

Pawcassö

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!

Happy New Year!

Hello again and a huge happy new year to you all. We hope you got over the festive season without too much trouble and we hope Santa was ever so good to you!

Wow! 2009 is here already. Gosh didn't last year go quickly? we suppose this year will be no different. In no time at all the daffodils will be out, the nights will start stretching and we'll soon be turning our thoughts to summer again.

Wonder what 2009 will hold for us all. Will it be a year of doom and gloom that they're all predicting or will it spring forth opportunities, happiness and excitement? Guess none of us really know the answer to that but we do think we all have a big part to play in how it turns out for ourselves. We always like to go into a new year positively because its much better being an optimist who sometimes gets it wrong than a pessimist who always gets it right!

One thing you can be sure of for 2009 is that we will be trying my best to continue to give you and your little barking buddy the best service we can.

So all the very, very best for 2009 and keep trying hard with those New Year resolutions – this year we think you're going to keep them!

Morag, Lyn, Sandra,
Cindy, Kenny, Ren &
Ellenor and of course Star.

XXX

Amazing Dog Stories from 2008!

! A beautiful 3-year-old white German Shepherd named Luna traveled the 2,178 mile Appalachian Trail along with her owner Loduska Patel. The journey across the United States from Georgia to Maine began in March and took seven months for the pair to complete.

! In October Kyra, a Komondor, gave birth to a record litter of nine puppies which boosted the UK population of this rare breed by 25%. According to dreamdogs.co.uk there are now forty-nine in this country, an increase from forty. The Komondor's distinctive 'dreadlock' style hair makes them the world's hairiest dogs.

! David Roach from East Finchley, London has Viagra to thank for saving his dogs life. According to Ananova.com Bentley was suffering from heart failure when vet Ben Harris administered Viagra. The treatment worked and while Bentley, a neutered male, will be on the drug continuously there are no obvious side effects.

! In May an Austrian man's life was saved by his pet Labrador. Albert Hoffman had fallen from a tree while hunting birds and had sustained a punctured lung and severe back injuries. He was unable to move so he instructed his dog to fetch his mobile phone from his rucksack. The faithful companion obeyed the instruction and the injured man was able to phone for help. According to the emergency services, it was quite possible that Mr Hoffman would have died if it had not been for the obedience of his dog.

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"If dogs could talk, it would take a lot of the fun out of owning one."

~Andy Rooney

More Fascinating Facts about Dogs:

- ! The Lundehund, a Norweigen breed, has 6 toes, can close its ears and can bend its head backwards along its spine!
- ! Brazil is widely believed to have the second highest dog population in the world with approximately 30 million dogs. The UK has around 7.3 million.
- ! Dogs can be trained to detect epileptic seizures in humans.
- ! Brandy, a four-year-old female Chihuahua is believed to be the smallest dog in the world. She is 15.2 cm (6 inches) long, weighs just 2lbs and is around the height of a coke can.
- ! Chocolate contains a substance known as theobromine which can kill a dog.

Pawcasso Grooming

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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.



**City & Guilds
Qualified**

"Man's best friend is what we hear, so how will we treat them this New Year"

Meet the Pawcasso Staff!

Over the next few issues we will be introducing all the staff at Pawcasso and giving you some insight into why we chose and love to work with animals. As I am the guinea pig (as usual) I will start it off.

I'm Morag Brown, (that's me in the photo below with my dog Star). I'm the business owner and Groomer and I've always loved all sorts of animals. Don't know where it came from as neither of my parents were obsessed with animals. I had a couple of dogs when I was growing up and my aunt owned a cat. I was always bringing home waifs and strays and still do to this day! Mum always found me helping out with the donkeys and ponies on holiday. She nearly disowned me when I bought a mouse at school and hid it in a box in the bedroom. Needless to say she found it pretty darned soon and the whole house had to be taken apart to find it behind a boxed up fireplace. Being a daddy's girl I was allowed to keep it, much to my Mum's dismay. I can still close my eyes and hear her screams.

My previous career was in Office Management. I worked for 23 years in Royal Mail in various jobs. I obtained an HNC in Computers and later qualified as a Member of the Institute of Management Services. I was the first woman Industrial Engineer in Scotland in the company – of which I was very proud. But my yearning to work with animals was taking over and I decided to move on.

Over the years my love of animals had deepened. My husband (of 26 years) Kenny's Aunt Jean had a cattery and I became hooked on Cats. Once I got my own first cat Snuggles there was no going back. I became a volunteer for the Cats Protection League and I was a home visitor, helped with cleaning out runs and fundraising. This gave me lots of experience handling cats. I later became involved in a new local charity called Catflap and again was a home visitor, helped trap and catch stray cats with Kenny and did a lot of fundraising. I really enjoyed this. In 2001 I took Voluntary redundancy and bought Pawcasso.



Morag and my Star enjoying a boat trip.

Meet the staff continued.....

There have been huge changes since then, from the immediate installation of Stainless Steel cages for the animals, to air conditioning for the summer months. It took several years to build up a good solid business with a great reputation. Customers come to us from all over the Glasgow, the West of Scotland and Islands. This gives me great job satisfaction.

In April 2006 we totally refurbished the shop and I have made major investments in top of the range, specialist tools and equipment to ensure that we are always providing the best quality of service, welfare and comfort for animals in our care.

I joined the Petcare Trust, British Dog Grooming Association and Federation of Small Businesses to keep abreast of any changes in the Industry. I am now part of a Groomers forum which is dedicated to improving the grooming industry and this year became fully qualified when I achieved the Advanced City & Guild 7750 Qualifications. Myself, and all Pawcasso staff are qualified in Animal First Aid. We are committed to continual learning and we are all at different stages of training.

I have been a Member of the Bearsden Dog Training club for five years and recently qualified as a Dog Training Instructor after a very intensive year long course at Alexandria. This training was very rewarding and I now take classes. I can also use this experience in dealing with difficult dogs in the salon and giving advice to customers on basic obedience.

Star and I are a good team and we are hopefully going to pass our Advanced class with a bit of luck. We are also part of a very new Dog Display team which is hard work but fun.

All this business and animal experience has helped me in the running of my own successful business. Hard work has paid off and I now have a vast database of satisfied customers. I recommend customers to book early as we can have a waiting time of up to two weeks for an appointment. We prefer quality not quantity.

***Pet Welfare is our Top Priority.
You can trust Pawcasso to treat
your pet with respect and leave
them in safe hands***

Hope to see you and your furry friend in the Salon soon.
Morag

Why does my dog chew everything!

If your dog chews everything in sight, especially your most valuable possessions then you'll be well aware of the destruction it can cause.

So why does he chew? Here are five possible reasons:

Puppy Teething – Puppy teething normally happens between the ages of 3 – 7 months when their adult teeth are coming through.

A need for attention – Some dogs learn that they get a reaction from you if they start chewing at something. If you chase them around the room trying to get back your remote they think it's a game.

Boredom – Dogs need a lot of mental and physical stimulation especially in their adolescent years. Working breeds such as Springer's and Border Collies tend to get bored very easily and turn to destructive chewing.

An unhealthy diet – All dogs need to be fed a well balanced diet for their age and weight. If some nutrients are missing in their diet dogs may chew to try to compensate for these.

Separation Anxiety – Some dogs may not cope well with being left alone. The stress this causes may lead them to start destructive chewing.

So how do you stop them chewing everything?

- Firstly and most obviously is to remove all possible valuable objects from their reach.
- Make sure they have lots of tough, exciting toys to play with. Things like Kongs where you can stuff treats (low fat of course) inside the toy. These are a great way to keep their mind occupied for hours.
- The important thing with toys is that you play with them as well. This makes it much more fun for the dog.
- Also try giving them good quality chews such as rawhides or roasted bones.
- For puppies try taking an old rag, tie a few knots in it, wet it and stick it in the freezer for a few hours. It's inexpensive and the puppy will really love the cooling effect it has on his sore gums.
- Make sure your dog is well exercised and if he loves playing make sure you give him some time to have fun with you. Exercise is especially important if you are intending to leave them alone for a long period.
- When leaving your dog at home try putting an old unwashed jumper or shirt in their bed. Your scent from the jumper will be comforting to them.
- Teach them the right things to chew by rewarding them with lots of praise when they chew a toy or haven't chewed anything they shouldn't.

"One reason a dog can be such a comfort is that when you're feeling blue he doesn't try to find out why" ~ Author Unknown

Why should you brush your dog between appointments?

While your dogs coat will be 'shiny 'n' clean' and in great condition when it leaves the salon, its not going to stay that way if its not regularly brushed. But the importance of brushing your dogs coat isn't just about keeping them looking pretty and nice – there are also more important reasons:

It keeps the coat Matt free.

Your dogs coat will easily tangle up and form matt's if not brushed regularly, just like our own hair would be. If matts are not removed they will get worse and can even cause irritation or hot spots on your dog's skin. A heavily matted coat will have to be clipped off at the next grooming appointment as the pain it would cause the dog to remove the matt's then would simply be unacceptable. But regular and correct brushing of your dog's coat will remove matts at an early stage leaving the coat clean and clear of debris and knots.

It helps to keep a healthy, shiny coat.

Regular brushing also encourages the natural oils to spread throughout the coat leaving it shiny and healthy.

It lets you keep an eye on your dog's health.

Getting up close and personal with your dog during brushing allows you check for any problems your dog may have. Things like cuts, lumps, ticks or fleas may not otherwise be seen through a heavy coat and spotting them early will save a lot of discomfort and pain for your dog.

It will enhance the bond with your dog.

Regular brushing helps strengthen your friendship with your dog and keeps them used to being handled and brushed. Plus it'll also make them feel great so they'll love you even more.

Different coats require different levels of brushing and even short haired dogs should be brushed regularly as well. Normally however, the more regularly you brush the coat the easier and quicker the job will be. We'd be more than happy to talk you through this and help you with your dog's coat. Just give us a call.

Pawcasso reaches £2,000 for Charities.

We are delighted that we have raised £2,026 for local animal charities since we opened. This is a great achievement for a small business and a great feeling that we are helping animals that so desperately need it. Thanks to all our customers once again for their generosity and to Kenny and my wonderful mother-in-law Ellenor for their marvelous tablet which they have made and sold throughout the year.

The charities that we have supported are:

SPCA – Milton Branch

PDSA

Bearsden Dog Training Club

Glasgow Vet School - Doggie Dawdle.

This New Year we have a few big ideas in the pipeline so watch this space. Hopefully most of you will get involved again.

Choosing a shampoo for your dog?

Just as there are different types of shampoo for all the different hair types us humans have there are also different types of shampoo for our dogs. Firstly it's important that you use an actual 'dog shampoo' as human shampoos can cause damage or harm to your dogs skin or coat. You must never use washing up liquid or any other cleaning materials as they may contain harmful toxins that could burn your dog's skin.

Secondly it's important to choose the right shampoo to suit your dogs coat to keep it in the best condition. We know choosing which one can be daunting so we'd be happy to give you any advise we can. Just call or drop in to see us.



Showseasons Conditioning Spray –

Every day you can have your dog looking like he's just stepped out of the salon with the Sparkle Coat Conditioning spray (the product us Groomers use!) Only £15

Showseasons Grapefruit Cologne –

Or have him smelling lovely everyday. (You don't have to put up with doggie smells any more!) Only £9



Test your Doggy Knowledge!

(answers are given on the last page but don't be cheating!!!)

1. The Chihuahua originally came from:
A. China **B.** Mexico **C.** Honduras
2. Dogs are all direct descendants of the:
A. Wolf **B.** Ape **C.** Fox
3. The Labrador Retriever is a type of:
A. Working Dog **B.** Hound Dog **C.** Gun Dog
4. Dalmatian puppies are born completely:
A. Black **B.** Grey **C.** White
5. Dougal of the Magic Roundabout is based on a:
A. Westie **B.** Lhasa Apso **C.** Poodle
6. Greyhounds can run up to:
A. 35mph **B.** 45mph **C.** 55mph
7. The Latin word for dog is:
A. Bovine **B.** Feline **C.** Canine
8. Which dog has webbed feet:
A. Newfoundland **B.** Bernese **C.** St Bernard
9. Greyfriars Bobby was a:
A. Westie **B.** Skye Terrier **C.** Cairn Terrier
10. The Bernese Mountain dog was first bred in:
A. The Himalayas **B.** The Andies **C.** The Alps

"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give your dog only two of them." ~ Phil Pastoret

January - the month for new beginnings!

Supposedly January is the coldest month of the year in the Northern hemisphere. But as we shiver up here, the people 'down under' bask in the warmth of the summer sun!

Doesn't that kinda sum up life really? As some people suffer, others enjoy good times! As some become ill, others have great health! And as some get down and depressed others are happy and positive!

But it's funny how things can flip around again, just like the seasons. We think January is a great month to start the process of flipping again! We don't mean just making half hearted New Years resolutions. We mean making real plans for the rest of the year. Determining now what we really want to do this year with our lives, our families and of course our little four legged friends. Then going out and putting those plans into action so January really is a month for 'New Beginnings'.

"Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right."

~ Oprah Winfrey

Thank You for referring me!

Our business succeeds because great clients like you continue to tell your family, friends and neighbors about us. It's by far the best form of feedback we can receive.

Please pass this newsletter around as much as you can to people you know and care about. Thanks.

Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you every month so that we 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.

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**Answers
to Quiz**
1. B
2. A
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. C

First Aid Seminars.

Two years ago we had to travel to Huddersfield to get Animal First Aid Training as we could not source any training in the Glasgow area. Morag then decided to try and get more groomers trained in First Aid to be able to deal with emergency situations that could happen within a grooming salon.

With the help of Glenbrae Vets who kindly prepared a course we held the first seminar in November at the Glenbrae Clinic in Beardsen. Thirteen Groomers from all over the West/Central Scotland attended and had a great time learning and meeting other Groomers.

Many thanks to Angela and Nikki, the Veterinary Nurses who did a fantastic job. We are planning more of these in the future aimed at anyone (not just groomers) working with animals and

if you are interested in attending contact Morag. Angela is also planning Pet Bereavement seminars.



Angela & Nikki hard at work during the First Aid Seminar in November.

Did You Know?

! In order for your dog to catch kennel cough he doesn't have to be in kennels! Kennel cough can be contracted anywhere. The cough is harsh and painful for your dog, like something is stuck in its throat. If your dog gets kennel cough see your vet. Your vet will also advise you about vaccinations for this illness.

! Many dogs suffer from separation anxiety when left alone. They often exhibit destructive behavior, howling or house soiling. Most of this behavior will be carried out in the first 30 minutes after the owner leaves. It may be caused by an over dependence on the owner and simply can't cope when left alone.

! An un-neutered female dog normally comes into season twice a year – every six months. However for some, especially larger breeds, it may only be once a year. The female will welcome males for 7-10 days during her season however the season may last up to 20 days in total and in some cases as much as 30 days.

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

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