



Dirty Dogs Salon

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Hello and welcome to the April issue of the newsletter. It's hard to believe it's this time of year already, but it's thrilling nonetheless. The landscape will soon be blooming with greenery and flowers again, giving us and our dogs much more to explore and take in. It really will be nice, too, to comfortably sit and work outdoors.

If you're starting to make plans for your own garden and landscaping, here are a few things to keep in mind regarding the dogs—as you know they'll be wanting to help and play in it, too!

Managing Doggy Messes

While there's not much you can do about the color of grass that's already been damaged by dogs, you can prevent some of the discoloration caused by their urine. This is the perfect time to start, too, since we're nearing the start of the season. Simply pour water on the spot immediately after they use it, as this neutralizes the urine. Also, you might encourage them to use only one spot in the yard.

Pesticides and Herbicides

Unfortunately, some of the products we use to prevent weed growth and rid our plants of bugs can cause harm to dogs. This is also true for yard sprays that are intended for fleas and ticks. If you'll be treating your lawn for anything, have a look at the product label prior to using it. Sometimes they provide recommendations for keeping pets safe during and after application. There are also a few organic sprays that are safe for pets and children, but most commercial products do come with some level of risk.

Putting a Stop to Doggy Digging

You won't want any of your hard work going to the dogs, either, so beware if your dog likes to watch you plant flowers. Oftentimes they interpret this as "playing" and will start digging their own holes. All the new scents and wildlife contribute to their urge to dig also. But, you can discourage them from doing this by giving them their very own digging spot. Put some toys in one section of the yard—in a sandbox if you'd rather not have them digging the soil—and praise them for playing there. You can also lightly bury a few treats or toys to keep their interest focused in that area.

While it does take a bit of extra work to keep a yard nice and safe with dogs around, they do enjoy the time spent outdoors with us!

LuAnn

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Dog Spotlight!

THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT IS ON:

"Elizabeth"

A 6 year old Lasha Po.

Owner: Candi Graff of Hernando, FL



Elizabeth is a very sweet girl. Always prim and proper, never gives anyone a problem not even her groomer. Elizabeth likes to be clean and looking her best, that why Candi (her owner) brings her in for her pedicure and styleing monthly and this makes Elizabeth feel and look her best. We are so happy here at "Dirty Dogs Salon" to make Elizabeth feel and look great!! Paws Up to Elizabeth!!

Did You Know?

You can assist with relief efforts for dogs that were displaced from the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Donations are being accepted by non-profit organizations, such as Animal Refuge Kansai in Tokyo, that shelter the dogs and find them new homes. Other organizations, such as World Vets, are providing rescue and veterinarian supplies and are in need of assistance.



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

"A doggie wash for you you'll no doubt say, when they've gone into the mud to dig and play"

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 Humour!

While an English teacher instructed her students about prefixes, she explained that some words begin with the prefix dog-. "Examples," she said, "are the dogwood, dogrose, and dogviolet. Can anyone give me another example of a plant prefixed by dog?"

"I can," shouted a student in the back of the class. "Colliflower!"

A Fear of Water

Contrary to popular belief, not all dogs are naturally capable of swimming or inclined to play in water. In fact, some of them get rather anxious and fearful at the sight or sound of it. While this isn't something that would ordinarily affect their everyday lives, it's certainly worth addressing if it arises.

A fear of water not only limits the types of adventures a person can enjoy with their dog, it causes the dog undue stress with grooming and other water-related activities.

You can recognize this by observing their body language. Dogs will usually back away, shrink up, or start trembling when water's running if they're afraid of it. If you see this in your dog, you'll want to help them associate water with something positive. Petting them and saying "It's OK" will only reinforce the anxious attitude and unwanted behavior. Likewise, plunging them into the water against their will can reinforce the fear. So, resist the urge to comfort or force them if you want to help them overcome it.

Introduce the water to them gradually, and reward them each time they accept it calmly. But you'll want to be nonchalant about it, too. For example, when doing ordinary activities like washing dishes, cup some clean water in your hand and pet it around the dog's mouth or backside. This inspires their curiosity rather than anxiety.

When outdoors, walk them slowly toward a body of water, inching closer over the course of many days. While you might never coax a fearful dog to love water, you can help them learn to relax around it.

And, of course, if your dog has severe psychological or behavioral issues near water, such as panic or aggression, it's best to get the help of a professional trainer. Otherwise they could inadvertently harm themselves or someone else. In most cases, fearful behaviors can in fact be overcome or effectively managed.

A Look at the Corgi!

There are two types of Corgi: the Pembroke Welsh and the Cardigan Welsh. While the Cardigan is related to the Dachshund, the Pembroke shares family ties with the Pomeranian and Chow Chow, among other breeds. However, they are similar.



Both breeds have a knack for herding, though the Cardigan was originally used to drive livestock away from an area by nipping at them, to help people secure land.

Corgis tend to make excellent companion dogs, as they are both friendly and highly intelligent. Despite their smaller size, though, they do need a good bit of room for running around. Without ample exercise they can put on too much weight.

Because of their thicker coats, they do need frequent brushing to stay soft and tangle-free. Bathing needs vary by the lifestyle of the dog, but once monthly or every other month is usually ideal for this breed.

Does the Dog Need a Bath?

Unless a dog has an odor or gets into messes more often than not, it can be hard to tell if they need bathing. One way to tell is by petting them. If your hand feels filmy afterward, or if you notice a bunch of little hairs gathering as you pet them, it's a good indication that they need grooming. Keeping a regularly scheduled appointment can also help you ensure they're not going too long without!

Word Search

Find the hidden grooming words listed below!

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

BRUSHING HAIR QUICK DRYER BATHING NAILS
DEWCLAW GROOMER CONDITIONER SHEDDING

A Wonderful World of Dogs!

! Researchers believe the Shar-pei's characteristic wrinkles can help them understand and treat a disorder that affects humans. Shar-peis have a gene mutation that causes their wrinkles as well as frequent fevers. Further studies to prevent these fevers in the dogs may help doctors find a treatment for periodic fevers that affect people of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean descent, according to *The New York Times*.

! One little dog is being praised as a loyal hero after being shown in video footage of the tsunami aftermath in Japan. Video shows the dog walking around barking and returning to sit with another dog that was injured in the disaster. It appears as if the dog is protecting and caring for the other. Both dogs were rescued, fortunately, and taken in by a local animal shelter.

Pulling a Dog's Hair Up

If you have a little dog with long hair, you've likely experimented with a few means of keeping their hair up and away from their eyes. Cutting it short is always an option, of course, but for those who like to keep the hair pulled up and looking cute, here are a few tips.

First, try to use lightweight hairbands with a soft coating. Ordinary rubber bands tend to pull on the hair, especially if they're wrapped tightly. This can actually break the hairs and, in worst-case scenarios, cause discomfort and a balding spot on top a dog's head. But softer bands and lightweight clips will do no harm whatsoever.

When pulling their hair up, use a dab of spray-in conditioner and a comb to smooth their hairs together. This can prevent tangling around the hair barrette. It can also make your dog a bit more willing to have their hair done, as then they won't feel a lot of pulling from a comb going through their tangles.

Lastly, there should also be a bit of leeway between the barrette and dog's head, regardless of what type of hairband you use—you don't want the corners of their eyes pulled upward! Once it's in, be sure to change it often so you can brush all their hair and rid of any tangles that could lead to matting around the barrette.

What to Do About Overgrown Nails

It happens. For one reason or another, a dog ends up with one or more severely overgrown nails. Most commonly it happens with dewclaws and nails that quickly curl inward rather than growing at an arch. Because these nails can be difficult to trim at any length, it seems impossible to do so once they've reached this stage. But, it's important—and possible—to get them short again.

Unfortunately, you can't just cut them back to a desired length with one snip of the trimmers. Doing so would cause excessive bleeding and pain, as a dog's quick also grows longer when the nails haven't been cut regularly. What you can do is trim them back, bit by bit, over a span of time. This would require more frequent trimming than usual, because the goal is to shorten them rather than maintain the length.

If the nails have not curled up, you can also walk them a lot on hard surfaces between frequent trimmings. This helps grind the nail down and also encourages the quick to shorten.

If the nail is curled and trimmers won't reach the tip, you can have a veterinarian cut the whole nail at once. In the case of dewclaws, sometimes it's best to have them removed altogether since they don't serve any real purpose for the dog.

Then, once the nails are back to a manageable length, having them trimmed routinely will prevent another episode of overgrowth.

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