

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!



All the team together at Pawcasso.

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.

Morag & Star. XXX

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Facts about Dogs & Cats:

! There are more than 500 million domestic cats in the world, with 33 different breeds.

! 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!

! During her productive life, one female cat could have more than 100 kittens. In 1952, a Texas Tabby named Dusty set a record by having more than 420 kittens before having her last litter at age 18.

Interesting Dog Breeds!

Samoyeds, those large white fluffy dogs with smiling faces, were bred in Siberia to herd reindeer. Their thick coat and strong independent character made them ideal to withstand the harsh arctic conditions.

The herdsman also used them to pull sleds across the snow, and at night, they slept close to them to help keep warm.

Meet Jonathan!

We have had Sandra's son Jonathan on work experience with us every Thursday and Friday for the past year. Jonathan is taking an Animal Care Course at Reid Kerr college. He has been assisting us and learning as much as he can in animal handling procedures. Jonathan has been a great help and we wish him all the best in his future chosen career.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY REN!

Many of you will have met my father-in-law. He helps me out along with my mother-in-law Ellenor with the collections. They have been a great support to me since I started in the business and for eight years have worked extremely hard for me. Ren is 80 years old on the 28th April (I know you can't believe it and neither can we!!! He looks so young) and we all wish him a happy birthday. Thanks Dad - couldn't have done it without you. Many Happy Returns. Morag & Star XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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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.

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

Well Done Lyn & Ben!

Congratulations to Lyn and her Border Collie Ben. She recently passed her Beginners Exam at Bearsden Dog Training Club and has now moved on to Intermediate training classes.

Interested in taking your dog to training classes? Contact Jessie on 07759 439381



Ben & Star relaxing at Work!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

- Doggie Dawdle – again in Garscube Estate will be held on Sunday 10th May. This is to raise funds for the Small Animal Hospital. Interested then contact Angela Hair on 0141-330-3593 to get a sponsorship form and further details.
- National Pet Month – Glenbrae Vet Clinic is holding a fun Dog Show in Mugdock Country Park from 12.00 until 15.00 to raise money for charities. Lots of prizes and fun. Morag is judging some of the fun events so hope to see some of our pets there on the day. Contact Angela 0141-942-7070 for more information.
- Bearsden Dog Training Club and PDSA Pet Show to be held on Monday 1st June at the Town Hall in Milngavie. Times and more details will follow in next newsletter so keep this date free to support the club.
- Bearsden Dog Training club's next Novice course will commence Thursday 13th August. So if you meet anyone out and about or know of any friends who wish to start classes, please get them to enroll now. Call **Jessie Herd on 07759 439381**. This will be very popular so it would be advisable to book early to avoid disappointment.

Help Us Help You!

At Pawcasso we are continually striving to provide the best possible service and to reduce waiting times for appointments. To help us achieve this we would appreciate your help with the following:

- Please try and book appointments in advance. We usually are booked 2-3 weeks ahead. This will avoid disappointment.
- Please give us 24 hours notice if for any reason you have to cancel, otherwise a fee will apply. This gives us a chance to fill the appointment from our cancellation list and reduce waiting times.
- Take a careful note of appointments in a safe place. We do not have a receptionist and have to stop working with the animals to answer your calls. We would like to reduce the number of unnecessary calls.
- Please don't call the salon unnecessarily to check if your dog is ready. We give a time for collection and will call if we are earlier or later than estimated. It is not always easy to predict accurately how long an animal will take to be groomed. It depends on the condition of the coat and the nature of the pet involved. Again we are trying to reduce the number of interruptions to grooming. This will help us reduce any stress with ourselves and the animals. However we are more than happy to receive calls regarding extremely nervous pets on their first visit as we are well aware that it can be a worrying time for owners.

Dogs & Cats 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 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.

"No matter how much cats fight, there always seems to be plenty of kittens."

- Abraham Lincoln



Glenbrae Veterinary
Clinic, Bearsden:
0141 942 7070.

Castlebrae
Veterinary Clinic,
Dumbarton:
01389 765555

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 Pet Grooming is Not Like Hairdressing!

Pet 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 pet grooming.

* Firstly, when you go to a hairdresser you know exactly what to expect, so you're rarely apprehensive. Your pet, 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 pet 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 pet's last wash. So it requires good technique, quality shampoos and above all the time to thoroughly clean its coat.

* We cut your pet'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 pets' 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 pets do so for us! It requires a high level of patience and specific skills for us to safely groom pets of all energy levels.

* In the hairdressers you follow direction of where to sit, how to bend and when to move etc. Whereas pets 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 pets!

* Scratches, bites and cleaning up little accidents are a common daily occurrence for pet 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 pet 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

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 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 |

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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.

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.

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 or offered a newsletter from another groomer with similar information and articles, I'd be grateful if you'd let me know.

8E

7B

6D

5F

4A

3H

2C

1G

ANSWERS
to Quiz

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.

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.

"How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it!"

~ George Elliston

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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