



It seems at this time of year, even if it is still blustery and cold, we all start to think of spring coming just around the corner. The days seem to be a bit brighter and we are all getting anxious to get outside and enjoy spending time in the great outdoors.

Our dogs are also looking forward to being able to get outside and play, run and explore when the weather isn't so difficult and chilly. This is the perfect time to get in some refresher training for basic obedience work. Taking some time to practice being on the leash, heeling and sitting, staying and general good manners is always important, but after a long winter of being lazy it is a fun way to reconnect with your pooch. Work training in all through the day and in short blocks of time as an easy way to brush up on the basics.

One option that can help in boosting your obedience and training routine at this time of year is to take an obedience class. We all get into bad habits as owners that only make it more difficult for our dogs to try to figure out what we want. By taking a dog obedience class, a refresher class if you will, we can correct those lazy habits and start out working together as a team.

If you aren't excited about the thought of an obedience class you may want to consider private training lessons. These aren't that expensive and you can book a couple of hours with a one-on-one trainer to just focus in on any challenges you may be having with your pet. These private sessions are perfect for the older dog that may be generally doing terrific but having a minor issue with some aspect of their behavior inside the home or out in public.

Another great option to reinforce that bond with your dog is to try something completely new. This is can a fun experience for you both as you learn, work and grow together. Agility classes will help you to both get more active while also focusing in on voice commands and working together. For those that are more artistic and create a freestyle doggy dancing class may be just the thing. This is an amazing training to take with your dog even if you never choose to actually enter an event or compete.

With all these training options you are sure to find something that works for you and your dog. Being playful and spending some time just having fun together is also an important consideration all year round. The more we interact and spend time with our dogs the closer we bond and the better and stronger our relationship will be now and in the future.

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Quiz

All dogs have four toes on their hind feet, but some have a fifth toe, a dewclaw, further up the leg. These dogs are known as:

- A. Polydigital dogs
- B. Polydactyl dogs
- C. Polypedal dogs

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Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog ~Franklin P. Jones

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**

Doggy Dental Care At Home

Taking care of your dog's teeth can easily become part of your regular grooming routine at home. It is especially important if your dog is not a chewer by nature or doesn't routinely have raw bones to chew on.

Raw bones, especially the larger knuckle bones, provide a natural scraping action on the teeth that helps to remove tartar and stimulate the gums. Our modern dogs that are fed processed foods do not have that advantage so tartar can build up on the teeth. This can sometimes be seen even in young dogs and looks like a dull, yellow to brownish film starting at the gums and moving up the teeth.

Dogs that have tartar on their teeth are more likely to have issues such as gingivitis, gum disease, early tooth loss and chipped or cracked teeth. Routine cleaning, doggy dental care, can help to reduce the risk of these issues occurring for your dog.

Talk to your vet if you notice this build-up or if your dog's breath is foul smelling. A significant tartar problem may need to be corrected through a process called scaling, which is just like getting your teeth cleaned at the dentist.

Try these techniques at home to help keep your dog's teeth sparkling white and healthy:

1. Purchase a doggy toothbrush or a finger sleeve. These are sold at your local pet store or online.
2. Buy some dog toothpaste. Never use human dental products as they are not at all appealing to your pooch.
3. Start by gentle rubbing the dog's teeth and gums with your finger with a bit of the toothpaste. Work from the front of the mouth to the back as the dog becomes comfortable.
4. When they are comfortable with your finger and the toothpaste, begin using the dog toothbrush or finger sleeve.

You can also provide your dog with good quality raw knuckle bones that will not splinter or break. The joint bones are less likely to pose a choking hazard as they are larger. If you are not comfortable with that idea look for good quality rubber chew toys that are texturized. These can also be a great way to clean the teeth and stimulate the gums.

There are some treats made by a variety of companies that provide a chewing action and are marketed to clean the teeth. Use these with caution and always supervise your dog when they are chewing on the treats as they can pose a choking hazard if they are swallowed whole.

Preparing For The Spring Shed

With spring fast approaching owners of the double coated dogs are bracing for an onset of dog hairs all over the place. The larger the dog the more that you have to worry about, but even small dogs and dogs with single coats can shed an amazing amount of hair.

Dogs with double coats typically shed the dense, soft and almost woolly inner coat in the spring and in the fall. This will vary by breed and individual dog, with some dogs fully "blowing" their coat in a week while others tend to shed it more slowly and over a longer period of time.

The good news is that if your dog is an indoor dog they often don't develop as thick of an inner coat, but the drawback is it all comes out on your rugs, bedding, furniture and on your clothes. While it is a natural process that is healthy for the dog's coat, it can still be a real challenge.

Regular grooming, at least once a day, is a good way to remove the excess hair before it gets on everything. Use a pin brush, shedding blade, rubber curry brush or a grooming rake that will go through the outer and inner coat layers to remove the loose hair.

Use your hand to push the hair against the direction of growth, which is usually up towards the pine and forward and then gently brush it back into place. Never brush or comb against the direction of hair growth as this will be painful for the dog. Start at the top of the dog and move down the body to avoid loose hair falling back on areas you have already groomed.

Follow up with a lot of praise, a walk and treat; your dog will love you for it.

Tips To Stop Problem Digging

As the snow starts to melt away your dog may decide to get busy landscaping your yard. Unfortunately, this often means huge craters in your lawn, flower beds and around your trees.

Dogs that have terrier breeds in their background are more likely to dig, but any bored dog may enjoy this as a pastime. To stop this type of boredom digging try:

1. Exercising your dog before leaving them in the yard. A brisk walk for at least 30 minutes will help them work off excess energy.
2. Provide chew toys, balls and safe rope toys to help to keep dogs occupied outside.
3. Build a "digging pen" and keep the ground tilled so your dog finds that an attractive place to dig. Reward the dog for digging there and even hide a few toys or treats to give them a reason to dig.

Brain Games For Dogs

Dogs are naturally curious and, if you are like most owners, you have found this out the hard way. If carefully put up toys and treats out of reach you may find that you come home to a disaster as your dog has tried his or her best to solve the puzzle you have created and get to the hidden prize.

There is now a whole market for brain games for dogs that are perfect for the curious type of pet, or even a dog that is more of a couch potato. Brain games for dogs are a lot like developmental games and toys for younger kids, just designed with dogs in mind.

Treat balls are very popular. These are durable rubber or hard plastic balls that are filled with small kibble. There is one hole in the ball so when the dog rolls it the right way a piece of kibble falls out. Your dog will learn to roll the ball to get at the little treats that randomly drop from the ball when it is in the right position.

Puzzles that include hiding treats and having the dogs slide or move the pieces to reveal the prize are also a big hit with most canine puzzle masters. These come in various sizes for small, medium and large sized dogs.

You can also hide toys inside and outside to create your own hide-and-seek game. You will be surprised at how much your dog loves these activities and how fast they learn.

Get This Newsletter Every Month!

To continue to provide you with information, help and a little bit of fun, 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 us your email address or request your newsletter by sending us an email. Once you're on our list we'll send you a copy every month.

Quiz Key

The presence of a hind dewclaw makes them (B) Polydactyl dogs. Some dogs may also have a double dewclaw.

The Versatile Puppy Clip

The puppy clip, also known as the puppy cut or a kennel cut, is a great way to keep a dog's coat short and manageable for a great number of dogs. It is most common with puppies and young dogs because it is not styled to meet any particular breed or show standard, it is just an overall short cut.

The entire coat of the puppy, or the dog, will be cut to be uniform in length where the hair is naturally longer. This includes over the body, the head, ears and legs. The tail is also clipped to a uniform short length, which makes grooming and bathing much easier.

The coat is usually clipped at just about 2 inches from the body, enough to give a nice, fluffy and soft appearance without all the problems with mats and tangles. As the owner you can request that the cut be shorter or longer, just make sure to be clear before the clip is started.

There are two slight variations on the puppy clip. They include the teddy bear clip and the lamb cut. Both are similar to the puppy clip over the body, but they leave the hair on the legs and the hair around the face longer and fuller for that adorable look. The lamb cut is a shorter version on the teddy bear.

Most puppies and dogs with a puppy clip will need a touch up about every six to eight weeks to keep in top shape.

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