

# 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 and welcome to the July edition of this newsletter! Lots of people are planning trips or going on holiday right now, and if you're fortunate enough to be one of them, here's wishing you a lovely time wherever you may go.

Whether you'll be traveling or staying close to home to enjoy your time off in the coming months, this is really a good time to think on all the measures you can take to keep your dogs safe, happy and healthy—here and abroad.

With people and dogs both spending more time outdoors right now, there's a higher chance of dogs running off or getting separated from their owners. To reduce the chance of this happening to you, be sure to keep your dog on a lead whenever you're out in open areas, even if your dog is typically obedient. Sometimes there's just no stopping them when they get the urge to chase after something!

Also, keep a tag with your contact information on your dog's collar at all times, and if you haven't already done so, consider having your dog micro-chipped. These simple precautions can really make all the difference in your efforts to find your dog if they get lost.

If you'll be traveling, try to plan for your dog's needs well in advance to be sure that you've got everything ready for them beforehand. When taking them along, it's helpful to put a checklist together of all you'll need for both the trip and destination.

If going abroad airlines often require proof of vaccination and a recent report from your vet indicating that the dog is healthy. It's also important to let your vet know where you're going, as you may need to take additional precautions against foreign disease or parasites.

Travel by car is a bit easier in terms of documentation, but it requires just as much preplanning! Be sure to take plenty of water, food and toys for the journey, as well as a lead. It's helpful to take along a map of pet-friendly areas along the way, too, as it saves you time looking for a rest stop.

But, of course, you can always board your dogs or hire a pet sitter if you're unable to take them along. Whatever the case may be, what's important is that you give yourself time to make all the necessary arrangements before leaving. By doing so, you and your dogs can leave the stress behind and get on with having a wonderful time!

Morag & Star. XXX

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### Inside this Issue:

- Getting Set for Summer
- Using and Choosing a Crate!
- A Look at Dachshunds!
- Breaking the Bark!

### THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE!!!

We have had a difficult last six weeks in the salon as we are very short staffed. I would like to thank all of our amazing customers for their patience. We have been late with several dogs and had to ask for extra time when things were extremely busy and as you all know working with animals is not easy. We will not compromise quality and would rather ask for more time than rush a pet.

I have advertised for staff and was inundated with applications however we waited for just the right person with relevant experience. We don't use untrained or casual staff in Pawcasso. Our new lady starts next week and if all goes well we should be back to full swing.

We really appreciate all your understanding, help and support.

### A Wonderful World of Dogs!

! Wu Jiang of China trained his dog, a Belgian shepherd named Tina, to climb trees. According to *Orange News*, Tina can now climb higher than 10 feet by wrapping her front legs around the tree trunk and pushing herself up with her hind legs.

Jiang had put her favourite toys in the tree branches to start her training for this when she was only 6 weeks old.

! A Springer spaniel named Dixie is now helping trade officers sniff out bootlegged DVDs. According to *BBC News*, Dixie can detect even the tiniest pieces of plastic, though she isn't able to smell the difference between legal and counterfeited discs.

The Federation against Copyright Theft uses dogs for this purpose, because it helps them trace theft and illegal copies back to organised crime networks.



**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.

"My best little friend you shout aloud, so we groom them well to make you proud!"

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## Get Set for Summer

As the weather warms up we must make sure that our furry friends are happy, healthy and not suffering from the heat.

### **Drink**

Make sure that your dog has a fresh bowl of water always available to them. They will drink more in the hot weather so you will need to check and re-fill it on a regular basis. You could even try adding cooling ice cubes to their drinking water.

### **Feeding**

Often your dog will seem less interested in food during the hot summer months. This is quite acceptable. We do it too, so try not to worry. Don't forget that your dog is probably doing less energetic running around or playing, so it should all equal out.

### **Treats**

A great idea for a fun and cool summer treat for your dog is ice cubes. Or why not stuff a Kong and freeze it for a lasting summer treat.

### **Dehydration**

Given a regular supply of water to drink, your dog should not dehydrate. However, it can happen. One sign of dehydration is loss of skin elasticity. If you think your dog might be dehydrated, do this simple check. When the skin along the back is picked up into a fold, it should spring back into place. In dehydration, the skin stays up in a ridge. Another sign is dryness of the mouth. Late signs of dehydration are sunken eyes and circulatory collapse.

If your dog is dehydrated or very thirsty, do not let them gulp down excessive amounts of water at once as they are likely to bring it back up. Give your dog an electrolyte mixed in water, which will be more effective than plain water at replenishing the body. To hydrate slowly, give your dog ice to lick rather than letting them take large gulps of water.

If you and your dog are travelling, having a day out or going on holiday, consider taking some bottles of tap water or the dogs usual drinking water from home. Dogs often don't like to drink strange tasting water.

### **Walks**

In the hot summer months it makes sense to walk your dog during the cooler part of the day. Walks in the morning or evening are much more comfortable and sensible for your dog than walks in the hot afternoon sun.

Always take water and a bowl with you on walks and offer it to your dog every 30 minutes or so. This will keep them hydrated and also guard against them dashing off to slurp from an alternative water source.

If your dog is normally very active on walks, playing fetch or running around, try to calm this down by playing less energetic games.

### **The Car**

If you take your dog out in the car then bear in mind that it is hotter in the back than it is for you up in the front. Keep a careful eye on your dog and if the car is very hot or you will need to leave them in the car then don't take them with you.

Never leave your dog in the car on a warm day. Leaving the window open a few inches for them, parking in the **NOT** adequate. A dog left in a car on a hot or even warm day can suffer heat stress and ultimately fatal heat stroke

within just 10 minutes.

The temperature inside the car might not seem excessive when you first stop but the temperature inside a stationary car can rapidly increase to double the outside temperature - phew. This can happen very quickly, within six to ten minutes.

If you come across a dog that has been left in the car on a warm day, call the SPCA or the Police. They will be able to take appropriate action, if necessary breaking into the car to release the dog.

### **Conservatories**

This is similar to leaving your dog in the car on a hot day. Never leave your dog in the conservatory when you go out. The same applies to greenhouses and any area that is likely to heat up in the summer sun.

### **Shade**

Always make sure that your dog has access to a shady area, whether it is indoors or out. You can be prosecuted for cruelty to animals if you leave your dog without adequate shade and adequate water.

### **Heatstroke**

Always bear in mind that your dog has a fur coat on that is designed to trap heat. Also, they cannot sweat to cool down and have to rely on panting to regulate their body temperature.

Be particularly aware of vulnerable dogs such as short-nosed breeds, overweight dogs, youngsters and older dogs. These will all feel the heat more.

Learn to recognise the signs of heatstroke:

- 1) At first the dog will pant more than usual, become agitated and may sound uncomfortable or distressed.
- 2) Panting will become excessive and difficult and drooling may also start.
- 3) The dog will struggle to breathe and may appear glassy eyed and have dark red gums.
- 4) Body temperature has risen to a point where cell death in the brain results in seizures, coma and ultimately death. In these later stages, even with intensive veterinary care, your pet will probably die.

Stop heatstroke in its tracks in the early stages by cooling your dog down immediately. If your dog gets too hot then start by putting them in the coolest place you can find. Gently cover them with a cold wet tea towel or one that has been placed in the freezer, to instantly cool them down. If you are out and about with your dog on a hot day, take some wet cold towels with you in a cool bag. But remember that prevention is better than cure. Don't put your dog in situations where heatstroke is likely to occur.

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## Putting Dog Hair to Good Use!

Groomers in USA have joined up with an environmental group, Matter of Trust, to assist with oil spill clean-up efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. They're not donating their time, they're donating all the hair they clip from dogs!

According to the *LA Times*, grooming salons and Petco stores are expected to ship one ton of dog hair to the region each day to help sop up the excess oil. A hairdresser had experimented with using hair for oil spills during the Exxon-Valdez spill in 1989, and now groomers and salons are sending all their excess hair to aid with the latest disaster.

## Using and Choosing Doggie Crates!

Crates can be a source of rest and comfort for dogs and they're also helpful for travel—but only when they're used and fitted properly.

Crate training is much easier when you start from puppyhood (as is everything else!), but it's never too late to give your dog a space to call their own either. Dogs love having their own territory and adapt to it well so long as it has a positive association to them.

To make the crate a positive place for your dog, it's critical that you never, ever use it for punishment when your dog misbehaves. It's equally important that the dog isn't forced to stay in it for long periods of time, as this creates anxiety and a negative association.

The proper size and type of crate really all depends on the needs and size of your dog. The crate should be large enough for your dog to stand up and spin around in, at the very least. Consider your storage space when choosing a crate, as well, as some of them are collapsible for easier manoeuvring.

Wire crates are usually a better option because they provide plenty of air circulation and are easy to clean. However, when you're travelling abroad, the airline may require a plastic crate. If your dog will be spending lots of time in it due to travel, put some newspapers in the bottom and then a really comfortable blanket that the dog is used to. That way they will be able to relax and sleep comfortably during the journey.

With a few toys, a blanket, and access to fresh water and food, the crate can be a cosy place for your dog while you're traveling. By leaving it in the corner of a room with its door open at all times, your dogs will likely learn to seek it out themselves for some rest and shuteye.

## DOGGY DAWDLE

These photos were kindly taken by Margaret Lyon at the 2010 Vet School Doggy Dawdle.

*Margaret (Left) with her Cocker Corrie and Jessie (right) with her Collie Ben and my Golden Retriever Star.*



*Jessie Herd (Left) and Deirdre Craig (right) with Ben & Star.*

Jessie, Deirdre & Margaret are all Training Instructors at Bearsden Dog Training Club.

Thanks ladies for walking with the dogs for Pawcasso this year.

## A Look at the Dachshund!

The comically elongated build of the Dachshunds makes them instantly recognisable and adored. Although they were bred in Germany for hunting and fighting badgers, they're now popular in multiple countries as house pets.



Bred into three different varieties, Dachshunds have either a smooth coat, wire-haired or longhaired coat.

These little dogs were bred to "fight to the death" against boars, foxes and rabbits, too, but the domesticated varieties are typically friendly and playful—and can be a bit lazier than other small breeds. With supervision, they're perfectly suitable around small children, as well.

Proper games and trainings for Dachshunds are those that stimulate and use their innate ability to track by scent, as they are scent hounds.

Grooming needs vary by the individual dog and type of coat, though wire- and longhaired breeds generally require more frequent brushing and bathing to keep their coats in top condition.

## Jumbled Up Dog Quiz!

Can you unscramble these dog breeds? Answers are given on the last page.

1. eaaicvrl nigk lscerah
2. oihbnc srefi
3. eiledraa rertrei
4. hinlsge ocrcek inslepa
5. rebedda leoicl
6. madantail
7. ransatdd rhazensuc
8. tnieabt liseapn
9. xudoonfh
10. Inaiyamha gephoesd

## Doggie Humour!

Walking into a small store, a man noticed a sign on the door that read, 'Beware of Dog!' yet the old hound asleep by the cash register looked rather harmless.

He said to the man behind the counter, 'That's not the dog I should beware of, is it?' to which the man replied, 'Yes, that's him.'

Amused, the man grinned and said, 'Is that sign really necessary? He doesn't look all that dangerous to me.'

The man behind the counter replied, 'Yes, you see, before I posted that sign people kept tripping over him.'

## ADVERTISE HERE!

This newsletter goes out to over 300 cat & dog owners every month. If you have a product or service that could benefit our clients then please contact us.

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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.

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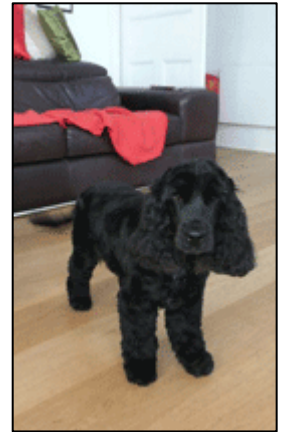
This newsletter is provided to you every month so that I can give a little bit extra back to you. The content has been carefully selected in order to provide you with the best possible information. Hopefully you find it entertaining and useful.

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.

### LOOK AT CORRIE – THE HANDSOME BOY!!

Hi Morag,

Thought you might like this photo of my handsome boy after his last clip and just before he got his ears covered in food again!!! I think it will have to be a scrunchie for him! Thanks for always looking after him so well.



Regards  
Margaret Lyon

### Breaking the Bark

One of the most common complaints about dogs (especially from neighbours) is that their barking can become incessant or not at all necessary for the situations in which they do it. If barking should ever become a problem for you and your dog, it's helpful to examine the reasons why they may be doing it—and then take measures to break the behaviour.

You've probably noticed that your dog has a few different barks, because they vocalise differently depending on what it is they're trying to communicate. A low growl, for example, can signal aggression whereas a high-pitched yap may indicate anxiety.

By noting when the barking is problematic, you can usually figure out the underlying reason for it. If your dog barks while you're away, for instance, it's likely to be from separation anxiety. If they bark whenever other people or animals are nearby, they're being territorial. Once you've identified the *reason* for it, you'll have a much easier time breaking the behaviour by using methods and training techniques specifically intended for that reason.

Stay tuned next month for tips and tricks on reducing problematic barking!

#### Answers to Quiz

1. Cavalier King Charles
2. Bichon Frise
3. Airedale terrier
4. English Cocker Spaniel
5. Bearded Collie
6. Dalmatian
7. Standard Schnauzer
8. Tibetan Spaniel
9. Foxhound
10. Himalayan Sheepdog

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

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