lots of delightful treats! It really is a terrific feeling to spend time with a loved one, so go on, indulge in cosy evenings with a sweetheart. But if you'd rather dote on your little dogs instead, don't forget they just love getting lots of exercise and playtime. Have a great month.

Joan

Caring for Dogs in the Cold Winter Weather!

Winter weather can be unpredictable and, with all the heavy snow and freezing cold temperatures lately, there's lots of hazards and problems that your dogs can face at this time of year. Luckily there are also plenty of precautions you can take and things you can do to help keep your dogs safe, comfortable, and as clean as they can be in wintry weather.

The biggest risk is the cold, of course. If your dog is kept outside be sure that they have a good warm shelter that is always easily accessible to them. If your dog is used to being inside the house then maybe put a little coat on them when going outside, especially if they've had their own hair clipped off recently. This will keep them warm and stop some of the snow from getting into their hair. And because a wet coat can quickly become a tangled mess of mats, it's helpful to dry them off and give them a really good brushing after they've been outside.

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My Boys 'Big Adventures':
BIRTHDAY BOY!



Mum promised me that she'd let you all know that I turned a BIG 5 years old in January. Mum tells me that I'm a very special little Westie, as apparently I have a very big heart murmur and was only expected to live for a few weeks or months at the most. I guess they forgot to tell me about it, or maybe the reason why I still feel so healthy is because mum looks after me so well. I don't like playing with toys so I got some extra special treats instead - they were yummy.

Happy Birthday Danny - love Mum xx

Did You Know?

*It's not the taste of food that gets a dog begging for more—it's the scent. Dogs actually have a poor sense of taste.

*It's only a myth that a dog is sick if he's got a dry or warm nose.

*A wagging tail doesn't always mean a dog is happy—it can be a sign of aggression!



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.

"Man's best friend you shout aloud, so we groom them well to make you proud"

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Although frequent brushing is always beneficial to dogs, it can make a remarkable difference to their skin and coat during this frigid weather. The brushing will stimulate oils in their skin to stop it from drying out, though you may also want to consider a leave-in conditioner or food supplement to further promote healthy skin and soft, shiny hair.

But perhaps the most important area to care for in winter weather is your dog's paws. They'll still need out for walks to get their exercise, yet the ice and salts can cause matting and painful irritation around their paw pads. You'll not be able to convince most dogs to wear boots, but they don't usually mind a quick wash of their feet! Simply wipe their paws with a cloth and warm water after walks to remove snow and irritants, and then dry them off as much as possible.

There's no stopping the mess that comes with some winter weather, but your dog will love the extra attention and brushing that keeps them in good shape between grooming appointments.

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! A cat surprised his owners when he disappeared from his home in Hampshire, and turned up in Spain! The tom had crawled onto a ferry, according to Ananova.com, and the owners were notified when authorities checked his microchip. He can't return home just yet, as he has to be quarantined, but the ferry crew treated him like royalty. Salmon, chicken and a private cabin made it quite the holiday for him!

! 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.

Doggy Humour!

A dog saw someone putting money into a parking meter and reported to the other dogs, "They're putting in pay toilets!".

'Pet of the Month'

This is Honey - she's a Westie and belongs to Ellen Davies who lives in Runcorn. She told me that Honey loves to play, and here she is playing with one of her favourite toys.



Dog Training Tips!

Walk your dog for at least 30 minutes before you practise tricks or obedience commands. Train them for 15 minutes after walking, and then for another 15 minutes later in the day.

Reward the dog with a treat occasionally, but not every time they follow your command, because some dogs will learn to only obey for treats!

When Does My Dog Need Groomed?

Most people will say that you should have your dog groomed "when they need it". But when exactly do they need it? This is an excellent question, as the answer can vary widely from one dog to the next and it really all depends on the individual needs of your dog.

Of course, it's pretty clear that a dog needs to be groomed when it's got overgrown nails and a coat full of mats. But you never want to let it get to that stage because that can be very stressful on them and cause all sorts of problems.

You may read in books or hear from dog breeders that dog grooming should be kept to specific intervals, such as every 6, 8 or 12 weeks. And while yes, it is important to keep dogs on a regular grooming schedule, the time between grooming appointments cannot just be based on a general figure for a particular breed. Each dog is different and there can be differences in the type of hair on dogs of the same breed. Even their age, health, lifestyle and your own specific requirements can have an impact on the timing of your dog's grooming. Basing your dog's grooming needs on a 'general' basis can end up being too little or too much for your particular dog's needs. For example, an energetic puppy with high-maintenance hair may benefit from more frequent grooming because it will help them get used to the process from a young age. A short-haired adult dog that walks every day on paved roads may only need a bath and nail trim every two months. But there's no standard schedule that applies to certain types of dog, because there are many factors to take into account.

Therefore, us groomers consider age, breed, health, lifestyle, skin and coat condition, as well as your own personal preferences, when determining the best grooming schedule for your dog. Once that is determined it's best to try to stick to the same intervals between grooming. However, as things change, especially as your dog gets older, it may mean making slight changes to the timing between appointments. This will ensure that your dog is always getting the right grooming to suit them.

Living in the Moment!

There's good reason behind the idea that life's greatest lessons can be learned from dogs, because they've naturally mastered some of our own greatest struggles, such as living in the moment. A dog is always "in the now", whereas people are usually thinking on the past or future. And this difference between dogs and humans is quite frustrating for both, as it causes lots of confusion! For example, a dog has no idea *why* they're in trouble if you scold them for something they've done in your absence. They'll sense your anger and therefore shy away or show submission, but they don't connect your reaction to their behaviours unless they're caught in the act—caught in the moment!

Their ability to sense human emotion and frame of mind is rather fascinating, but it can also be quite frustrating if you're training them or working on behaviour problems. For example, dogs typically get anxious or aggressive when they sense fear and anxiety in humans. So if you're filled with worry, your dog may become overly timid. But because dogs yearn for stability and follow the strongest leader in the wild, they'll try to be your leader if they sense anxiety from you consistently.

Thinking on past or future events is the main cause of anxiety, so you and your dogs could actually benefit if you thought more like they do! Of course, it's best that we don't think too much like our dogs, but remember to take a deep breath and calmly focus on the present the next time you're working with your dog or feeling out of sorts. It's not always easy to live in the moment or overcome anxiety, but every effort and success in doing so can greatly boost your confidence and strengthen your leadership role with dogs.

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to find a dog breed!
The answers are on the back page.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. GPU | 7. HAHCIHAUU |
| 2. NAAREMNOIP | 8. WOCHWOCH |
| 3. LAMTEES | 9. HDNUASDC |
| 4. TASMIFF | 10. WEERINRAAM |
| 5. REERIRT | 11. ROADALRB |
| 6. RETWORLETI | 12. GLEBEA |

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Ensuring Care for Your Dog!

It is so very unfortunate that some dogs are left with no one to care for them when their owners pass away or become too ill to look after them. While it's sad to think of others in this situation what many of us don't realise is that our own dogs could actually end up in the same situation. Sadly, illnesses and accidents can happen to anyone, and there may also come a time when we're no longer able to care for our pets. Of course, this is something we'd rather not think about, but it really is important that we have a plan in place for the care of our dogs.

Try talking this over with friends and family, as there may be someone in your life who would gladly take your dogs into their own home if something should happen to you. There's always the option of arranging something with a rescue organisation, too, as they may be able to provide temporary care to your pets or find a good family to adopt them. Hopefully this is something you'll not ever need to worry over, but you can worry a bit less if you've got a plan in place to ensure your dogs are cared for if you no longer can!

Indoor Exercise for Dogs!

Foul weather can make dog walking difficult or unpleasant but, because they need their exercise in rain or shine, there are some things you can do indoors to keep them active and happy.

Toss one of your dog's toys back and forth with someone else for a game of "Keep Away". The dog will run back and forth between you to try and catch it, though they may lose interest quickly if you don't let them catch it every so often. If you've got a dog with lots of energy, toss a ball down the stairs for them to chase and bring back to you.

Give them plenty of mental exercises, too! Hide toys and treats around the home for a game of "Hide and Seek", or practise tricks and obedience commands with them. Although there's no way to replace all the benefits of outdoor walks, these games and exercises will keep them from getting bored (and into trouble!) as you wait for the foul weather to pass.

Doggy Humour!

Upon entering a small country store, a stranger noticed a sign saying DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG!. Inside a harmless old hound dog was asleep on the floor.

He asked the store manager, "Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep, that's him," he replied.

The amused stranger inquired, "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why would you post that sign?"

The owner responded, "Because, before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

Answer To Quiz:

1. Pug
2. Pomeranian
3. Maltese
4. Mastiff
5. Terrier
6. Rottweiler
7. Chihuahua
8. Chow Chow
9. Daschund
10. Weimaraner
11. Labrador
12. Beagle

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

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