



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

I know it's hard to believe that another issue of this newsletter is out already. It seems like only five minutes ago that I was getting the last one out. I guess that's what's good about being busy – you never get bored!

Anyway, how did you enjoy Easter? I hope you had time to have a nice break and to spend some time with family and friends. I think it's really important to do that, plus it's good to get the batteries recharged from time to time, don't you think?

So summer is coming. Isn't it wonderful? I think it's going to be a great summer this year. I'm looking forward to warm summer evenings, barbecues and just good old fashioned outdoor fun. I feel excited and reinvigorated just thinking about it!

Anyway, back to the present. In this month's issue, I've given you the usual mix of useful tips and helpful articles. I think you might particularly enjoy the 'Dogs in the News' section this month. There are some really heartwarming stories there.

It's also the time of year when we see many dogs with fleas, so I've included an article, which should help if your dog is unlucky enough to get them.

Please remember to share your thoughts and ideas about this newsletter, as I love getting your feedback. Let me know if you like the articles and find them useful and interesting. That way I'll know what to keep doing and what to change to make it even better for you. And please do pass the newsletter to someone you know once you've finished with it. You'd be really helping me, and your friends will appreciate it as well.

As always, thank you so much for reading. Speak to you soon.

Joan

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My Boys 'Big Adventures':

'BIRTHDAY BOY'



Hey mum, how do you like my best 'show pose'? Reckon I could win Crufts, but seeing that I turned 10 years old on 30th April I guess I'm just a tad too old for running around a show ring. Best stick to what I like to do best - rolling in fox poo ...

"The best way to get a puppy is to beg for a baby brother - and they'll settle for a puppy every time." ~ Winston Pendelton

Fascinating Facts about Dogs:

! On average, taking account of all the various sizes, mixed breed dogs live, on average, 1 year longer than purebred dogs.

! Dog breeds that tend to live the longest include Toy Poodles, Border Terriers, and Tibetan Spaniels.

! Dachshunds were originally bred for fighting badgers.

! Bernese Mountain Dogs were first used as farm dogs to draft sheep and cattle in the Swiss Alps. Remarkable given the huge size of the breed!

! Sexual maturity in both male and female dogs tends to happen between 6 & 12 months of age. Although in some large breeds, it can take up to 2 years.

"This is my dog you can shout aloud, we make them gorgeous so you can be proud!"

Rainbow Bridge!

In March I received an unexpected phone call from the daughter of Honey's owner. She had phoned to tell me that Honey had passed away but her mum was too upset to tell me, which was totally understandable. Honey was an elderly dog and it was her time to cross over to Rainbow Bridge. She was such a special little dog and loved her owner so much that as soon as I'd finished grooming her she would wait patiently by the gate until she arrived to take her home. Her owner phoned me a few days later when she felt strong enough to talk about Honey's passing. Here is Honey waiting for her owner to come collect her - isn't she just gorgeous. As usual I've given her owner a couple of photos of her to keep and to look back on.



New Puppies!

Although it's always sad when we lose our 'best friend', life goes on as they say. Therefore, I thought you'd like to see a selection of puppies that are quickly becoming regular visitors to my grooming cabin. I hope to be grooming them all for a long time to come!

A puppy's first visit is kept to a maximum of 15 minutes. This is to allow them to get used to the grooming environment without overwhelming or scaring them. We trim their nails, sanitary area and around their eyes and ears. Their next visit will be slightly longer and will gradually increase until they are comfortable with staying for a full groom.



Roxie



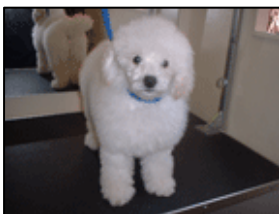
Benji

Amber



Daisy

Billy



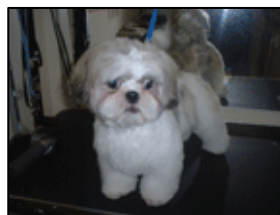
Flossie

Jazz



Oscar

Taz



Dogs in the News!

! A cat in China has adopted two puppies and is now teaching them how to catch mice. According to Ananova.com, the cat, who had recently given birth to three kittens of her own, took over the caring duties of the two orphaned puppies. Their mother had died while giving birth to them.

The pets' owner says that the cat is looking after the pups very well. "Each day she feeds them and is showing them how to pounce from behind the sofa and it's clear that she's teaching them how to hunt mice."

Unfortunately, the two little canines lack the agility and speed needed to copy their feline foster family.

! A pet dog has been found alive and safe after being lost at sea for four months. According to the BBC, an Australian cattle dog, Sophie Tucker, was lost overboard on a sailing holiday off the northeast Queensland coast. She somehow managed to swim to a deserted island and she survived for four months on a diet of baby goats. Visiting rangers found Sophie and reunited her with her ecstatic owners.

"She surprised us all," said Mrs Griffith. "She was a house dog and look what she's done, she has swum over five nautical miles, she has managed to live off the land all on her own. We wish she could talk, we truly do."

! A desperate UK dog owner has used social networking to help raise £10,000 to save the life of her Great Dane. According to the Daily Mail, Sorrel Porteous started a campaign on Facebook, as she desperately needed funds to pay for a lifesaving operation for her dog, Bear. Six-year-old Bear was diagnosed with a severely twisted spleen and a major heart problem that could have killed him. The campaign helped raise the money needed in just a few weeks.

Mrs Porteous said, "The response was full-on and we were inundated with phone calls. I felt absolutely devastated when he fell ill - he was my companion by my side wherever I went. I would have sold my house if I needed to."

Her husband, David, 40, added, "Bear is like a child to Sorrel. The two of them are inseparable and I sometimes think she loves the dog more than me."

Bear is now on his way to a full recovery thanks to his great owners and his social networking friends.

Dew Claws on Hind Legs!

I recently received an e-mail from one of my clients, and the owner of Millie a Cocker Spaniel. Millie has dew claws on both hind legs and somehow got one caught or may be it turned or folded backwards, causing extreme pain and bleeding, so she ended up at the vets having it bandaged. Here is a photo of Millie with her 'sore paw' looking very sorry for herself.



Most dogs have dew claws on the inside of the front legs, but occasionally they also appear on either one or both hind legs. Sometimes the dew claws on the hind legs are only attached by a flap of skin making them very sensitive to the touch, and susceptible to injury as happened in Millie's case. If your dog has dew claws on their hind legs then please check them on a regular basis to ensure that the claws and surrounding skin is healthy and normal.

I always check for back dew claws when a new dog first comes for grooming and mark their card accordingly. Then at every subsequent visit they are checked for signs of injury, and if needed the nail is cut back to a reasonable length.

Sad, but True!

In some parts of the world where predatory animals live, such as wolves, coyotes, tigers or leopards, dogs end up becoming a food source for them.

- * In Croatia, wild predators kill more dogs than they do sheep.
- * In Russia, wolves frequently attack and actually control the number of feral dogs.
- * In Wisconsin, USA, paid compensation for dogs lost to predatory animals is higher than that of livestock.
- * And in some parts of India, hyenas kill many village dogs in remote areas.

Did You Know!

Male dogs frequently sniff and urinate while out walking, as it's a form of communication with other dogs. Their urine contains pheromones that tell other dogs if they're male or female. It also reveals their dominance and what stage they are at during their reproductive cycle, if they're female.

Females only tend to scent mark during their season. But males try to communicate as much information about themselves as they can, as often as they can. Dogs that live in the country tend to scent mark less than those in towns do.

Why Dog Grooming is Not Like Hairdressing!

Dog grooming and hairdressing may seem similar (it's all about haircuts, right?), but they differ greatly from one another, which is why you may notice differences in price and the amount of time it takes.

Here's a little list of the big differences between hairdressing and dog grooming.

* Firstly, when you go to a hairdresser you know exactly what to expect, so you're rarely apprehensive. Your dog, however, may not be so sure of what is happening when he comes in for grooming. Therefore, it's really important that we take the time to be as gentle as possible to avoid any unnecessary stress.

* Every part of your dog needs to be washed thoroughly, but your hairdresser only needs to wash the hair on your head!

* You no doubt wash your own hair every few days but it's usually 8 weeks or more since your dog's last wash. So it requires good technique, quality shampoos and above all the time to thoroughly clean its coat.

* We cut your dog's nails, clean wax and dirt from his ears and boogies from his eyes - services that hairdressers are unlikely to provide!

* Many hairdressers offer hair waxing for eyebrows, upper lip, and the "bikini area". Our version of the "bikini wax" (which is included in the service) includes shaving around the private areas of your pet. This sometimes requires removing fur-matted excrement – not a pleasant task! But our focus is not only on style, but also the health, safety and welfare of your pet.

* Hairdressers can dry your hair quickly. Although dogs' coats come in various lengths and density, most require significant time and physical labor to get them completely dry. A thick undercoat can act like a sponge!

* It's likely that you sit very still for your hairdresser, but it's seldom that dogs do so for us! It requires a high level of patience and specific skills for us to safely groom dogs of all energy levels.

* In the hairdressers you follow direction of where to sit, how to bend and when to move etc. Whereas dogs must be lifted onto the table, carried to the bath and moved when required. This is physically intensive work, which in some cases means lifting pretty heavy dogs!

* Scratches, bites and cleaning up little accidents are a common daily occurrence for dog groomers. Your hairdresser is unlikely to face these problems or at least we hope not!

As you can see, grooming differs greatly from hairdressing so you'll understand why they cannot be compared with each other!

Fleas - It's Their Time of Year!

In some countries and areas, fleas can be present all year round but they do prefer warmer, humid conditions. Therefore, with the rise in temperature as we move from Spring to Summer, there is always an increase of flea infestation on pets at this time of the year.

Many people feel a little embarrassed about the presence of fleas on their pets or believe that only dirty, unwashed pets get fleas. This is definitely not the case. Any pet, no matter how well looked after, can pick up Fleas if the right precautions are not taken. Your pet can get fleas from just being close to another infested animal or an area where an infested animal spends a lot of time. Therefore, your pet could easily get fleas from outside in the garden where animals such as hedgehogs, rabbits, squirrels or badgers have been. Even meeting another pet while in a park or out for a walk can allow fleas to easily transfer from one pet to another.

While fleas do not have wings and cannot fly, their powerful legs allow them to take huge leaps. In fact, they can jump over 300mm, which is over 100 times their body length. This also allows them to easily transfer from a pet's bed, onto their body and back again. Fleas live on and suck the blood of any warm-blooded creature so they can and do transfer onto humans as well.

The signs that your pet has fleas are quite obvious. Sustained and obsessive scratching is the most obvious. This is due to the itching caused as the flea bites into and sucks the blood from your pet's skin.

Another sign is a layer of dusty, ash type substance on your pet's coat or bed. Although fleas are hard to see, if you look closely at your pet's skin you will be able to see them. They are between 1.5 and 3.5mm long.

To prevent fleas from getting on your pet in the first place, it's important to use a regular flea treatment, such as a 'Spot-on' treatment. But when a pet has already become infested, you should first bathe your dog with flea control shampoo. This will kill the immediate infestation. You must then wait 3 days before applying a spot-on treatment because it requires bodily oils to transfer throughout the fur.

Please note, washing a pet in ordinary shampoo will not get rid of fleas. Plus, even washing your pet in a flea shampoo will not prevent them from catching fleas again. For every flea that's on your pet there will be many more in and around your home and where your pet sleeps. So it's also vital that you treat your pet's bed and areas where they spend a lot of time. Also check your other pets and around your garden for signs of wild animal nests or areas where fleas might be coming from.

Also, wash all bedding in hot water to eliminate fleas and eggs and thoroughly vacuum your floors and furniture. Be sure to immediately discard the vacuum bag because fleas can crawl back out of your vacuum cleaner.

If your pet has also been in contact with your neighbour's pets it may also be a good idea to speak to them as well.

Where Do They Come From?

Can you match these dog breeds to the countries they originally came from? Answers are on the back page.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Red Setter | A. Scotland |
| 2. Labrador | B. Croatia |
| 3. Basset Hound | C. Canada |
| 4. Bearded Collie | D. China |
| 5. Boxer | E. England |
| 6. Chow Chow | F. Germany |
| 7. Dalmation | G. Ireland |
| 8. Jack Russell | H. France |

May – The Month When Summer Begins!

With May comes another change of the seasons from Spring to Summer. The warmer weather is just great as it makes everything so much more pleasant. The gardens and countryside look so lovely as the warm sunshine starts to perform her magic on everything.

May also has lots of historical importance. Many events occurred in May. Here's a few of interesting ones:

3rd May - 1494 Christopher Columbus first spots the America's (Jamaica).

5th May - 1818 Napoleon died.

6th May - 1840 The world's first postage stamp, the 'Penny Black' stamp, became valid for use in the UK.

6th May - 1954 Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes.

8th May - 1945 VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

10th May - 1994 Nelson Mandela became the President of South Africa.

15th May - 1970 The Beatles' last LP, Let It Be, is released.

29th May - 1953 Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

29th May - 1917 John F. Kennedy was born.

'Pet of the Month'



This is Temena - she's a Shih Tzu and belongs to Dona Sutton who lives in Runcorn. She told me that this photo shows her just waking up and finding that she's not too sure who's bed she's in ...

"A dog can express more with his tail in seconds than his owner can express with his tongue in hours"

~ Author Unknown

My Dog Keeps Jumping up on People!

It always happens when your friends or family come round with their best clothes on! Your dog has just been wallowing in the dirtiest, wettest part of the garden, sees your friends and decides it's time for a hug. Or worse, he does it to strangers in the park! What can you do? You're left embarrassed and desperately apologising and they're left with a new muddy stain on their nice clothes!

Well this is something that needs correction. Not only can it cause you embarrassment, but an over-exuberant dog can cause fear in many people. Also, the legal implications need to be thought about if he happens to knock someone over and hurts them.

Like everything with your dog he needs training and management so that he learns that jumping up is unacceptable behaviour. This starts with making sure that your dog fully complies with your command to 'Leave' and returns to you when instructed. If they understand and adhere to this command then you will have the control needed to then teach him to stop jumping up on people. As always, talk to a knowledgeable and reputable trainer before training your dog.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for putting your trust in me to groom your little friend. I always strive to reward your trust and please know that I never take you or the business you continue to give me for granted.

Should I ever fail to meet your expectations please do let me know. Thank you.

Please Pass it On!

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.

8E

7B

6D

5F

4A

3H

2C

1G

Answers
to Quiz

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

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