



For most of us it is impossible to imagine life without our four-legged companions. In fact, we often think of our dogs as true members of the family, almost like children, and we don't think twice about buying them special treats or even going out of our way to plan a vacation that they will enjoy.

However, there are literally millions of dogs that are not treated so well and are often abandoned, neglected and abused. As dog lovers it is important that we not only care for our pampered pet but that we also give something back to those dogs that are less fortunate.

No matter where you live, in a rural area in the country or in a busy urban city, there are dogs around you that just need a loving home. If you have the space and the time you may want to consider getting in touch with a local no-kill shelter or a rescue and see if they are in need of foster homes.

As a pet foster home you would take in a dog that is waiting to find a forever home. Often these dogs need some basic training and socialization so they can be adopted out and will be a great companion pet for another family. Of course, if you choose this option you will have to pass a certification and evaluation by the rescue group or shelter, but is a truly rewarding experience and one that allows you to personally help out a dog that hasn't had a very good life up to the point that they came into your home.

Not everyone can take in foster dogs and not everyone has the space or time to work with these dogs to get them to the point of being adoptable. If you are in this situation then you can still find ways to give back to the community of dogs that need help from a caring, companionate human.

Volunteering with your local shelter or rescue can be a wonderful way to spend a weekend afternoon or a day or two during the week. Volunteers are always needed to walk dogs, bathe dogs and provide some basic training and socialization for the dogs. There is also need for people to come and help feed, clean kennels and do general repairs around the place, so no matter what your skills are there is always room for your talents.

Getting involved in supporting dogs that have had a difficult life is a very rewarding experience. Yes, there are heartbreaks and sorrows, but there are also amazing times of joy and satisfaction when you help a loving dog to find a forever home.

LuAnn

Dirty Dogs Salon

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Get this Newsletter on our Website every month:
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Our Opening Hours!

Open:
Tues – Saturday at 9am

Closed:
Sunday and Monday

Quiz

The Lagotto Romagnolo is a very rare breed of Italian dog that has been specially trained to sniff out:

- A. pheasants
- B. rats and vermin
- C. truffles
- D. snakes

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I am a member of National Dog Groomer Association of America Inc.

Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend. ~ Corey Ford

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS PAGE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT I COULD DO FOR YOU AND YOUR PET!

Five Important points to look for when choosing a good Dog Groomer!

It's important to remember that not all groomers are the same and that the service they provide will not always be what you'd expect. It's so important that the person who grooms and cares for your dog does so to the highest standard. Because it's critical that you have trust and confidence in this person, I have highlighted the five benefits that a good groomer will provide to you:

1. Assurance that the care and welfare of your dog is their top priority:

Any good groomer is first and foremost a dog lover, so caring for your dog comes as second nature to them and is given at all times. By providing breaks during the clipping process and by never leaving your dog unsupervised, they reduce unnecessary stress while ensuring safety and security. They also attend to your dog's basic needs by providing them with such things as fresh drinking water.

2. Grooming of the highest standards that reflects the needs of you and your dog:

A good groomer must be able to demonstrate the ability to groom your dog to high standards and to provide an appropriate look for your pet. They must have the ability to accurately determine your needs while advising you on different options for style and finish. A good groomer will never inflict pain or undue stress on your pet just to achieve a certain style.

3. Understanding of the different temperaments and characteristics of dogs:

As not all dogs are the same, they cannot all be approached and handled the same. For example, a shy and slightly fearful dog requires calmness and patience, while a lively bouncy dog may require immediate leadership. A good groomer will be able to adapt their approach to meet the psychological and behavioral needs of different dogs to ensure minimum stress during the grooming experience.

4. Quality products and methods that do not risk the health of your pet:

A good groomer will never compromise on the quality of products they use on your pet. Cheap dog products are available everywhere, yet they can cause severe health problems for your dog. Therefore, you must be confident that your groomer uses quality controlled professional grooming products. A good groomer will never cut corners with their products just to save money or to provide cheaper rates.

5. Advice and information on all aspects of dog ownership:

It's important that you have someone to turn to when you need advice or help with your dog, and a good groomer will be this person. While groomers cannot offer all of the answers, such as a medical diagnosis, they should be knowledgeable enough to offer some assistance and to point you in the right direction. A good groomer will always attempt to identify and inform you of any physical or behavioral changes that may indicate a health problem. This can make all the difference in recovery, as early detection ensures early treatment.

As a groomer, the above five benefits are the guide by which I provide my services. Dogs and grooming are my passion, not just my business. By bringing your dog to me for grooming, you can be assured that you and your dog will receive all five benefits as well as the care and service that you deserve.

What you can Expect if you Bring your Dog to Me!

Would you like your dog groomed so that she's looking gorgeous and left just the way you want her to look? Do you want her coat smelling delightful so there's no more 'doggy' smell in your home? Would you like her coat feeling soft while being just a dream to cuddle? And above all, would you like reassurance that your dog is getting the same gentle care and kindness during grooming that you would give her at home?

Well, you've just found a groomer that can provide everything you want, plus much, much more!

With me, you can be sure that your dog will be groomed to the highest standard. You'll be so pleased with how she looks, you will be proud to walk her down your street and show her off to your neighbors - just like the many other clients I have.

Your preferences and lifestyle, as well as your dog's character, are always taken into account as I advise you on grooming styles. The health, safety and welfare of your pet are always my priority, so you can have peace of mind knowing that I only offer the best advice to help you choose the right options for your dog.

As a caring dog owner, you'll want your pet to be healthy and happy. Therefore, it'll be reassuring to know that, with me, you'll have someone looking out for potential health issues and changes in your dog - some that may only be noticeable during grooming. Early detection of ailments can make all the difference to your pet, so I make sure to keep a close eye out for physical and behavioral changes during grooming.

Your dog will be well looked after and will always get the 'one on one' attention that she needs. You'll always feel confident that she's in the safest of hands with me; I can assure you of that.

Your pet deserves the best so I only use the best and safest products that will get her coat looking gorgeous but won't ever harm her. Others may choose to use cheaper, inferior products in grooming but that's something I simply will not compromise on.

With me, you'll also have someone to turn to if you have issues or worries about your pet. Advice and help is a free extra service I'm more than happy to provide. You can call me if you ever have any problems or just need to chat about your little friend.

So if you're looking for a groomer who will leave your pet looking fantastic then give me a call. You'll be over the moon when you see what I can do for you and your little furry friend.

Dirty Dogs Salon

"Expert in leaving your dog looking gorgeous"

- ✓ **Have your dog gorgeously groomed so that she is left looking and smelling wonderful. You'll be delighted with how she'll look and you'll be so proud to show her off to your family and friends.**
- ✓ **You'll never have to worry when you leave your pet with me. She'll be groomed in a clean, relaxed environment where only the best and safest products are used.**
- ✓ **As a customer of mine, you'll get the respect and service from me that all good dog owners like you deserve.**
- ✓ **Help and advice is freely given so you'll always have someone to turn to if you ever have a problem or a worry about your little friend.**
- ✓ **I use a calm, 'tender loving' approach when grooming, where patience, praise and kindness is assured.**
- ✓ **And of course, kisses and cuddles for your little buddy are provided in abundance. She'll just love being groomed with me and you'll love how she looks afterwards!**

Call for an appointment today. Tel: **(352) 341-0600**

How To Bathe Your Dog At Home

If you are one of those people that dreads the routine doggy bath you probably have a dog that doesn't like the idea much either. Bath phobic dogs seem to have the uncanny knack of knowing just what you are up to when you try to quietly get bath supplies together. They resist coming in the house, run and hide under the bed, or lead you on a merry chase around the yard as you try to get the collar and leash in place.

This is frustrating for you and, quite frankly, a lot of fun for the dog. The trick is to change the way that the dog sees the routine bath to make it an experience that they want to have.

The best possible option is to start this process right with the first bath. However, even with an older dog that hates the bath you can still implement these steps to change their opinion of just how much fun a bath can actually be.

The basic steps for a dog bath that is a great experience for all are:

1. Choose a time when you are not rushed and when you are calm, relaxed and positive about the activity.
2. Get your supplies together including a good quality dog shampoo, conditioner, small container for pouring water or a flexible hose or shower head for the rinse process.
3. Place a non-slip mat or a towel in the tub or sink to give the dog a firm footing and prevent slipping.
4. Take your dog for a long, brisk walk, jog or run. You can also play with them, get them to fetch, or give them some time at the doggy park. The goal is to burn off excessive energy and to ensure that the dog is calm.
5. Keeping the dog on the leash, bring the dog to the bathing area and place the dog in the tub or sink, holding them firmly but not tightly and talking positively to the dog. Maintain your physical touch with the dog.
6. Start at the shoulders and, using warm but not hot water, wet the entire coat from the shoulders back. Wet the neck when the dog is comfortable with the water.
7. Apply shampoo and rinse, praising the dog and maintaining contact. Two people are often better than one for this purpose with larger dogs.

End by lifting the dog out of the tub or sink and providing lots of praise and well deserved treat.

The Importance Of The Daily Walk

The daily walk is so much more than just a routine habit that is good for both you and your dog. Dog behavior specialists, vets and trainers all agree that going for a walk is important for your dog's health, metabolism, digestion and for their mental well being.

The daily walk provides exercise for the dog, but even more than that the movement of walking, jogging or running is essential in aiding all systems of the body. Just like with humans exercise stimulates the release of specific hormones and chemicals in the body and brain of the dog. These hormones are important in the functioning of the immune system as well as regulating the metabolic system.

Dogs with chronic mild types of digestive problems are typically sedentary dogs. Increased exercise of just 30 minutes per day will help the body to move waste material through the digestive system.

Mental stimulation is also part of the daily walk. It is great if you have the opportunity to take different paths or different routes on a regular basis, but even the same walk is going to provide your dog with something to think about and focus on that is unique and different.

Socialization for the dog is another element of the daily walk. He or she will have a chance to see other people, see other dogs and perhaps even interact with other dogs and animals. Off-leash parks and areas where the dog can safely play with other pets are a wonderful way to build some playtime into the walk and increase socialization opportunities.

Teaching Your Dog To Heel

Teaching your dog to heel, either on or off the leash, is important for both your dog's safety as well as your comfort when out and about. Dogs naturally often want to roam ahead or drop behind, leading to pulling or dragging, both which can be harmful to your pet's neck and throat and very tiring for you.

Simple tricks to get your dog to heel include:

- Start with the dog seated beside your left leg.
- Place your hand, with a few tasty treats, in front of his or her nose.
- Immediately take a step forward and say heel, keeping your hand in front of the nose.
- Give treats for a few steps, the dog will be staying right behind your hand.
- Stop and say sit, give treats and praise.

Gradually extend the distance between treats. Soon your dog will be heeling without any difficulty or distractions.

Signs Your Dog May Have An Ear Infection

Ear infections are very common in dogs. Dogs with longer, floppy ears are more prone to the condition than dogs with the more upright and open ears. This is because moisture and debris, including wax, is more easily trapped in the folded over ear, creating the perfect condition for bacteria to thrive.

Just like with people, ear infections in dogs tend to get progressively worse. Being able to spot the possible early signs of an ear infection can allow you to seek treatment from your vet before the infection becomes serious.

The most common early signs of an ear infection include:

- Hot, red and swollen skin in the flap of the ear or at the top of the ear by the head
- Discharge from the ear that may be found under the ear and on the inside of the ear
- Scratching and rubbing of the ear along the ground or on other surfaces
- A noticeable odor around the head and the ears
- Tilting the head continuously
- Head shaking
- Pain when being petted on the head or around the ears

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Quiz Key

The correct answer is C.truffles. These dogs can take up to 4 years to train and will ignore all other scents.

Introducing New Pets

Introducing new pets to your existing dog can be a challenging time for both the animals. Your existing dog may be protective of his or her territory and also protective of you. Regular socialization and a strong bond between you and the dog can help to neutralize this behavior, even with non canine pets. These may include cats, birds and other animals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits or ferrets.

The most important thing to remember is that dogs are pack animals, but that only applies to animals that the dog does not see as "prey". It is not reasonable to expect most dogs to socialize with animals such as rabbits, birds, hamsters and other smaller pets, so keeping the two separate unless you are there to supervise is always the best option. Introducing these types of pets to your dog will depend on your dog's overall prey drive and how you evaluate their possible aggression towards the other animal. Some dogs can do this very well and get along perfectly, but it is important to consider that this may not be the personality of natural instincts of your dog.

Introducing cats and kittens to dogs is typically not as problematic, especially if done at the puppy stage. Make introductions slowly and do not leave the two alone until you are sure there is no aggression. Dogs and cats can make wonderful companions for each other, but again it is largely a part of the dog's natural instincts and safe, careful introductions.

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