

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!

Welcome to the September issue of the newsletter. If you've yet to have any summer fun with your best little friends, now is the time to do it! Cooler weather and the season of family festivities will be here before we know it, which means lots more time spent indoors—and an abundance of treats for us all.

Because the seasonal changes usually affect our lifestyles, this is an excellent time to prepare a health and fitness regimen for ourselves and for our dogs. It's certainly tempting to lounge around and fill up on goodies as we greet the cooler weather, but then, as you know, we tend to regret it come springtime!

You may have noticed your dogs eating less over the past few months, as some of them tend to have a smaller appetite during the summer. Your dog may have even stopped eating altogether for a few days, which is normal so long as they act and appear healthy otherwise. But towards the end of this month, they'll likely be eating as much as they can get their paws on.

You'll not want to give your dogs as much as they feel like eating, of course, and you may need to adjust their food portions depending on their size, age, breed, and level of activity. A twice daily, measured feeding is a good way to prevent overeating, and you'll want to restrict the number of treats they get as well.

To help them keep a healthy weight and a nice look to their coat through this transition, be sure to give them quality foods, routine grooming, and enough exercise to burn any extra calories. An intake of extra energy (food) with a lower level of output (exercise) can leave us all feeling sluggish and overweight.

So, ask yourself what you can do to make this a fun and healthy transition. It's never too late to get on with an exercise schedule, and autumn really is a lovely time for going on long walks with the dogs. If you have difficulty convincing yourself to get out there each day, (we all do sometimes), remember that rewards are just as motivating for us as they are for dogs. Reward yourself with a special treat for keeping your dogs active, and you'll find it all the more rewarding when you're both feeling and looking great!

For more information on healthy feeding, please see Page 3 of this month's issue. Hopefully you'll find the information here very helpful, and that you have a wonderful time with your dogs until we meet again.

Morag & Star. XXX

Inside this Issue:

- JOIN THE CAMPAIGN
- Choosing Healthy Foods
- A Look at the Boxer!
- Breaking the Separation Anxiety Bark

A Wonderful World of Dogs!

! Kiko, a Jack Russell terrier, chewed off his owner's toe—but saved his life by doing so. According to *Orange News*, Kiko's owner had undiagnosed Type II diabetes that had caused an infection in the bone of his toe. He knew there was something wrong with it but hadn't sought medical attention. When he was passed out from drinking one night, Kiko bit the toe off! Hospital staff amputated what was left to remove the rest of the deadly infection.

! Cruiser, a 'Puggle' mix, has been helping her owner with a residential inspection business by sniffing out bedbugs. According to *The New York Times*, trained dogs can detect a single bug or egg in minutes with 96 per cent accuracy, whereas human inspectors need hours to find them. Bedbugs have been a problem in major cities like New York due to travellers, but dogs like Cruiser are helping citizens get rid of them.

BOOK EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS



Please don't forget to book your pet in for a Christmas Groom. We are already taking bookings.

Pawcasso Grooming

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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.

"Man's best friend is what we say, so give your friend a big treat today"

COLLECTIONS

We have collected another £138 from the collection boxes. Thanks so much for all the generous donations. The Rescue Centres need every penny more than ever due to the recession. This brings our grand total up to £2,354. WOW!!!!

Thanks

- ✓ **We are still collecting plastic bottle tops to help raise funds for wheelchairs.**
- ✓ **Ring pulls.**
- ✓ **Used Stamps for the Donkey Sanctuary**
- ✓ **Old Ink Cartridges for the Hedgehog Society.**
- ✓ **Old Towels and blankets for the PDSA animal Hospital**
- ✓ **Toys or food for the SPCA at Milton for Christmas.**

PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKER



Walks in Mugdock Country Park and local countryside.
Ex Vet Nurse from the Vet School so you can be assured your pet is well looked after.
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LOOKING FOR A JUMPER FOR YOUR DOG?????



The K9 Rescue Knitting Club sells a range of unique hand Knitted coats for every size and shape of dog. 100% of proceeds are donated to dog rescue charities.

Visit them at
www.k9knitters.co.uk

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN.

Every year 200,000 people are attacked by dogs in the UK. In excess of 100 people attend UK hospitals each week due to dog bites, a figure that has increased in the last 10 years by 66%. At the same time Keep Britain Tidy calculates that around 60% of UK dog owners do not pick up their dog's faeces. Furthermore, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association report that an average of 3 guide dogs every month are attacked by other dogs on British streets.

Inspired by Jamie Oliver's successful campaign for school dinners, canine behaviour specialist Jez Rose is leading a national campaign encouraging responsible dog ownership, to reduce the incidence of dog attacks and the amount of dog fouling left in public spaces.

"The focus needs to be on prevention and encouraging dog owners to be more responsible and accountable – most dog attacks are preventable." Rose insists "local and central Government need to develop a five-year strategy to prevent future attacks as opposed to destroying dogs when they do. We create the dogs that we live with – any dog can be dangerous but on the whole they are not. In my behaviour practice, owners frequently present problems with their dogs caused largely by a lack of early socialisation or ineffective training methods. When behaviour results in aggression it is commonly due to fear and in most cases easily resolved with the correct training."

For some, however, it is too late: the dog attacks and is destroyed. An exponent and student of acclaimed animal behaviourist and veterinarian Dr Ian Dunbar, Rose has been documenting dog attacks for the past three years and believes Government action is long overdue. "I have written many letters to MPs and the Prime Minister and not once received a reply – the solutions are straightforward, so I decided to take matters into my own hands".

Rose believes that education is the key. "Dogs need to be socialised early on in puppyhood, critically between 6 and 13 weeks and receive obedience training to teach the dog which behaviours are acceptable. The recent wave of forceful dog training measures does not help create balanced, calm dogs".

Jez is calling on veterinary practices, businesses and individuals to show their support by displaying the campaign logo, linking to the website and becoming a fan on facebook where a formal petition will soon feature. More information and the campaign's manifesto are at www.nationaldogcampaign.co.uk

Please add your signature to this wonderful campaign



The national campaign to promote responsible dog ownership

- 1:** Reduce the amount of dog faeces left in public spaces.
- 2:** Minimize the number of children and adults attacked by dogs.

Did You Know?

Dogs don't know what you're referring to when you point at something; they watch the tip of your finger, instead.

When dogs put their chests and front paws against the floor with their hind ends up in the air, it's a 'bow'—a signal that they're feeling playful. You can mirror this behaviour to them when you want to play.

Doggie Humour!

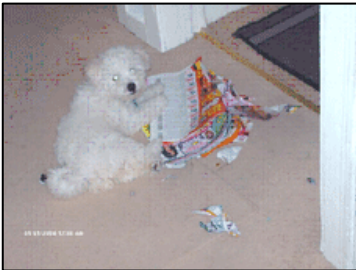
A little boy went to see a litter of puppies with his dad. When they got home, he ran to his mum and said, 'There were four girl Labrador puppies and three boy puppies!' She said, 'Well how do you know if they were boys or girls?' The little boy replied, 'Dad picked them up to have a look. I think it's printed on their bottoms.'



ARE YOU HAPPY WITH OUR GROOMING SERVICE?

If so, could you give us a testimonial to be used in the website, newsletters and in the salon to help future customers? It would be greatly appreciated. Drop me an e-mail. enquiries@pawcassogrooming.co.uk

OLLIE DOES IT AGAIN!!!



It wasn't me!!!



Caught smoking- oops

Thanks to Gillian Short for the great snaps of Wee Adorable Ollie – the Bichon Frise

A Look at the Boxer!



Bred in Germany for dog fighting and large game hunting in the 19th century, the Boxer remains a powerful breed that is now a popular pet. They got their name from standing on their hind legs to 'box' an adversary.

They were couriers during wartime, according to the KC, and they work with police and as seeing-eye dogs in modern times.

Although their history reflects some brutal behaviours and uses, Boxers are actually very affectionate dogs that adapt well to family life. Friendly and playful with children, too, these dogs are suitable as family pets and guard dogs when properly trained.

Boxers do not require much grooming in comparison to other breeds. A monthly bath and routine nail clipping is often sufficient for most. But this does not make them low-maintenance breeds. Boxers need lots of exercise, and they benefit greatly from quality obedience training.

Choosing Healthy Foods for Dogs

From the cheapest bag of kibble to home-cooked vegetarian meals, the foods you can provide for your dog greatly differ from one another. There is a wide variety, as well as conflicting beliefs on what's best, so it's really a matter of finding foods that meet the needs of your individual dog.

The first thing to consider is a dog's age. A puppy's nutritional requirements differ from those of an adult dog, so it's important that you go with an age-appropriate feed. Following that, you have some difficult decisions to make...

What you see on a dog food label isn't necessarily accurate. For example, a brand may advertise that its product promotes a healthy and shiny coat, yet no formula can have a certain effect on all dogs. Therefore, it's good to understand the ingredients and then compare them between brands.

The first ingredient on the label is the main ingredient, just as it is with our own food labels. Most dog foods have corn or another type of meal or byproduct as the primary base, and this is something you may want to avoid if you're looking for high-quality nutrition. Instead, go with a brand that initially lists a specific meat or protein source.

For healthy skin and coat, try to avoid foods that contain artificial colours such as Red 40 and Yellow 5, as these can cause itchiness and allergic reactions. They are for appearances only and have no nutritional value.

A bit of research is needed to fully grasp the differences between product ingredients, but following the simple tips above can make a big difference in your dog's health and nutrition.

If you choose to switch brands, remember to mix the old and new foods together to slowly transition your dog to the new feed.

Supplements for a Shiny Coat!

The 'healthy and shiny coat' promises on dog food labels may or may not be accurate, but two ingredients that do promote this are Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids.

These help prevent dandruff, dull coats, and skin irritation, and they promote healthy functioning. Talk with your vet or a pet food specialist for tips on supplementing a dog's diet with healthy fatty acids. And if your store-brand kibble contains them already, be sure to keep the bag closed tightly to prevent the oils from oxidizing.

Word Scramble!

Unscramble the letters to reveal a quote on dogs

O G S D E R A N T O

R U O H W L E O I L E F

T B U H T Y E K M E A

R U O I L V S E H L W E O

—Roger Caras

(answer on Page 4)

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

Word Scramble Answer:

'Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.'

Breaking the Separation Anxiety Bark

If your dog tends to bark nonstop at the door after you leave your home, it's likely that they're suffering from separation anxiety. This is a common problem with dogs nowadays because many of them spend lots of time alone as their owners are away at work.

If you wish to break this behaviour, one of the best things you can do is exercise all that excess energy out of the dog before you leave. A long daily walk gives them time to bond with you and helps them relax.

Following that, you can desensitise them to your absence by 'flooding' their senses with all the cues that you're about to leave. Pretend that you're leaving by following your usual routine, and then walk back in a few minutes later. Repeat this throughout the day, but do not talk to them or pet them when you're coming in or out of the home.

During the next practise session, walk back into the house only when the dog stops barking. This teaches them that you return when they're quiet.

Having another dog will not cure this condition, so it does take some behavioural training to overcome it.

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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