



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

Isn't it great that summer is well and truly upon us? The long clear nights are just great for having extra fun with our little friends. Of course, getting out and about in the fresh air for long walks with our dogs is great exercise for us too!

As it's summer, I've put lots of helpful, seasonal information into this issue to help you with your pet. As always, I really hope you get lots from it. Thanks and have yourself a wonderful July.

Joan

Why You Must Watch for Ticks this Summer!

The summer months send many of us into the great outdoors, as there are so many activities to enjoy during warmer weather. But if you plan to venture into the countryside this summer, you would do well to know a little about the dangers posed to you and your dogs by ticks.

Ticks are small parasites that attach themselves to both animals and humans so that they may feed from the blood of their host. They can be quite a nuisance, but they can also transmit very serious illnesses to you and your dogs. The tick population seems to be rising in recent years, so it's important to watch out for them whenever you take your dogs through fields and wooded areas, or whenever they'll be near other animals, such as deer and sheep.

Whenever you return from an outdoor activity, you should always check your dogs and yourself for any ticks that may have climbed onto fur, skin, or clothing. They tend to be a bit spider-like in appearance; when engorged with blood, some ticks swell into a bulbous mass with little legs. You may want to look up pictures of them on the internet so that you can easily recognise them.

Once a tick has attached its barbed mouth to a host's skin, it can be very difficult to remove correctly. You must take extreme care when removing ticks; otherwise, you risk leaving the tick's head imbedded in the skin, which can result in a nasty infection. Proper tick removal methods reduce the chance of getting a secondary infection or of spreading harmful bacteria.

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My Boys 'Big Adventures':

'TOY STORY'

This is our Thomas with his favourite toy – Tigger



"I just love Tigger, he's my bestest cuddly toy ever, and mum thinks it's so cute when I suck on him like a dummy as I fall asleep."

The Things Some Dogs Do!

! Alfie, a Cocker Spaniel from Leeds, decided to play 'hide & seek' with his owner's car key and put it in the darkest place possible – his tummy! According to the Yorkshire Evening Post, Alfie had grabbed the key after owner Charlotte Hanson had dropped it on the floor. "He thought it was a game," said Charlotte, "and when I tried to prise it from his mouth he wouldn't let go." Alfie then swallowed the key and had to be taken to the vet for an op to remove it. Luckily the stranded owner was soon behind the wheel again, and Alfie recovered okay.

! Bailey, a 14-month-old Golden Retriever, called the police on his owners. According to Sky News, police were alarmed when they received an emergency call and heard a voice say, "Come out or else - I'm warning you." They feared that an attack was about to take place. But when they called the number back, Bailey's embarrassed owner shed light on the 'shaggy dog story'. Apparently Bailey had grabbed the phone handset and ran out to the garden with it. He inadvertently rang 999 with his teeth and the voice was that of his owner trying to get him out from behind the garden shed!

! Sophie, a Springer Spaniel, has adopted an orphaned baby owl, Bramble. According to the Sun newspaper, Bramble went to live in a Bird of Prey centre in Cornwall. Sophie immediately took to Bramble and the two are inseparable. Sophie licks Bramble clean every day. According to Sharon Bindon, who runs the centre, "Bramble has the cleanest beak and feathers of any bird in the country!"

"Your little friend we leave beautifully clean, when you're out for a walk you'll love them being seen!"

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But it's important that ticks are removed quickly from your dog. If they're removed within 24 hours, it's much less likely that they will transmit a disease. Be sure to check your dog's entire body, and remember to check the inner and outer skin of a dog's ears. Sometimes an attached tick feels like a small, flat, hard spot beneath a dog's fur. On humans, they tend to attach to the hairline, armpits and groin, but you should check your entire body too.

Symptoms of Lyme disease in dogs include fatigue, loss of appetite, and fever. Many dogs will also start limping, as the disease gives them painful joints. You may experience similar symptoms and see a rash on your skin if you have contracted a tick-borne illness. These are very serious and require medical attention, but they are also easily treated with early detection.

You cannot catch the disease from your dog or vice-versa, and not all ticks carry disease. So please enjoy the outdoors with your dog but just take a little care to prevent tick bites. If your dog does pick some up, have them removed safely.

Doggy Humour!

Several dogs were standing in a circle in a dark room discussing how one of them needed to change the light bulb. Here's the discussion:

Chihuahua: *"Come on guys, look at me! You think I'm going to get anywhere near that stupid light?"*

Labrador: *"Oh me, me!!! Please can I, can I? Please, please, pleeeeeeeeeease!!! Let me, let me!!!"*

Mastiff: *"I'mmm not scard of the dark! I'mmm not scard of the dark! I'mmm not – Whaaat was that??? Did anyone else hear that??? Please tell me you heard that too!!!!"*

Rottweiler: *"Yea go on, just you try making me do it!!!"*

Poodle: *"Do I have to? I've just had my nails done!"*

St Bernard: *"ZZZZZZzzzzzzzzz.....ZZZZZZZZzzzzzzz"*

German Shepherd: *"Alright, everyone stop where you are! Who broke the light? I SAID, 'STOP WHERE YOU ARE!'"*

Springer Spaniel: *"Where's the new bulb? Where's the new bulb? I can't find it! Is it behind the seat? Is it under the TV? Where is it? Where is it?"*

Jack Russell: *"It's not a toy and you can't chase it, so who cares? I'm going out to play!!!"*

Always Use a Lead when out Walking!

With the long summer evenings, many of you will no doubt be taking the opportunity to get your dogs out for long walks. This is a great thing to do but please don't ever walk your dog off the lead along a road or in areas where there's traffic!

You may think that's obvious but the amount of people who do this is quite staggering. You see them often when driving or walking down a busy road and there comes someone walking with their dog off lead. Many times their dog is a few yards ahead or behind them.

The thing is that no matter how much verbal control you have over your dog, you're simply not in control if something happens out of the blue.

For example, it takes just a split second for a cat or another dog to appear on the other side of the road; maybe some kids appear with a ball, or a cyclist comes from behind and startles your dog! It can take very little to make your dog dart out in front of oncoming traffic, even if they're normally quite relaxed when out walking.

I'm afraid it happens all too often and people always say, *"I never thought that would happen, he's never run out before."*

Of course, it's great allowing your dog off lead to run freely but that should be done in a safe area, well away from traffic.

No matter how much control you feel you have over your dog or how 'streetwise' you think they are, please never, ever allow your dog near traffic without a lead on.

It's simply not worth it to lose your best friend by not taking this simple precaution while walking. Please don't take that risk!

" Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole"

~ Roger Caras

Please Send Your Email Address!

I know most of you have already passed me your email addresses but if you haven't, please do. This newsletter is available for you every month and I really don't want you to miss out.

You don't have to worry about giving me your email address. I hate spam and hard selling tactics. So you can be assured that you won't get bombarded with emails from me. I take your privacy very seriously and never share email addresses with anyone.

" There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face"

~ Ben Williams

Keeping your Dog Cool this Summer!

As the beautiful summer days bring us the treats of warmth and sunshine, we now get to focus on keeping cool instead of keeping warm! And just as protection from the heat is important to us humans, it's also important to the health and well-being of our dogs.

Whether you're travelling or spending time at home, it's very important to take extra precautions against rising temperatures. We're not the only ones who can suffer from heat stroke – our dogs can, too! But there are plenty of things you can do to help your dog stay cool this summer.

* Always remember to supply cool, fresh water for your dog throughout the day. Although this may seem obvious, water bowls can easily spill over or dry up during those hot summer days.

* If you're going out in the car on a hot day, it's better if you don't take your dog at all. Many dogs have died from heat stroke when left in a hot car – even with the windows open! So you're not doing them any favours by taking them in the car on warm or hot days.

* When your dog spends any amount of time outdoors, be sure that he has access to a shady area. If there is not a cluster of trees, you can always prop up a canopy. By hanging a tarp high up in the air, your dog will have shade and a flowing breeze. This would also be a great spot to keep the water dish!

* Consider taking your dog for a nice swim or chasing her around with the garden hose. Some of the best precautions are also the most fun! Dogs love the extra attention and activity, so they'll very much appreciate refreshing summer activities with the family.

* Try to use the mornings and evenings as an opportunity for physical exercise. Walking, hiking, and playing fetch can all be hot and tiresome on a summer afternoon, but they're perfect during the cooler hours of the day.

* If you'll be boarding your dog with a kennel while you travel, be sure to choose a kennel that takes every precaution against the heat.

Watch out for Heat Stroke!

There are a few signs to watch for that will indicate if your dog is suffering heat stroke. Be on the lookout for extremely heavy panting or shallow

breathing. As heat stroke worsens, a dog may vomit, have diarrhoea, or show pale gums. If you see any of these signs, immediately remove him from the area, place cool water around his neck, armpits and stomach, and seek veterinary attention immediately after first aid.

Keep them Groomed to Keep them Cool!

Keeping your little furry friend's coat well maintained will also really help keep them cool. While many people wish to have their dogs shaved during the summer months, and even though this is with the good intention of keeping them cool, it's not always the best choice. Just as our exposed skin is prone to sunburn, so is that of our dogs. A dog's hair actually insulates their skin from both cold and hot weather.

So it's better to have your dog regularly groomed to get rid of dead undercoat and to leave a nice layer of light hair covering their skin. This will protect their skin from the sun and stop the heavy undercoat acting like a fur coat during the summer months.

Please don't forget that all of the scary symptoms of heat stroke can be avoided with a few precautions. Just remember that, like us, your dog also needs time out from the hot weather. Taking a few steps to keep them cool will mean you can safely enjoy all the summer activities together, while the weather lasts!

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

~ Unknown

Dog Training Tip!

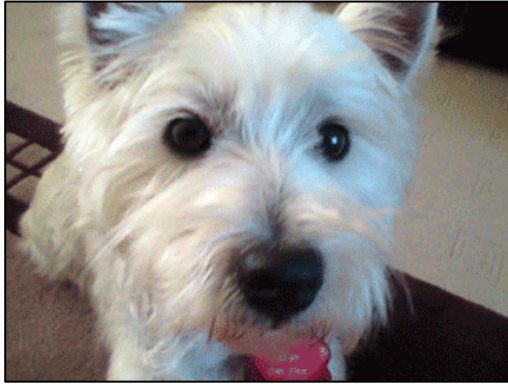
Your dog cannot understand the English language. They hear sounds not words, so you can use any word you want to get them to carry out an action. The key to using words as commands is that you use that same word consistently. Obviously you'll want to use words that make sense to humans – no point in using 'sit' if you want them to 'lay down' or 'stay'!

Mixed Up Dogs?

Can you unscramble these dog breeds?
Answers are on the back page.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. rrdeob leclio | 5. adersnhio kgbadicer |
| 2. ghnfaa duhno | 6. ufabfilm1st |
| 3. wsssi tmaoiunn ogd | 7. dnelnofwunad |
| 4. sbeats uhdno | 8. nongetlibd |

'Pet of the Month'



This is Ruby - she's a Westie and belongs to Vicky Meaden who lives in Runcorn. She told me that since Ruby came to live with her 3 months ago she's settled in really well. Ruby is so loving and good natured that she wouldn't be without her, and everyone they meet loves her too.

It's So Appreciated!

Given the turbulent times that are going on in the world with the recession and all, I'm constantly reminded of how lucky I am to have such great clients as you.

I know that without you and your little four-legged friends, my business would not be in the strong and stable position it is.

So just in case you haven't heard me say it recently, please know that I really appreciate your business and -
Thank You!

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. Border Collie
2. Afghan Hound
3. Swiss Mountain Dog
4. Basset Hound
5. Rhodesian Ridgeback
6. Bullmastiff
7. Newfoundland
8. Bedlington Terrier

The Basic Needs Of All Our Dogs!

Dogs are our best friends through both good and bad times and all they ask in return is that we take care of their basic needs. Unfortunately, many people don't realise that a dog's basic needs go beyond that of food, water, and shelter. So, what else does a dog need for a happy and healthy life?

-Exercise-

All dogs need a minimum of 30 minutes physical activity per day, more for larger or highly energetic dogs. Otherwise, they release their pent up energy in destructive ways or develop psychological / behavioral problems. People often believe that because they have a big house or a big yard that the dog has plenty of room to exercise itself. But this is not true. We'd go crazy being at home all day with nothing to do and so do our dogs

-Mental Stimulation-

There is a reason that dogs love games! Just as we like to have a purpose in life, so do our dogs. All dogs require some level of psychological challenge to stay mentally healthy and this is especially important for dogs that are bred for specific activities. Retrievers love to retrieve; hounds love to track scent, and so on.

-Attention and Affection-

Dogs are social creatures and they do become lonely without companionship. When left alone for long periods, they become depressed and often develop psychological / behavioral problems to cope with the stressful situation. While they do appreciate a good belly rub, their favorite form of attention is that of activities and exercise with their owners.

-Grooming-

A poorly maintained coat causes many more problems than just an odor or unsightly hairdo. When mats form in a dog's fur, it becomes very painful as the mats pull the skin. Unattended mats will actually leave open sores on a dog's skin, and these open sores are prone to infection. Regular grooming prevents this from happening while also helping to build a bond between you and your pet .

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

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