

# Pawcassö

Professional Cat & Dog Grooming



0141 959 8111

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

It's great to welcome the month of June in this newsletter, as it brings us the official beginning of summer! 21<sup>st</sup> of June will be the longest day of the year, too, so let's all hope it's a day—and month—filled with sunshine. Not only is summer a lovely time for going on holiday, it's the time of year when there's lots of fun activities to be had outdoors with our best little friends.

The dogs are really preparing for summer's arrival, too, by shedding off the rest of their heavy coats. So, you might find it a bit difficult to keep them (and your furniture) looking neat and clean at the moment. Due to all the excess hair, many people are asking if they should get their dogs clipped or have their hair shortened for the summer months, but the answer to this really depends on the needs of each individual dog.

Clipping doesn't necessarily reduce the amount of hair a dog sheds; in most cases, the dog simply sheds shorter hairs, then! If shedding is your primary concern, it's usually best to brush their coat at least once daily, so you can then gather most of the excess hair at once and put it in the bin. Don't forget; routine professional trimming and grooming will also keep it much more manageable, as well.

A dog's coat protects them from colder weather, yet it also helps protect their skin from the sun and other elements. Therefore, the best coat length really all depends on the dog's hair type, lifestyle, and living conditions. Sometimes, the dogs kept in one climate were bred for another, so this is something else to think on in regards to your dog's comfort. Have a look at the history of your dog's breed to see where they were originally bred.

Dogs that benefit from getting their coats clipped off are those that tend to get really matted and messy, and those that are bred for shorter styles. Certain skin conditions, such as hot spots, are also good reason to keep the hair shorter. The choice is ultimately up to you, of course, but it's good to take all these factors into consideration before deciding on a full clip.

Good Dog Groomers will always take style, breed, health, comfort, and ease of management into consideration when advising people of whether they should fully clip their dog's hair, with the health and welfare of the dog being the most important factor.

Let's hope you and your dogs find a seasonal style that works for you both, and that you find lots of ways to enjoy the fun of summertime together!

Morag & Star. XXX

## DOGS TRUST

The Glasgow branch of the Dogs Trust is holding a FUNDAY- Fun DOG Show on Sunday 25th July 2010 from 12.00-15.30 in Strathclyde Country Park, Hamilton Road, Motherwell ML4 3ED

Entry is free. For further information contact 0141-773-5141

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## WANTED!!!!

We are still collecting old towels, sheets or blankets for the PDSA Animal Hospital. Also collecting, Ring pulls, Plastic bottle tops and used Stamps. Please, please keep saving them. Recycle !!! and help charities too.

Many thanks for all the donations so far. Keep up the good work.

We would also be grateful for any unwanted gifts or donations for our dog training club stalls at the events we cover and raffles etc. Bearsden Dog Training Club is a charity so we are always trying to raise funds to keep the club going.

## EVENTS

Bearsden Dog Training Club will be taking part in the following Shows:

Drymen Agricultural Show on Saturday  
29th May

Bearsden & Milngavie Highland Show  
12th June.

Glasgow's D in the Park on Saturday  
24th July at Queens Park.

Please come along and see our club in action.

## Did You Know?

When your dog violently shakes a toy around with their mouth, they're following their hunting instincts for conquering prey.

A dog's habit of spinning in circles before lying down is also due to instinct. This behaviour in the wild was meant to push long grasses down to form a soft bed.



**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.

*"Your dog's hair getting dirty can be a real bummer, give us a call and we'll make them gorgeous for Summer!"*

## **ALL CHANGING AT PAWCASSO**

Sadly Sandra and Jonathan left Pawcasso on Saturday 29th May. Sandra is opening up on her own nearer home. We'll miss them both immensely and our love and best wishes go with them. We are great friends so will be keeping in touch and still going to grooming shows together. We have had lots of fun (and tears) together in the salon so have loads of memories to cherish. Good luck Sandra!!!

Cindy has come back to work with us and we would formally like to welcome her back. I'm sure lots of customers missed her during her absence.

We are starting a new bather who will take Jonathan's job and I'll introduce her to you next newsletter.

## **WARNING!**

A cocoa-based garden soil dressing can pose a potentially lethal risk to dogs, says the RSPCA

Cocoa mulch, which can smell appetising to dogs when first put down, contains theobromine, which can irritate the lining of the animal's digestive system and cause vomiting, diarrhoea and kidney problems. Tim Miles, the society's chief veterinary adviser said: "Dog owners using this type of mulch should do so extremely sparingly and keep an eye on their dogs when they are near it. If they see their dog eating it, they should seek veterinary advice immediately."

Although no cases of death have been reported in Britain, Dana Farbman, a spokesman for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said at least six dogs had died in America after eating cocoa shell mulch. Rosemary Bancroft, of the Wessex Horticultural Group, which imports the mulch, said the product was potentially harmful only for the first two weeks after it is put down.

It was reported in the USA over the weekend, the doting owner of two young lab mixes purchased Cocoa Mulch to use in their garden. The dogs loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from gardens. Their dog (Calypso) decided the mulch smelled good enough to eat and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical when she eats something new but wasn't acting lethargic in any way. The next day, Mom woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Half way through the walk, she had a seizure and died instantly. Although the mulch had NO warnings printed on the label, upon further investigation on the manufacturers web site, it stated that this product is HIGHLY toxic to dogs and cats. Cocoa Mulch contains a lethal ingredient called 'Theobromine'. It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last 2-3 weeks.

Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.

Please take care.

## **STAR NEWS!**

Many of you have been asking after my Golden Retriever Star. It is nice to know that so many people love wee Star and miss her in the shop.

Unfortunately last year when she was three, she had a Couple of small lumps and one turned out to be a Mast Tumor. We had them removed and the prognosis was that she would get more as her breed is one of those which are at risk of these. Well she has just had another one removed from the same leg and the results have come back that it is another tumour. She is recuperating well and we're praying that it's the last one she gets. Many thanks to all the lovely staff at Glenbrae Vets in Bearsden for looking after her so well.

Please check your dog regularly for lumps!!!



## **STAR DOES THE DAWDLE AGAIN!!**

My friend Jessie from Bearsden Dog Training Club kindly took Star along with her Border Collie Ben on this year's Doggy Dawdle. It is in Aid of the Small Animal Hospital at the Vet School. This is the third time Star has done this sponsored walk.

I thought we wouldn't be able to do it this year as I was working, therefore we left getting sponsors to the last minute. However we did pretty well due to the big hearts of Pawcasso Customers and Clydeview Precision Staff.

Many thanks to those who sponsored her and also to Jessie. I will update you on how much she raised next month.

## **HARLEY & RUSTY**

I groom both Harley & Rusty who have been coming to Pawcasso since they were kittens. Aren't the absolutely gorgeous!!!!!!?

Thanks to Alyson Slater for more great photographs



## Doggie Humour!

A family's pets were out in the garden: their dog was running around in the enclosed garden, and the cat was walking on top of the fence. The cat says to the dog, *'You know they love me more than they love you, or they'd allow you free from the garden to wander the streets like I do'*. The dog replied, *'No, Kitty, they let you free from the garden because they don't want you to come back'*.

## A Look at the Maltese!



The Maltese is one small-breed dog that has captured countless hearts over 28 centuries. Popular as a family dog and as a show dog, these friendly little pooches will likely remain a fashionable pet!

This toy breed was kept by royalty, adored by the Greeks and Egyptians, and is still considered a posh pet today. The Maltese has brilliant white, silky hair that draws lots of attention when grown long to the floor. As a family pet, however, the 'puppy cut' (as pictured above) is much more manageable and easy to maintain.

The mild-mannered Maltese is typically gentle with people, but is also incredibly brave for its small stature. They enjoy lots of play time and affection from their owners, as well.

Maltese dogs require frequent brushing and grooming to maintain their silky hair and clean colour. Depending on their lifestyle, they may need grooming as often as once weekly, though a shorter hairstyle is generally less demanding.

## Word Scramble!

Unscramble the letters to reveal a quote on dogs

T	E	H		T	M	S	O

O	F	T	C	E	I	F	A	A	N	T	E

R	E	R	A	T	C	U	E				

N	I		T	E	H		L	W	O	D	R

S	I		A		T	E	W		O	G	D

—Ambrose Beirce

(answer on Page 4)

## Getting the 'Look' you want for Your Dog...

The easiest way to get the 'look' you want for your dog is by knowing what you want and clearly communicating it. Misunderstandings can be quite common in regards to dog haircuts and styles, just as they are for people having their own hair done up in salons.

The main reason for this is that it's often difficult to accurately describe a look you may have in mind. You know you want the hair to be shorter, for example, but your idea of 'trim it up a bit' might be completely different from a dog groomer's idea.

Don't lose hope, though! There are a couple of things you can do to better communicate your ideas of how you want your dog to look. Firstly, try to find a picture of the style you want for your dog or ask to see photos of different styles for your particular breed.

Then you need to think on the hair length because different blades are used to achieve vastly different hair lengths. For instance, sometimes people ask to have only a few centimetres of hair left on their dog, but are then shocked to see how short that really is! If you're unsure of the measurement, hold the dog's hair between your fingers to show how much hair you want removed.

Most importantly you'll need to consider the state that your dog's coat is in first. If you've been unable to keep their coat maintained through regular brushing and matts have built up in their coat then it's very unlikely that you'll get your dog back in the fluffy long style that you may want. De-matting during grooming is painful and cruel to the dog and just not worth it to achieve a certain look.

Feed back after the grooming appointment is also very important. Your likes and dislikes can be recorded on your dog's record card which will help to ensure that your dog is always left looking the way you want it.

## LUNGWORM?



The lungworm *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (also known as French Heartworm) is a parasite that infects dogs. The adult of this particular lungworm lives in the heart and major blood vessels supplying the lungs, where it can cause a host of problems. Left untreated, the infection can often be fatal.

The lungworm parasite is carried by slugs and snails. The problem arises when dogs purposefully or accidentally eat these common garden pests when rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass, drinking from puddles or outdoor water bowls, or pick them up from their toys.

Foxes can also become infected with the lungworm, and have been implicated in the spread of the parasite across the country.

There are two main problems caused by dogs becoming infected with lungworm:

- Infection with lungworm can cause serious health problems in dogs, and is often fatal if not diagnosed and treated.
- Dogs infected with lungworm spread the parasite into the environment, as the larvae of the parasite are expelled in the dog's faeces. This increases the chances of other dogs becoming infected.

Check out the website. [www.lungworm.co.uk](http://www.lungworm.co.uk).

## **BICHON SEMINAR!**

Morag, Sandra, Cindy and Charlene attended a one day seminar in Polmont ran by the Bichon Frise Club of Scotland. The demonstrations were by breeder Margaret Moss. We had a lovely day and picked up some tips on the way.



## **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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**0141 942 7070.**

Castlebrae Veterinary  
Clinic, Dumbarton:  
**01389 765555**

### **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.

## **DUSTER STEVENSON**

I had a lovely e-mail recently from Ian Stevenson. Thanks for the nice compliment Ian. We appreciate it.



*'Just a wee note of thanks for the excellent service you provide for my wee cherub duster he always looks great when he comes back thanx'*

### **A Summer Gone to the Dogs!**

If you're looking for truly special activities to share with your dogs this summer, look into the sports and tasks your dogs were bred to master, and then practise those tasks with them.

For scent hounds, set up a tracking game or play hide and seek to let them put their noses to work. Play lots of fetch with your retrievers, and remember: some retrievers love to fetch toys from the water!

If your dog's a herder, talk with trainers on how to set up a herding activity. Or, maybe see if there is a dog agility team or course near you. Toy herding will do if this isn't possible; what matters to the dog is that they're able to practice their instinctual skills.

Your dog's breed and personality can help you choose the best games for them, so it's really a matter of identifying their strengths and finding activities to suit them.

If you've a mixed-breed dog, try to figure out which of their genetic traits they lean towards, as this will help you choose a game they're naturally inclined to play.

And, of course, you can always enrol them in specialised dog training courses to give them lots of practise and exercise throughout the season.

### **Word Scramble Answer:**

'The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog'.

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

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