



As the holiday season approaches dog owners often find that schedules get more than just a bit crazy and routines are often thrown out the window. While this may be wonderful for those that love spontaneity and change, for a dog it can create anxiety, confusion and some very challenging behavior changes.

Maintaining basic routines for your dog can really help in preserving a sense of stability and consistency for your pet. This means that routine walks, feeding times and play times are kept as close to schedule as possible. Dogs should also have the opportunity to interact with their family and visitors on a regular basis. Dogs that are well socialized and are able to stay a part of the activities are much less likely to bark, chew and engage in other types of problem behaviors that dogs shut up in a back room or the garage.

The good news for dog owners is that those routine walks with your canine companion are not just essential exercise for your dog. With most people gaining a few pounds over the festive season walking can really help you limit the effects of all those treats, cookies and party foods that are everywhere that you look.

It is also important to understand which foods are good for your dog and which foods, especially those holiday treats, are actually dangerous to feed your pet. Often these foods are out in dishes on coffee tables and are very easy for a dog to sneak up to and grab a mouthful before you realize what has happened. Some of the most potentially dangerous human treats for dogs include chocolates, Macadamia nuts and artificially sweetened candies. Baked goods that combine nuts, chocolate and sweeteners are a lethal combination to dogs if consumed in large quantities. It is a good idea to keep dishes of these treats well out of the reach of your dog and talk to any guests about not feeding these items to your pet, no matter how cute and wistfully he or she may look.

When serving alcoholic beverages watch your dog as he or she may be sampling what the guests are drinking. Many dogs seem to enjoy the taste of beer and mixed drinks, but they are not able to process the ethanol in the alcohol, resulting in extreme intoxication, seizures and in some cases even coma and death. Drinks containing alcohol that use cream or milk, including eggnog, are also something that is going to attract many dogs.

Hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

LuAnn

Dirty Dogs Salon

4485 N. Carl G. Rose Hwy. Hernando, FL 34442

Tel: (352) 341-0600

www.dirtydogssalon.com

Top Gifts for Dogs

Holiday gifts for our four legged friends have gone from an extra bone to chew on to some cute, interesting and very unusual gift options. Top choices this year include:

- Personalized stockings complete with chew toys, gourmet snacks and balls
- Gourmet dog food basket
- Plush toys for canine companions
- Christmas and holiday hats, scarves and decorative ruffs for those "dress up" events
- Custom decorated collars and leads
- Elevated dog bowls and waterers
- Microfleece dog jumpers, sweaters and winter outerwear

Now Accepting Credit Cards!

To make it much more convenient for you I've installed a Credit Card payment system. So now you can make payments via Visa, MasterCard or Discover cards.



Find us on:



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

"Man's best friend is what we say, so let's treat them well on Christmas Day"

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**

Healthy, Homemade Treats Your Dog will Love

Many people are really watching their budget this year, but this doesn't mean that you have to cut down on your gift giving. For dog owners on your gift list or for your own pet a basket full of healthy, homemade dog treats is a perfect low cost option to a costly gourmet dog food sampler.

Making your own dog treats is very similar to making your favorite holiday cookies. The great news is that you can use this basic recipe to create your own unique flavor combinations.

Basic Doggy Treats Recipe

1 cup salt free chicken broth
1 cup whole rolled oats
1 cup whole wheat flour
1 cup wheat germ or spelt
1-2 tablespoons coconut or olive oil

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix basic ingredients until they form a stiff dough, adding more chicken broth if needed.

Roll out to about ¼ inch thickness and cut with a cookie cutter into desired shapes. Place treats on a lightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 15-18 minutes or until crispy. Remove from the oven, allow to cool on baking racks and store in an airtight container.

To create your own flavor combinations consider adding to the basic recipe:

- 1 jar of baby food (fruit, meat or vegetable)
- ½ cup smooth or crunch peanut butter
- ½- 1 cup of grated carrots
- ½-1 cup of grated sweet potatoes
- 2-3 whole eggs
- 3-4 tablespoons flaxseed
- ½-1 cup pure pumpkin puree (unsweetened)
- Fresh diced apples, blueberries or pears
- ½-1 cup unflavored yogurt

Quiz

Which of the following are considered to be rare breeds of dogs?

1. Peruvian Inca Orchid
2. New Guinea Singing Dog
3. Lagotto Romagnolo
4. Carolina Dog
5. Xoloitzcuintli

Decorating Safety

The festive season is a time when both traditional and completely modern decorations are brought out of storage and placed around the home and in the yard. These beautiful additions to the home are generally safe for children and pets, but it is a good idea to take some basic precautions for your dog's safety.

Make sure all holiday decorations, especially small figurines, candles, table decorations and Christmas tree ornaments are located well above your dog's reach. Christmas tree decorations can be particularly attractive to a dog as they move and seem to dangle tantalizingly just above their head. Fragile glass tree ornaments should be reserved for the top branches and never placed where the dog could grab them and break them with their mouth. Tinsel often attracts both dogs and cats to the tree and, if actually swallowed, it can lead to blockages that require surgery to correct. Trees that are flocked should be avoided as dogs will often lick or eat the flocking, resulting in poisoning.

Lights on the tree, around the banister, or around interior windows can also be a temptation for your dog. The light bulbs can break and cause injury while chewing the plastic coating of the wire is a real potential for electrocution and choking. Always keep electrical wires and lights well up and off the ground and remove extension cords when someone is not in the room to supervise.

Poinsettia plants have always had a bad reputation with pets, but they are much less serious in their health risk for dogs than many other holiday plants. Mistletoe, pine needles and holly, particularly the berries, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, breathing problems and mouth and throat irritation. Again, simply placing these beautiful holiday plants out of reach is all that is needed to keep your pet safe.

Outdoor decorations that move and have lights can be extremely interesting for your dog if they are bored or just naturally curious. Make sure the frames for these types of wire and light combinations are staked down to the ground so they cannot be knocked over and dragged around the yard. In addition opt for plastic lights instead of glass bulbs to prevent any possible injury to the dog should a bulb break.

Beautiful decorations through the holiday season are a tradition that you don't have to forego just because you have a dog. You can put out any decoration you want; just make sure it is out of reach of your pet for safety and your peace of mind.

Get Your Newsletter Every Month!

Due to the rise of stamps and cost starting Jan 2014 our newsletters will not be mailed they will be available at the shop or on the website [Www.dirtydogssalon.com](http://www.dirtydogssalon.com) or if you want them to be emailed to you directly please email me the information at info@dirtydogssalon.com

If you have no access to a computer and want it to be mailed please let me know by calling. 352 341 0600

Between Grooming Tips for a Beautiful Coat

Keeping your dog's coat looking tip top is not as difficult as you may imagine. Of course the type of coat your dog has plays a major role in how much or how little effort you will have to put forth. However, regardless of the coat type, regular grooming and maintenance are essential for a shiny, healthy coat all year round.

Routine grooming helps to remove dirt, debris and dead hair from your dog's coat. Always brush in the direction of hair growth, which is usually down from the spine on either side of the body. For heavy, double coats use your hand to part the coat before brushing.

Avoid bathing your dog frequently as this can strip essential oils from the coat and the skin. The result will be a dry, dead looking coat and flaky, irritated skin. If you absolutely need to do a touch-up cleaning consider a safe and gentle dog-friendly dry shampoo. This is a powder that you simply sprinkle over the coat and brush through. The dry powder comes out with brushing and leaves a great smelling, beautifully clean coat.

Ears and eyes should also be routinely cleaned if these are problem areas for your dog. A soft cotton cloth, never a cotton ball or Q-tip, can be soaked in warm water and used to gently remove tears and discharge from the eyes or wax and dirt from the outside of the ears. Any wax or dirt in the interior of the ears should be cleaned in a similar fashion as long as it is not in the ear canal itself. This type of wax build-up should be checked by your veterinarian.

Preparing Your Dog for the Hectic Holiday Season

The best way to prepare your dog for the company, overnight guests and new people that may come to your home over the holiday season is to start or step up your socialization training.

Socialization training can include introducing your dog to new people, places and things as well as to other dogs. If you have a few friends that are comfortable around dogs they can be a real help in your training program.

Many dogs tend to be loud and continuous barkers when there are new people in their home. To stop this habit simply practice, with someone that is new to your dog, arrivals to your home. Have the person come to the door and ring the bell and then answer the door as you would normally. Once the dog barks once or twice give the "enough" command or "enough bark" and, if the dog stops, provide an immediate high value reward such as a food treat.

If the dog continues to bark give a command that the dog already knows such as sit or come. As soon as the dog responds provide an immediate reward such as a dog treat or a favorite toy. Keep repeating the process until the dog is desensitized to the doorbell or the arrival and is more interested in getting the treat.

Dogs should have a place of their own that is their personal "do not disturb" zone. The dog should not be placed in this spot as a punishment, but rather allowed to go there if they are feeling overwhelmed by new events and people.

Quiz Key

Actually all of the dogs listed on the quiz are recognized or classified as rare breeds by one or more Kennel Clubs or dog breed organizations.

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.

Dirty Dogs Salon

4485 N. Carl G. Rose Hwy. Hernando, FL 34442

Tel: (352) 341-0600

www.dirtydogssalon.com

The information provided in this newsletter and on any additional documents herein is for guidance purposes only. It must not be construed as veterinary or legal advice. Always seek fully trained veterinary advice if you have a health issue with your pet. As far as is reasonably practical the publisher endeavors to ensure that this information is accurate and correct. However the publisher cannot be held responsible for inaccuracies, omissions or mistakes. Neither can we be held liable for any damages, howsoever caused, resulting from the information contained in this document.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please let us know.