



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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hello again and a huge happy new year to you all. I hope you got over the festive season without too much trouble and I hope Santa was ever so good to you!

Wow! 2009 is here already. Gosh didn't last year go quickly? I suppose this year will be no different. In no time at all the daffodils will be out, the nights will start stretching and we'll soon be turning our thoughts to summer again.

I wonder what 2009 will hold for us all. Will it be a year of doom and gloom that they're all predicting or will it spring forth opportunities, happiness and excitement? I guess none of us really know the answer to that but I do think we all have a big part to play in how it turns out for ourselves. I always like to go into a new year positively because its much better being an optimist who sometimes gets it wrong than a pessimist who always gets it right!

One thing you can be sure of for 2009 is that I will be trying my best to continue to give you and your little barking buddy the best service I can.

So all the very, very best for 2009 and keep trying hard with those New Year resolutions – this year I think you're going to keep them!

Joan

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"If dogs could talk, it would take a lot of the fun out of owning one."

~Andy Rooney

Fascinating Facts about Dogs:

- !The Lundehund, a Norweigen breed, has 6 toes, can close its ears and can bend its head backwards along its spine!
- !Brazil is widely believed to have the second highest dog population in the world with approximately 30 million dogs. The UK has around 7.3 million.
- !Dogs can be trained to detect epileptic seizures in humans.
- !Brandy, a four-year-old female Chihuahua is believed to be the smallest dog in the world. She is 15.2 cm (6 inches) long, weighs just 2lbs and is around the height of a coke can.

My Boys 'Big Adventures':

This is my four wee boys. Each month I will be including a 'fun' photo of my boys and telling you about their 'big adventures' and believe me they have lots!



This is them at Hollingworth Lake last May. From left to right is 5 1/2 year old Thomas, 10 year old Charlie, 9 1/2 year old Sammy and Danny who is 4 years old this month. Happy birthday Danny.

"Man's best friend is what we hear, so how will we treat them this new year"

Westie Rescue!

Some of you may already know that I am a volunteer for Westie Rescue and West House Westies.

A client phoned me recently to say that due to a deterioration in her health she could no longer keep Jack, her 6 year old Westie, and could I help find him a new loving home. Of course I said, so I made a few phone calls and arranged to collect Jack and drive him to West House Westies in Yorkshire where he would stay in a foster home until a 'forever' home could be found for him. Jack's owner was understandably upset when I went to collect him, but after I explained that he would be found a loving home she gave him a big hug and lots of kisses and told him to be a good boy for his new owner.

Jack settled in his foster home straight away and a week later a couple, who already had a Westie called Jock and who wanted to adopt a 'rescue dog', came to visit him. They wanted to see if he and Jock would get along. Well I'm pleased to say that they did. They both had a fine time playing and chasing each other. Later that day Jack quite happily jumped in the car with Jock and begin his new life.

I have since heard that he is loving his new home and playmate and has regular long walks by the sea. What a happy ending and even though I miss grooming him I'm so glad I could help him find a new home.

There's always a need for volunteers or people who would be kind enough to foster a Westie for short periods. If you feel you could help please contact us. If you have or know of a Westie that needs a new home please also get in touch. The people to contact are:

Westie Rescue Scheme UK

Lead Coordinator - Graham Edwards
Tel: 0870 170 9526
Website: www.westierescuescheme.org.uk

West House Westies

Contact: Mo Morris
Tel: 01748 884998 **Mobile:** 07813 495520

"One reason a dog can be such a comfort is that when you're feeling blue he doesn't try to find out why" ~ Author Unknown

Why does my dog chew everything!

If your dog chews everything in sight, especially your most valuable possessions then you'll be well aware of the destruction it can cause.

So why does he chew? Here are five possible reasons:

Puppy Teething – Puppy teething normally happens between the ages of 3 – 7 months when their adult teeth are coming through.

A need for attention – Some dogs learn that they get a reaction from you if they start chewing at something. If you chase them around the room trying to get back your remote they think it's a game.

Boredom – Dogs need a lot of mental and physical stimulation especially in their adolescent years. Working breeds such as Springer's and Border Collies tend to get bored very easily and turn to destructive chewing.

An unhealthy diet – All dogs need to be feed a well balanced diet for their age and weight. If some nutrients are missing in their diet dogs may chew to try to compensate for these.

Separation Anxiety – Some dogs may not cope well with being left alone. The stress this causes may lead them to start destructive chewing.

So how do you stop them chewing everything?

- Firstly and most obviously is to remove all possible valuable objects from their reach.
- Make sure they have lots of tough, exciting toys to play with. Things like Kongs where you can stuff treats (low fat of course) inside the toy. These are a great way to keep their mind occupied for hours.
- The important thing with toys is that you play with them as well. This makes it much more fun for the dog.
- Also try giving them good quality chews such as rawhides or roasted bones.
- For puppies try taking an old rag, tie a few knots in it, wet it and stick it in the freezer for a few hours. It's inexpensive and the puppy will really love the cooling effect it has on his sore gums.
- Make sure your dog is well exercised and if he loves playing make sure you give him some time to have fun with you. Exercise is especially important if you are intending to leave them alone for a long period.
- When leaving your dog at home try putting an old unwashed jumper or shirt in their bed. Your scent from the jumper will be comforting to them.
- Teach them the right things to chew by rewarding them with lots of praise when they chew a toy or haven't chewed anything they shouldn't.

Why should you brush your dog between appointments?

While your dogs coat will be 'shiny 'n' clean' and in great condition when it leaves the salon, its not going to stay that way if its not regularly brushed. But the importance of brushing your dogs coat isn't just about keeping them looking pretty and nice – there are also more important reasons:

It keeps the coat Matt free.

Your dogs coat will easily tangle up and form matt's if not brushed regularly, just like our own hair would be. If matts are not removed they will get worse and can even cause irritation or hot spots on your dog's skin. A heavily matted coat will have to be clipped off at the next grooming appointment as the pain it would cause the dog to remove the matt's then would simply be unacceptable. But regular and correct brushing of your dog's coat will remove matts at an early stage leaving the coat clean and clear of debris and knots.

It helps to keep a healthy, shiny coat.

Regular brushing also encourages the natural oils to spread throughout the coat leaving it shiny and healthy.

It lets you keep an eye on your dog's health.

Getting up close and personal with your dog during brushing allows you check for any problems your dog may have. Things like cuts, lumps, ticks or fleas may not otherwise be seen through a heavy coat and spotting them early will save a lot of discomfort and pain for your dog.

It will enhance the bond with your dog.

Regular brushing helps strengthen your friendship with your dog and keeps them used to being handled and brushed. Plus it'll also make them feel great so they'll love you even more.

Different coats require different levels of brushing and even short haired dogs should be brushed regularly as well. Normally however, the more regularly you brush the coat the easier and quicker the job will be. I'll be more than happy to talk you through this and help you with your dog's coat. Just give me a call.

"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give your dog only two of them." ~ Phil Pastoret

Test your Doggy Knowledge!

(answers are given on the last page but don't be cheating!!!)

1. The Chihuahua originally came from:
A. China **B.** Mexico **C.** Honduras
2. Dogs are all direct descendants of the:
A. Wolf **B.** Ape **C.** Fox
3. The Labrador Retriever is a type of:
A. Working Dog **B.** Hound Dog **C.** Gun Dog
4. Dalmatian puppies are born completely:
A. Black **B.** Grey **C.** White
5. Dougal of the Magic Roundabout is based on a:
A. Westie **B.** Lhasa Apso **C.** Poodle
6. Greyhounds can run up to:
A. 35mph **B.** 45mph **C.** 55mph
7. The Latin word for dog is:
A. Bovine **B.** Feline **C.** Canine
8. Which dog has webbed feet:
A. Newfoundland **B.** Bernese **C.** St Bernard
9. Greyfriars Bobby was a:
A. Westie **B.** Skye Terrier **C.** Cairn Terrier
10. The Bernese Mountain dog was first bred in:
A. The Himalayas **B.** The Andies **C.** The Alps

Did You Know?

! In order for your dog to catch kennel cough he doesn't have to be in kennels! Kennel cough can be contracted anywhere. The cough is harsh and painful for your dog, like something is stuck in its throat. If your dog gets kennel cough see your vet. Your vet will also advise you about vaccinations for this illness.

! Many dogs suffer from separation anxiety when left alone. They often exhibit destructive behavior, howling or house soiling. Most of this behavior will be carried out in the first 30 minutes after the owner leaves. It may be caused by an over dependence on the owner and simply can't cope when left alone.

! An un-neutered female dog normally comes into season twice a year – every six months. However for some, especially larger breeds, it may only be once a year. The female will welcome males for 7-10 days during her season however the season may last up to 20 days in total and in some cases as much as 30 days.

January - the month for new beginnings!

Supposedly January is the coldest month of the year in the Northern hemisphere. But as we shiver up here, the people 'down under' bask in the warmth of the summer sun!

Doesn't that kinda sum up life really? As some people suffer, others enjoy good times! As some become ill, others have great health! And as some get down and depressed others are happy and positive!

But it's funny how things can flip around again, just like the seasons. I think January is a great month to start the process of flipping again! I don't mean just making half hearted New Years resolutions. I mean making real plans for the rest of the year. Determining now what we really want to do this year with our lives, our families and of course our little four legged friends. Then going out and putting those plans into action so January really is a month for 'New Beginnings'.

'Pet of the Month'



This is Alfie - he's a miniature poodle and belongs to Chelsie Barry who lives in Runcorn. Chelsie told me that Alfie thinks he's cool dressed up as Santa.

If you'd like your pet's photo to appear in 'pet of the month' please email it to me or bring it along to your next appointment. I'll do my best to have it included in a future issue of this newsletter.

Answers to Quiz
1. B
2. A
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. C

Two Amazing Dog Stories from 2008!

! A beautiful 3-year-old white German Shepherd named Luna traveled the 2,178 mile Appalachian Trail along with her owner Loduska Patel. The journey across the United States from Georgia to Maine began in March and took seven months for the pair to complete.

! David Roach from East Finchley, London has Viagra to thank for saving his dogs life. According to Ananova.com Bentley was suffering from heart failure when vet Ben Harris administered Viagra. The treatment worked and while Bentley, a neutered male, will be on the drug continuously there are no obvious side effects.

Choosing a shampoo for your dog?

Just as there are different types of shampoo for all the different hair types us humans have there are also different types of shampoo for our dogs. Firstly it's important that you use an actual 'dog shampoo' as human shampoos can cause damage or harm to your dogs skin or coat. You must never use washing up liquid or any other cleaning materials as they may contain harmful toxins that could burn your dog's skin.

Secondly, it's important to choose the right shampoo to suit your dogs coat in order to keep it in the best condition. I know it can be difficult to choose so I'd be happy to help and give any advise I can. Just give me a call.

Thank You for referring me!

My business succeeds because great clients like you continue to tell your family, friends and neighbours about me. It's by far the best form of feedback I can receive.

Please pass this newsletter around as much as you can to people you know and care about. Thanks.

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

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