**Your FREE monthly Newsletter from:** August 2010

# Pawcasso

Professional Cat & Dog Grooming

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

Hello again and a warm welcome to you and your dogs. Speaking of warm, it's been quite a warm summer so far and it's likely that August will be the warmest month of the year. That's great for us but our dogs can really suffer in the heat. So in this issue there's a lot on keeping our dogs cool and comfortable in the hot weather.

Dogs are more susceptible to exhaustion and heat stroke in the latter end of summer. They can't always access shady areas, and their natural methods of cooling down aren't as efficient as ours. Imagine sweating only through your feet and having to breathe harder to lower your body temperature!

Fortunately, it's usually easy to prevent any heat-related troubles. Here are a few tips on keeping them safe and comfortable this August:

**1.** Before travelling consider if it's really necessary to take your dog with you on a hot day. It might be nice to think that your dog will love playing with you on the beach. But if they have to suffer the heat of the car to get there and back they might just be as happy playing in the garden at home. If you must take your dog along in your car, keep the windows opened wide for fresh air circulation. Dogs literally cook when left in cars so don't leave them there unattended for more than a minute, and never leave them in with the windows closed.

**2.** Play with them and take them for walks in the early morning or evening when the temperatures are lower.

**3.** Be sure they always have access to fresh water. If you'll be away from home for a bit, try leaving a few ice cubes in their water dish. This keeps the water cold but is also a treat to those who love chewing ice.

**4.** Provide a shady or cool area for them, especially if they'll be outdoors. Trees or a canopy gives shelter from sunlight, and a hard surface such as tile flooring can be a cool resting area. If you notice your dog digging lots of holes in the garden this time of year, they're likely turning into the earth for a cool and cosy place to relax.

**5.** Have them groomed regularly to rid of excess hair and any mats. You may also want to keep their hair clipped, though it depends on the breed and their living situation.

These simple precautions can make all the difference with a dog's comfort and wellbeing in summertime weather. So go on and have lots of fun with them before autumn arrives, but stay on the lookout for anything that could make warm weather a bit easier on them.

*Morag & Star. XXX*

*Please see page 4 for additional information on what to watch for and do if your dog is at risk of heat exhaustion.*


# Pawcasso Grooming

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## Inside this Issue:


- To Shave or Not to Shave
- A Look at the Basset Hound!
- Recognising Heat Stroke
- Breaking the Territorial Bark


## A Wonderful World of Animals!

**!** A dog in China has been nursing a kitten along with her own pups. Li Dajie bought the kitten soon before her dog gave birth to a litter and, according to *Orange News*, the dog and kitten 'quickly became inseparable.'

The dog allows the kitten to nurse from her while the pups are suckling, and the kitten is growing rapidly!

**!** A couple in West Sussex raised a seagull that seems to think he's a cat. Mr and Mrs Grimwood found the seagull in their fireplace a few years ago and hand reared him because he'd been abandoned.

The seagull eats cat food alongside the Grimwoods' pet cats, according to *Orange News*, and has become good friends with the felines. However, now that he's older, he's living on their roof with a female.

## Did You Know?

*A dog's nose print is as unique as a human's fingerprint.

*The name Fido for dogs originated from the Latin word for 'fidelity'.

*The most popular names for male dogs are Max and Jake, and for females they are Maggie and Molly.

PET CARE TRUST supporting pets and their care

BRITISH DOG GROOMERS ASSOCIATION

City & Guilds Qualified

We are approved members of the Pet Care Trust and British Dog Groomers Association. So you can have peace of mind knowing that while your dog is in our care it will be groomed to the highest standard and will be given the greatest level of care at all times.

*"Washed and brushed and left beautifully clean, when you're out for a walk you'll love them being seen!"*

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## An Update From Cindy!

Hi, my name is Cindy. I've been working in Pawcasso Cat and Dog Grooming Salon since February 2007 but stopped for a while last year. Now, here I am again and very glad to be back to the world of grooming small, mostly friendly furry animals.

Sometimes our job can be very frustrating when our little friends aren't so friendly. Just like people, they also have their down moments, but just one kiss and a wag of a tail is all I need to make it all worthwhile. Then, all of the frustrations go out of the window. A lot of my friends keep asking me why I love this job when every time they see me I have a fresh scratch or bite. I'm still looking for a logical answer to that question. Maybe it is a definition of love.

Some of you may have experienced waiting in the shop for your pets to be finished being groomed and might have overheard me telling silly jokes. Please forgive me, it's solely meant for a good laugh. Don't we all need some good laughter to let a hard day go by? But I must admit, when I am happy inside me, I let people know it.

I'm looking forward to see you in the shop with your waggy tailed little babies, even the ones that aren't so little.

Love, Cindy.

## SMILE!!!

These pictures were sent to me by Lorna MacKenzie. Cute eh? Don't animals always amaze you?

**MORE AMAZING ANIMAL PHOTOS.**

## NEWSLETTER

We are always trying to improve things at Pawcasso. So if anyone has any ideas on how to improve the newsletter or any novel or unique ideas please pass them on. It's your newsletter so unless we get photos or funny stories it is all one sided. Please, please send us info for future issues to save it becoming stagnant.

We want to know if...

- Your pet has a funny habit
- Does silly things
- Is a PAT dog or works in the voluntary sector
- Has had puppies
- Raises money for charity.
- Is agile and takes part in agility, training etc..
- Has an illness that you can help others with
- Just is so special..
- How did you get your pet? Are they rescued?
- Recommend catteries, vets, kennels
- Recommend animal friendly holidays
- Your favourite walks
- Do you take your pet to work??
- Are you selling or giving away free and pet products?

AND anything else that you can share with others.
Thanks

## Recognising Symptoms of Heat Stroke

Taking precautions against the August heat is only half the battle, as some dogs will still overexert themselves or are more susceptible to heat exhaustion than others are.

Large and short-nosed breeds typically have the most trouble coping with hot weather.

If you're out with your dog and they are panting heavily or feel warm to the touch, move them into the shade for some rest. If possible and if symptoms worsen, wet their neck, stomach and armpits with cool water.

The more serious symptoms to watch for include tongue swelling, dry or pale gums, listlessness, vomiting and diarrhoea.

If you suspect that your dog is suffering exhaustion or heat stroke, it's critical that you cool them down and get them in to see a veterinarian as soon as possible. Left untreated, the condition can worsen and is sometimes fatal.

While it's always good to be prepared in case an emergency arises, the most important thing to remember is that *prevention* is usually sufficient for keeping dogs healthy and comfortable throughout the warmest season.

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## Doggy Humour!

A group of children were outside playing together when a fire truck flew past them. In the front seat of the truck was a Dalmatian. The children started talking about the dog's duties.

'They use him to keep the crowds back from the fire,' said one of the children.

'No, he's only there for good luck,' said another.

The third child ended the argument. 'They use dogs,' she said firmly, 'to find the fire hydrant.'

## To Shave or Not to Shave

That is the question if your dog's looking miserable in their heavy coat this summer. The answer may surprise you, though.

We often think of a dog's coat in the same way we think of our own coats. We can't imagine wearing a wool coat on a summer afternoon, and so we assume that our dogs must be roasting beneath all their hair.

But, that's not necessarily the case, and the decision to clip all their hair off should not be taken lightly.

A dog's coat protects their skin from the sun and other outdoor elements, while also insulating them against both hot and cold weather. So they may be more susceptible to sunburns, skin cancer, and heat exhaustion if they're mostly outdoors without their coats.

Moreover, the coats of certain double-coated and longhaired breeds are never quite the same after they've been clipped.

That is not to say you shouldn't have your dog trimmed or clipped, though.

A good trimming will remove shaggy hair and, depending on the breed, a full clip can be both stylish and practical. The ultimate goal is to keep them in a well-maintained coat, which promotes air circulation and healthy skin regardless of the hair length or thickness.

Unless a close shave is necessary due to severe matting or a skin condition, it's best to think on these factors and talk it over with your groomer before committing to full coat removal.

## A Look at the Basset Hound!

The Basset hound originated in France in the 1500s, moved on to England in the 1800s, and is now one of the most recognisable dog breeds. Its short legs, long ears and sorrowful expression form a classic look that's adored by many.

The Basset hound is second to the Bloodhound in its ability to trail a scent and was bred for tracking small game with hunters.

In spite of their sluggish appearance, they're quite active on the trail and keep their owners moving when taken out for their walks.

Basset hounds tend to get along well with other dogs and are obedient companions. Perhaps the most charming aspect of the breed is its calm and friendly temperament.

But because they love to sleep and are prone to obesity, it's important to take them out often for walks and tracking activities. Monthly grooming is usually adequate for keeping their coats nice and healthy, but they may get into messes when following a scent!

## One More Reason to Have a Dog!

People who own dogs tend to live longer and are less likely to have heart attacks than those who do not. And, believe it or not, pet ownership is linked to decreased stress levels!

## Word Search

Find the hidden dog breeds listed below!

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BULLDOG VIZSLA CORGI KOMONDOR

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Castlebrae Veterinary Clinic, Dumbarton:
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## 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.

## Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you every month so that I can give a little bit extra back to you. The content has been carefully selected in order to provide you with the best possible information. Hopefully you find it entertaining and useful.

Much of the information and articles have been sourced from a Dog Grooming publication company and it is strictly copyright protected. So I'm afraid it can't be copied or re-used. If you are ever given a newsletter from another groomer with similar information and articles, I'd be grateful if you'd let me know.

## Breaking the Territorial Bark

Last month's issue of the newsletter contained an overview on breaking problematic barking. As noted there, it's helpful to identify the reasons why a dog barks uncontrollably before attempting to break the behaviour.

One of the reasons a dog may do this is from an urge to guard and protect their territory. This is usually the case when a dog barks relentlessly at people or animals that approach the owner's property.

Territorial barking can be a good thing, of course, as it's comforting to know that your dog will likely scare intruders away. However, if you're unable to make them stop barking when you're welcoming someone to your home, it can be really frustrating.

If your dog does this and you'd like them to stop, try teaching them to 'speak' and 'be quiet.' With lots of tasty treats in hand, invite someone to approach your home and command your dog to 'speak.' Give them a treat for barking, and repeat this exercise until your dog speaks on command.

Practise the 'quiet' command afterward. Hold a treat to their nose while they're barking, say 'quiet,' and give them the treat the second they stop barking. By practising this routinely with positive reinforcement your dog will quickly learn to stop barking when told.

## Get This Newsletter Every Month!

To continue providing you with information, help and a little bit of fun about cats & dogs, we publish this newsletter at the beginning of every month. There will always be a copy available for you. So, in a month that's between your appointments please drop in to pick one up (it'll be nice to catch up as well). Or if you'd like your newsletter emailed to you every month just leave me your email address or request your newsletter by sending me an email. Once you're on my list I'll send you a copy every month.

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

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