



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

It's great to welcome the month of June in this newsletter, as it brings us the official beginning of summer! 21st of June will be the longest day of the year, too, so let's all hope it's a day—and month—filled with sunshine. Not only is summer a lovely time for going on holiday, it's the time of year when there's lots of fun activities to be had outdoors with our best little friends.

The dogs are really preparing for summer's arrival, too, by shedding off the rest of their heavy coats. So, you might find it a bit difficult to keep them (and your furniture) looking neat and clean at the moment. Due to all the excess hair, many people are asking if they should get their dogs clipped or have their hair shortened for the summer months, but the answer to this really depends on the needs of each individual dog.

Clipping doesn't necessarily reduce the amount of hair a dog sheds; in most cases, the dog simply sheds shorter hairs, then! If shedding is your primary concern, it's usually best to brush their coat at least once daily, so you can then gather most of the excess hair at once and put it in the bin. Don't forget; routine professional trimming and grooming will also keep it much more manageable, as well.

A dog's coat protects them from colder weather, yet it also helps protect their skin from the sun and other elements. Therefore, the best coat length really all depends on the dog's hair type, lifestyle, and living conditions. Sometimes, the dogs kept in one climate were bred for another, so this is something else to think on in regards to your dog's comfort. Have a look at the history of your dog's breed to see where they were originally bred.

Dogs that benefit from getting their coats clipped off are those that tend to get really matted and messy, and those that are bred for shorter styles. Certain skin conditions, such as hot spots, are also good reason to keep the hair shorter. The choice is ultimately up to you, of course, but it's good to take all these factors into consideration before deciding on a full clip.

Good Dog Groomers will always take style, breed, health, comfort, and ease of management into consideration when advising people of whether they should fully clip their dog's hair, with the health and welfare of the dog being the most important factor.

Let's hope you and your dogs find a seasonal style that works for you both, and that you find lots of ways to enjoy the fun of summertime together!

Joan

Best Friends Dog Grooming

Tel: 01928 701129

Email: joan@bestfriends-doggrooming.co.uk

www.bestfriends-doggrooming.co.uk

My Boys 'Big Adventures': MUMMY'S LITTLE HELPER



Here are some photos of me helping mum in the garden. She wanted a hole dug in the garden so she could put in her new plant. I begged her to let me dig the hole. Everyone knows how much Westies love to dig, and I was in my element, but that was until mum saw just how dirty I'd become and stuck me in the bath for a wash. Fancy doing that to me after I'd done such a good job.

Danny xx



I'm a fully qualified dog groomer having achieved my City & Guilds, level 3 qualifications. I'm also 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.

"Your dog's hair getting dirty can be a real bummer, give us a call and we'll make them gorgeous for Summer!"

Exam Success!

Over the last several months I've been extremely busy studying to gain my City & Guilds Advanced Dog Grooming Qualification, which is a very highly sought after qualification within the Dog Grooming Profession. And I'm very pleased to tell you that I passed with distinction and credits.

The exam is made up of a 2 hour theory exam and 3 practical units.

The theory exam ensures the student is knowledgeable in all the various skills needed to be a good dog groomer, such as, breed standards and conformation, knowing the many different grooming styles and trims, diseases, animal welfare, health & safety, business sense, and much more.

As well as a written exam, the student is required to trim 3 different breeds, which tests the students clipping and trimming skills. I chose to groom a West Highland White Terrier, a Wire Haired Fox Terrier, and a Springer Spaniel. The preparation of each dog is paramount for a good result, and involves weeks of having the dog come in for a bath and general coat care and conditioning before the exam. Plus the dog has to be a good example of the breed, have at least 8 weeks coat growth, be of a good temperament and able to stand still on the table for the hour it takes to complete the groom.

Below are photos of each of my chosen dogs, and also a few photos taken in the exam room, just after I finished my final practical unit with my chosen Springer Spaniel. You can see the examiner checking over my dog before she gave me a 'credit'.

Here at 'Best Friends' the perusal of perfection and excellence is constant and ongoing. I will shortly be carrying on my studying and hopefully gain my 'teaching' qualification so that I can pass on my skills, knowledge and expertise to other groomers who have the same passion for the profession as I do.



Many thanks go to the owners of the 'model' dogs for their kind cooperation with the intensive preparation required on the lead up to each grooming exam. And of course a 'special' thanks must go to the dogs themselves - so 'thank you' Sammy the West Highland White Terrier, Wellington the Wire Haired Fox Terrier, and Sherbet the Springer Spaniel.

Doggie Humour!

A family's pets were out in the garden: their dog was running around in the enclosed garden, and the cat was walking on top of the fence. The cat says to the dog, *'You know they love me more than they love you, or they'd allow you free from the garden to wander the streets like I do'*. The dog replied, *'No, Kitty, they let you free from the garden because they don't want you to come back'*.

A Look at the Maltese!



The Maltese is one small-breed dog that has captured countless hearts over 28 centuries. Popular as a family dog and as a show dog, these friendly little pooches will likely remain a fashionable pet!

This toy breed was kept by royalty, adored by the Greeks and Egyptians, and is still considered a posh pet today. The Maltese has brilliant white, silky hair that draws lots of attention when grown long to the floor. As a family pet, however, the 'puppy cut' (as pictured above) is much more manageable and easy to maintain.

The mild-mannered Maltese is typically gentle with people, but is also incredibly brave for its small stature. They enjoy lots of play time and affection from their owners, as well.

Maltese dogs require frequent brushing and grooming to maintain their silky hair and clean colour. Depending on their lifestyle, they may need grooming as often as once weekly, though a shorter hairstyle is generally less demanding.

Word Scramble!

Unscramble the letters to reveal a quote on dogs

T	E	H		T	M	S	O

O	F	T	C	E	I	F	A	A	N	T	E

R	E	R	A	T	C	U	E

N	I		T	E	H		L	W	O	D	R

S	I		A		T	E	W		O	G	D

—Ambrose Beirce

(answer on Page 4)

Getting the 'Look' you want for Your Dog...

The easiest way to get the 'look' you want for your dog is by knowing what you want and clearly communicating it. Misunderstandings can be quite common in regards to dog haircuts and styles, just as they are for people having their own hair done up in salons.

The main reason for this is that it's often difficult to accurately describe a look you may have in mind. You know you want the hair to be shorter, for example, but your idea of 'trim it up a bit' might be completely different from a dog groomer's idea.

Don't lose hope, though! There are a couple of things you can do to better communicate your ideas of how you want your dog to look. Firstly, try to find a picture of the style you want for your dog or ask to see photos of different styles for your particular breed.

Then you need to think on the hair length because different blades are used to achieve vastly different hair lengths. For instance, sometimes people ask to have only a few centimetres of hair left on their dog, but are then shocked to see how short that really is! If you're unsure of the measurement, hold the dog's hair between your fingers to show how much hair you want removed.

Most importantly you'll need to consider the state that your dog's coat is in first. If you've been unable to keep their coat maintained through regular brushing and matts have built up in their coat then it's very unlikely that you'll get your dog back in the fluffy long style that you may want. De-matting during grooming is painful and cruel to the dog and just not worth it to achieve a certain look.

Feed back after the grooming appointment is also very important. Your likes and dislikes can be recorded on your dog's record card which will help to ensure that your dog is always left looking the way you want it.

Choosing a Doggie Bone!

Chewing is a favourite pastime of dogs, and is very effective for keeping their teeth clean and healthy. When choosing bones for your dog to chew, here are a few things to keep in mind:

Dog's Size – Most dogs prefer chewing on bones that aren't too big or too small for them to comfortably gnaw and carry around with them.

Safety – Cooked bones from the kitchen can be dangerous to dogs, as they might splinter, so fulfil their chewing needs with dog-approved bones.

Chewing Habits – A softer texture is better for dogs that gnaw gently and have small teeth, whereas a firm and condensed treat is usually better for large, aggressive chewers.

A Summer Gone to the Dogs!

If you're looking for truly special activities to share with your dogs this summer, look into the sports and tasks your dogs were bred to master, and then practise those tasks with them.

For scent hounds, set up a tracking game or play hide and seek to let them put their noses to work. Play lots of fetch with your retrievers, and remember: some retrievers love to fetch toys from the water!

If your dog's a herder, talk with trainers on how to set up a herding activity. Or, maybe see if there is a dog agility team or course near you. Toy herding will do if this isn't possible; what matters to the dog is that they're able to practice their instinctual skills.

Your dog's breed and personality can help you choose the best games for them, so it's really a matter of identifying their strengths and finding activities to suit them.

If you've a mixed-breed dog, try to figure out which of their genetic traits they lean towards, as this will help you choose a game they're naturally inclined to play.

And, of course, you can always enrol them in specialised dog training courses to give them lots of practise and exercise throughout the season.

'Pet of the Month'



This is Toby - he's a Westie and belongs to Debbie Marsh who lives in Bowden, Cheshire. Debbie sent this photo of Toby after he'd had a dip in a muddy stream whilst in the Cotswold's.

Word Scramble Answer:

'The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog'.

Caring for Your Dog's Eyes

Canine eye care is typically left to vets, and for good reason, but there are a few things you can do to prevent some of the common canine eye troubles and protect your dog's eyes.

1) Keep the hair clipped away from your dog's eyes, because long hairs can scratch at their corneas. These hairs also trap moisture in the hair around their eyes, which leads to matting, irritation and discoloration.

2) Use a canine-approved ophthalmic solution or ointment to protect their eyes from soaps and water before they swim or bathe at home.

3) Gently wipe the hair around their eyes with a soft, wet cloth if they've any drainage or buildup on the hair. It's much easier to remove these irritants before they've dried against the skin.

4) Have a thorough look at your dog's eyes regularly, and contact your vet if you see anything abnormal. Eyes are susceptible to infection and injury, especially within certain breeds, but early detection can lessen or eliminate the long-term impact they have on a dog's eye health.

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.

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.