



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

As the dead leaves of winter make way for green growth, blue skies and colourful flowers, spring creates a nice sense of optimism for the warmer, brighter days ahead. It really is so lovely to think that the longer evenings will soon be with us and it'll be so much more pleasant to head out in the evenings with our little four legged friends.

March really is a month for huge change so please take as much time as you can to get out and about to see nature stretch up her arms and reveal her beauty. Have the most wonderful month and I'll speak to you soon.

Joan

Preparing for the Arrival of a Puppy!

Puppies are simply delightful and with lots of love and extra guidance from their owners they can settle into their new lives quite nicely. But, of course, it's not always easy to raise a puppy and, although all dogs thrive from lots of care, they really need heaps of attention and direction during their younger years. As they wean from their mother's milk and care, it's up to us to provide them with all they need for health and happiness.



High-quality puppy foods benefit their **nutritional** needs, and it's important that they never receive dairy milk as a substitute for their mother's. A set feeding schedule can go a long way with **housetraining**, too, as you'll know to take them out soon after they've had each meal—and of course lots of times in between!

Positive reinforcement is helpful in all types of training and is often much more effective than scolding them for bad behaviour. Dogs strive to please their owners, so it's usually a matter of showing them what it is that you expect from them. But because they're naturally driven to some destructive activities, such as **chewing**, it's always good to direct those behaviours towards something harmless and acceptable from the very beginning. Praise them for chewing on their toys, and keep them away from anything that could hurt them, such as electrical wires.

Tired dogs are really the most well behaved dogs, so give them lots of **exercise** each day and praise every little bit of obedience they show you as you work on **obedience commands** afterwards. Many people are concerned that their puppies will cause trouble or be frightened at the groomers, but this is something you can prepare for and prevent in most cases. Play with their paws and gently wet their hair with water to prepare them for **grooming**, and get them in for their first appointment as soon as they're old enough. It's much easier for you, your dog and the groomer if the dog gets used to grooming before getting into a muddy or matted mess!

My Boys 'Big Adventures':
BIRTHDAY BOY



Mum wanted to let you all know that I'm 7 years old on 9th March. She says she doesn't know where the time has gone as it just seems like yesterday when she brought me home from the breeders house when I was 8 weeks old. From day one I earned the nickname 'Thomas the Terror'. I can't see how, as I'm such a good boy although I always know when mum is happy with me as she calls me 'Tommy Tom Tom' but the odd time when I've been naughty and she has to tell me off she shouts THOMAS. This photo was taken a few years ago at Spike Island - I had such a fun day rolling around and playing in the grass with my brothers. I wonder if we'll get to go there again soon - maybe we will on my birthday.

Happy Birthday Thomas - love Mum xx

Best Friends Dog Grooming

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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 that we all love lots, keep them well brushed to remove those knots"

When Dogs Eat Inedible Objects!

Dog owners are often confused when their dogs eat strange and inedible objects, such as feces, carpet, wood, dirt, and rocks. We think they ought to know better than to eat inedible or potentially harmful things, but sometimes this behaviour comes from a condition known as Pica.

Rather than eating an assortment of inedible things, a dog with Pica usually goes after the same inedible object over and over again, be it soap or rubber bands. This behaviour can be incredibly dangerous, as they're not always able to safely digest whatever it is they're eating. Some dogs may vomit or experience diarrhea with it, but it isn't always accompanied by other symptoms.

The causes of this condition vary, and it's widely believed to come from nutritional deficiency, underlying health conditions, or behavioural problems. In puppies, and in some adult dogs, this obsessive behaviour over one inedible object may come from boredom, which can be alleviated with extra exercise.

Some dogs with Pica may benefit from a well-rounded diet, behavioural management plan, or help with an underlying health condition, such as diabetes.

Dog Appreciation!

We sometimes lose sight of the special bond we share with our dogs, and as the days run into weeks and years, we can end up taking them for granted. But because it's so very important to them—and us—that we make the best of our time together, it's a great idea to go look for new and exciting activities to do with your dog.

Some dogs may love to join an agility course, training program, or just to go for a swim. A walk through a new area can be the highlight of a dog's day, too, so it doesn't always take lots of time or innovation to find fun and healthy activities to do with them.

What's important is that you're able to look back on the time you shared with them and think, We really had a great time together! So go on and set aside some time in your schedule for one-on-one activities with your dog, or maybe even try a weekly training or activity time with your dog and the whole family. Each endeavour is one more bit of valuable time spent with your best little friend.

Crufts Is Nearly Here...

Crufts is the world's largest dog show - why not make a visit.

As well as all the different kennel club breeds being shown, there is plenty more to see.

If you are think of getting another dog but can't decide which breed would be best for you, then why not pay a visit to the 'Discover Dogs' section. You can browse around and see lots of different breeds of dogs, and talk to the breeders. Of course, there is so much more to see at Crufts, from shopping until you drop, to watching the many competitions and demonstrations such as agility, flyball, dancing to music, and obedience.

[Thursday 11 March 2010](#) Working & Pastoral

[Friday 12 March 2010](#) Terrier & Hound

[Saturday 13 March 2010](#) Toy & Utility

[Sunday 14 March 2010](#) Gundog

Doors open: 8.15am each day

Show closes: 19.30pm each day

For more information go to
<http://www.crufts.org.uk/>

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! Oscar, a tortoiseshell cat from Rhode Island, USA has predicted the impending deaths of about 50 patients in a New England nursing home over a period of five years. Oscar is typically uninterested in human interaction, according to the Telegraph, but he instinctively curls up with elderly patients in the final hours of their lives. Dr Dosa, who has studied Oscar's uncanny ability, notes that his predictions are often more accurate than those of the staff. Although Oscar's sudden presence may seem a bad omen, his company often comforts the patients and their families—he's even been mentioned in eulogies and obituaries.

! A woman in Wiltshire has rescued a lifeless fish, according to Ananova.com. She blew air into his mouth to resuscitate him and then put him in a tank of water. Boris the goldfish is now alive and well with the Venghaus family.

First Aid for Dogs!

It's normal to feel alarmed when your dog has suddenly fallen ill, got into something dangerous or had a serious accident, especially when you don't know what to do to help them. These emergencies often require veterinary care, but first aid can lessen pain and damage, and even save their lives. Preparing for these emergencies can help you stay calm and focused should they need immediate help. First aid is not a substitute for medical care, though, so it's important that you ring your vet for help as soon as possible.

The goal of first aid is to stabilise the situation, so it's good to keep a few supplies on hand in case your vet instructs you by phone to use them. First aid items include water, sterile cloths, saline solution, a digital thermometer, saline eyewash, Benadryl (for allergic reactions), and peroxide (for some cases of poisoning).

Keep your vet's phone number on hand, and ring them immediately, especially if you see your dog drinking or licking a chemical, poisonous food or medication. Let the vet know exactly what the substance was and they should be able to advise if you should induce vomiting or take them in for medical care. Whatever you do don't wait to see if your dog has any symptoms before ringing the vet. Just like in humans the sooner that they are treated the better their chances are.

Use caution when approaching an injured dog, because they may become aggressive from pain or fear—you may also need to muzzle them to apply first aid and get them to a vet safely.

Common first aid procedures include:

- * Applying pressure with a sterile cloth to reduce blood flow from a wound. However be very careful if the wound has been caused by glass, as there may be some glass still in the wound.
- * Flushing fire and chemical burns with cool water.
- * Gently placing them in a blanket or on a hard surface for transport if you suspect broken bones.
- * Keeping them warm if they go into shock.
- * Wiping the stomach, armpits and neck with cool water for heat stroke.

The variety of emergency situations can make it difficult to prepare yourself for anything that may arise, but it's good to look over such procedures and to learn about CPR for dogs, too—it can really make a difference in the event of unfortunate circumstances.

Reminder!

A daily brushing does wonders for your dog's skin and coat, and it's an excellent way to spend some quality time with them. For best results, go for brushes that suit the texture and thickness of your dog's hair, and get into those hidden spots!

Doggy Humour!

Mrs Smith dropped by her neighbour's home to tell him she saw his dog out chasing a young boy on a skateboard. When she asked what he planned to do about the dog's rotten behaviour, he turned to her and said, *"Well I know for a fact that my Rufus wasn't out doing such things—he doesn't know how to ride a skateboard!"*

A Look at Golden Retrievers

The golden retriever got its start over 100 years ago in the Scottish Highlands, and is now one of the many popular breeds among dog owners.



A look at their traits, skills and overall needs can provide some insight to these gorgeous dogs.

Although they were originally bred for hunting, golden retrievers also do search and rescue, and serve as seeing-eye dogs. They're widely known for their pleasant and friendly temperament, and they've often got quite the charismatic facial expressions.

Retrievers benefit from lots of exercise and from activities that entertain their high level of intelligence. They are unfortunately prone to a few health conditions, such as cataracts and joint problems, so it's important to be on the lookout for such things.

Keeping the thick coat in tiptop shape is usually a matter of monthly grooming, but this can vary by the dog. A good daily brushing helps control the shedding and can prevent mats from forming in their coats.

Quiz

Can you match the dog breed to its place of origin?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chihuahua | A. Cuba |
| 2. Saint Bernard | B. England |
| 3. Basenji | C. Afghanistan |
| 4. Havanese | D. Mexico |
| 5. Beagle | E. Central Africa |
| 6. Afghan Hound | F. Egypt |
| 7. Dachshund | G. Switzerland |
| 8. Saluki | H. Germany |

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QUOTE- BEST FRIENDS DOG GROOMING FOR A 5% DISCOUNT

'Pet of the Month'



This is Poppy - she's a Westie and belongs to Louise Ledward who lives in Runcorn. This is Poppy just 2 days after she been groomed by at 'Best Friends'. Louise told me that she found her like this after she disappeared in the garden for 20 minutes!

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 their mind they're just guarding your home!

! 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.

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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.

Answer To Quiz:
1. D 2. G 3. E 4. A 5. B 6. C 7. H 8. F

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

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