

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!

Hello again, and welcome to the May edition of this newsletter. I hope you and your dogs are all getting on well and enjoying this lovely time of year.

One thing that's really important to watch for right now, and for many months to come, is all the fleas and ticks looking to feast on our pets—and on us, too! Those ghastly little pests are rather annoying, but they can also transmit disease or parasites, which cause lots of problems for people and their pets.

Prevention is always the best method of managing these pests, of course, but even that doesn't guarantee full protection from the illness or discomfort they sometimes cause. So, it really is critical that we do all we can to keep them off our pets.

When dogs have an itchy or irritated area on the skin, it's sometimes caused by an allergic reaction to flea bites. A single bite can cause this on an allergic dog, so consider it a possibility even if you've not seen any fleas on them. And because fleas also transmit tapeworm to dogs, you'll want to check for signs of it if your dog has had any fleas.

Check your dog's skin and hair thoroughly after you've walked outdoors and even after you've been in the garden. Ticks often sit in shrubbery and climb onto people and pets when they brush against the foliage. When a tick feeds off its host, it can transmit bacteria that cause illnesses such as Lyme disease. But by removing the ticks quickly, you reduce the chance of it transmitting bacteria.

Proper tick removal is equally important. Crushing its body can spread more bacteria, and abscesses can form if the tick's head gets stuck in the dog's skin. If you've any doubt of your ability to remove ticks properly, ring your vet for help. And be sure to get immediate medical help if you or your dog falls ill after a tick bite!

Most of these problems caused by fleas and ticks are treatable, so it really is helpful to recognise the signs and symptoms of the illnesses they cause. If you've any questions on preventing flea and tick bites or on ridding your dog of these pests, your vet will be able to help. And, of course, it's important to notify them of any problems you see in your dog's skin, hair, and overall health.

Here's wishing you and your dogs a healthy and happy time this season as we near the beginning of summer!

Morag & Star. XXX

Pawcasso Grooming

990 Crow Road, Glasgow G13 1JN

Tel: 0141-959-8111

Email: enquiries@pawcassogrooming.co.uk

www.pawcassogrooming.co.uk

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A Wonderful World of Animals!

! A woman in China has adopted a bear cub that was found near a village. The cub was abandoned by its mother, but is now wearing nappies and dining on milk and baby rice, according to Orange News. The bear cub, named Hu Niu, plays with Ms. Lijie's pet dog, and it will be released to the wild once it's strong enough to care for itself.

! A squirrel was banned from a rollercoaster at Alton Towers earlier this year, according to the BBC, as he was stealing food and pawing wet paint.

! Xiao Qiang, a Beluga whale in China, is becoming a famous painter. According to Orange News, Xiao started playing with a paintbrush left by a visitor and now paints pictures as trainers hold up paper for him. Orange News reports that Xiao's favourite color is blue, and that his paintings of people often resemble seals.

Did You Know?

The spine-chilling green colour you see at night in the eyes of dogs and cats is due to a reflective area of the eye that helps them see more clearly in darkness. This area, called the tapetum lucidum, is especially helpful to them during low-light hours, which is when they prefer hunting for their prey.



**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 getting pampered in a bath full of bubbles, groomed to perfection & given plenty of cuddles!"

Dog Skin Care!

Bathing is helpful for nearly all types of common skin and hair problems in dogs. These common problems include dry and flaky skin, greasy hair, and objectionable odours.

It's really important that products used on the dog are safe and effective, though, as some products could worsen the condition. Professional grooming products specially formulated for dogs are the best products, of course. If routine grooming does not reduce the problem, or if you notice other symptoms, consider the possibility of an underlying health condition.

Mites and allergies contribute to poor skin health, and poor skin often leads to an unhealthy look and feel in the dog's hair. Have a chat with your vet to find the best possible approach to managing hair and skin conditions.

Remember too that frequent brushing supports healthy skin and hair, as it removes tangles and stimulates their skin.

A combination of nutritious foods, adequate medical care, and regular grooming is often the top solution to common hair and skin complaints in dogs.

GLASGOW DOGGY DAWDLE!

Take part in this year's Doggy Dawdle in aid of Glasgow Vet school Small Animal Hospital. Have fun with your dog and help raise funds for charity.

Choose between a 5k or 10K walk on Saturday 8th May 2010, in Garscube Estate off the Switchback Road, Bearsden.

For more information either call Angela Hair
0141-330 3593 or
e-mail a.hair@admin.gla.ac.uk

Or visit the website for more information: -
www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/givingtoglasgow/vetfund/smallanimalhospitalcampaign/

Dublin Dog Rubber and Waterproof Dog Collars!

We're very excited to be a stockiest of Dublin Dog, an excellent range of rubber and waterproof dog collars, which are designed to withstand the rigours of playful, dirty dogs. They are very strong and can be wiped down unlike other colours which hold onto stains & smells. Come in funky colours.



I AM A CAT AND I'LL SLEEP WHERE I LIKE!!!



Grooming Seminar!

We are always going to seminars and courses to improve our animal handling and grooming skills. Grooming is continual ongoing learning and we look to experts for tips and advice.

Morag, Sandra and Charlene and attending a one day seminar in the middle of May with Bichon Frise experts. We'll update you on our adventures (no doubt we'll get lost even with Sat Nav!!) and hopefully have some photos for the next newsletter. Watch this space.

An Inside Look at Grooming!

You leave your dog off at the groomer's, come back at the scheduled pickup time—and your dog's now looking and feeling fabulous! One thing people always say is that their dogs never look and feel as good after a bath at home as they do after professional grooming. It's really not likely to happen either, because there's so much more to grooming than meets the eye.

If you've ever tried grooming your dog at home, you know they're not always delighted about the process. But, good groomers are well-prepared for all types of behaviour, be it shyness or hyperactivity. Our knowledge of dog behaviour helps us safely and effectively calm and comfort the dog, which then eases the process for the dog and us.

Although our love of dogs helps us with all aspects of grooming, the profession requires lots of technical knowledge as well. Proper use and maintenance of grooming tools, such as nail and hair clippers, keeps the dog safe and looking their best. With all the variations in breeds, we must know the various styles for each breed. Also, we must choose the correct methods, products and tools to use for all the different kinds of breed-specific hair and styles.

None of this knowledge comes easily, as it requires lots of study and hands-on training. In addition to knowledge on behaviours, tools and techniques, groomers must be aware of all the health issues that affect grooming.

Good grooming is a very detail-oriented process, as some dogs need trimming between their paw pads while others require specific procedures to keep their inner ears in tiptop shape. Behind all this, though, is a professional who cares very much about the dog's health, comfort and safety.

Some dogs are easier to groom than others are, of course, but each dog has its own set of individual care and grooming needs. Good groomers note all these differences for each dog so they can ensure the absolute best care for them.

Helpful Hint!

It's difficult to keep the garden nice-looking when it's also the dog's loo. But if you want to keep your grass looking green and healthy, try pouring water on urine spots immediately after the dog urinates. Water neutralises the nitrogen in urine, and so it stops the grass turning brown in those spots.

Doggy Humour!

Two dogs were discussing their lesson plans during a break from obedience class. One dog said to the other, 'You know, the thing I really hate about obedience school is that you've got to learn all this stuff you'll never use in the real world'.

A Look at German Shepherds!

German shepherds are well known for their work as police and military dogs, yet they're also one of the most popular dog breeds for family pets. This breed originated in Germany in the late 1800s and later found popularity as a movie-star breed.



Some people feel wary around German Shepherds because of the serious and watchful look in their eyes, but they're often gentle and friendly dogs. In fact, they're one of the best breeds to have around children (if well trained, of course). They're inherently driven to guard people and places but, once you've earned their trust, they're loving and loyal.

This breed requires lots of exercise and thrives on challenging games. A fast and attentive learner, the shepherd is remarkably talented with obedience training.

The grooming needs of a shepherd depend on its coat, as some have thicker undercoats than others do. Clipping is not necessary, but some may benefit from undercoat raking with a stripping tool. Monthly bathing is usually ideal.

Word Search

Find the hidden grooming words listed below!

G P T U N E U T E R G O D P
U R E G I G Y Z P X R C C U
S O O S M O Q S A P A D M P
S E I O I U G A W V T A J P
N B L B M C I R P M O F G I
D V A H I I R Z A K L R O E
A T I S A G N E D R Y E R S
H I C U W W C G S T M U L T
A W O R J M K T I X E W F R
I O S B I C R E M G E K L E
R K G N I T T A M A J P F U
C T E D I I Y S C T O O L P
U B R N O A S H A M P O O S
T B E T C L I P P E R S Q D

PAW PADS GROOMING BRUSH CLIPPERS HAIRCUT
MATTING DRYER PUPPIES SHAMPOO BATH

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Anniesland

*Garden, Gift &
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Mobile: 07775 611 788

950A, Crow Road Nth.
Glasgow G13 1JQ

Tel/Fax: 0141 959 7050

Is it Time for a New Collar?

Some collars, especially those made of leather, can last quite a long time and remain durable. But when they get worn and grimy, or when the dog's growing too quickly, it's really a good idea to find a replacement.

A well-fitting collar leaves some room between the material and the dog's neck. If you're wondering whether you should get a new one or if you're shopping for one, be sure that you can comfortably fit two fingers between the collar and neck. This extra room prevents discomfort for the dog when wearing the collar and reduces the chance of it digging into the dog's skin.

Consider going for washable collars, too, if your dog gets into lots of messes when playing outdoors. Collars often trap dirt and moisture, which then makes them prone to foul odours. If you remove the collar before the dog bathes or goes for a swim, it's less likely to develop that unpleasant odour.

After lots of wear, some collars will harbour bacteria, fungi or flea dirt, which then contributes to odours and a grimy appearance. Leather cleaning products, such as saddle soap and leather conditioners, can clean and extend the life of the pricier leather collars.

An excellent time to replace worn collars is whenever a dog's being groomed, as this keeps the dog clean and smelling fresh from head to toe!



Glenbrae Veterinary
Clinic, Bearsden:
0141 942 7070.

Castlebrae Veterinary
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01389 765555

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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:

Pawcasso Grooming

990 Crow Road, Glasgow G13 1JN

Tel: 0141-959-8111

Email: enquiries@pawcassogrooming.co.uk

www.pawcassogrooming.co.uk

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