



The beautiful weather has finally arrived and everyone is busy planning their summer vacation and getting ready to enjoy time outside with the whole family. This really is a beautiful time of the year regardless of where you may live and it is a wonderful opportunity to get in some "us" time with your dog.

It is also the time of year that dogs love spending time out in the yard, especially if you have to head off to work or spend a day running errands. There are some simple ways that you can protect your pet outside if he or she is one of those dogs that just loves being out in the great outdoors. It starts with a fence and gate check to make sure everything is secure and your dog cannot get out when you aren't home.

Really, just think of what you would enjoy out in the garden in the heat of the day and you will be very close to what your dog will want as well. I like a breezy, cool, shady spot to sit when it gets too hot, and I notice that my dogs also naturally move to the shade in the heat of the afternoon. Make sure your pet has a nice, comfortable shady space. If you don't provide one you can be sure that they will make their own under your favorite shrub or in the middle of your flower garden.

It is also essential that your outside dog, or a dog spending the day outside, has access to as much fresh, clean water as they would like. If you have an outdoor faucet in an area of the garden the dog can easily access consider filling a large bucket or bowl and leaving the tap with a gentle drip. This keeps water cool and always ensures that there is enough to have a much needed drink.

For those dog owners that want to really pamper their pet consider an automatic dog waterer. They go by several names including pet fountains and dog drinking fountains. There are some that are only designed for indoor use while others are good both indoors and outdoors. These devices will need a power supply as well as connection through your outdoor faucet, but they provide water continually or on demand when the dog approaches the fountain.

Remember as well to be very careful about taking your dog with you in a vehicle in the summer months. Even a few minutes in the car without the air conditioner running can lead to a dramatic increase in the temperature in the car. There are so many tragic and fatal accidents each summer because of dogs left in vehicles and this is one issue that is easy to prevent. It is better to leave your dog at home, or out in the yard, if you know you are going to have to leave the car.

LuAnn

Dirty Dogs Salon

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Get this Newsletter on our Website every month:
www.dirtydogssalon.com

Our Opening Hours!

Open:

Tues - Saturday
at 9am

Closed:

Sunday and Monday

Exceptional Closure:

As I'm having surgery on my shoulder we will be closed from July 25th and will re-open August 12th

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.

Dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen ~ Orhan Pamuk

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**

Rating Your Dog's Body Condition

Sometimes it is difficult to know if your dog is in good physical condition or if he or she is too thin or too heavy. To determine your dog's body condition you can use the same general scoring chart that veterinarians use. This is somewhat subjective in nature but if you closely follow the written description you will be very accurate in your overall score.

While there are some body condition scoring charts that are designed on a 1 to 9 rating, a 1 to 5 rating is just as accurate for an overview. Like all rating scales it is progressive and linear so a 1 is the lowest possible score with regards to weight and condition and a 5 indicates an obese rating.

1. Emaciated – these are dogs that are severely malnourished and underweight. There is a loss of body muscle mass and the ribs, backbone, pelvic bones and the bones in the legs and chest are highly visible even from a distance.
2. Thin – ribs can be seen easily with no fat palpable on ribs or body. Tops of pelvic and lumbar vertebrae can be seen but some muscle visible over the body. The waist and abdomen is noticeably tucked and an hourglass shape is evident when viewed from above.
3. Moderate – ribs only slightly visible with some fat but not excessive fat covering. Spine not showing, some tuck up in the abdomen from the side and a very slight hourglass shape when viewed from above.
4. Stout/Overweight – noticeable fat along the ribs with difficulty in feeling the ribs. Vertebrae covered with fat and fat at the tail base. The dog is basically an elongated oval shape when viewed from the top and rectangular with no tuck up when viewed from the side.
5. Obese – excessive fat covering along the ribs, spine and tail base and difficulty in feeling the bones of the ribs or spinal cord at all. When viewed from above the shape is a pronounced oval and when viewed from the side to dog appears to have a distended rather than tucked abdomen.

Ideally your dog should be at a 3 for optimum health. If you think your dog needs to gain or lose weight, talk to your vet and develop a plan.

Dogs and Insect Bites

Dogs, just like people, can be bothered by insect bites in the summer months. Short coated breeds are more likely to have problems with insect bites over their body but noses, eyes, face area and ears are prone to bites in virtually all breeds.

Very similar to people, dogs can also have mild to severe reactions to insects based on their own immune system response. Some dogs are allergic to bee, mosquito, wasp, spider and other insect bites. The more of a reaction your dog has the more likely he or she is to scratch, bite and lick which can lead to secondary skin lesions and possible risk of bacterial infections.

If you notice mild irritation including swelling, redness or hot skin on the body or on the face and the dog is licking, rubbing or scratching, try the following quick home remedies:

- Use a solution of 1 tablespoon of baking soda in ½ cup of warm water and rinse the area thoroughly, leaving the solution on the skin to dry
- Apply ice by wrapping a few ice cubes in a clean, cotton cloth and holding on the area for 5 minutes, repeating as needed.
- Dab milk of magnesia, natural apple cider vinegar or Epsom salts in water on the bite and surrounding area.
- Cut a small piece of aloe vera plant and squeeze the juice from the leaf onto the bite.

If you notice significant swelling or if the dog seems despondent, is having difficulty in breathing or is sick get immediate assistance from your vet.

Dogs and Senior Care

The unique ability of dogs to bond and bring comfort to people of all ages and all stages in life is now being recognized by the medical profession and those that provide care for the aged.

In more nursing homes and assisted living facilities around the world therapy dogs are being introduced to help provide comfort and love to seniors that may be missing the comfort and companionship of dogs in their life.

Programs that encourage seniors, even in hospice settings, to groom, walk and spend time with therapy dogs have shown amazing results. Seniors are expressing higher quality of life scores and are actually living longer, happier lives thanks to these amazing therapy animals.

Tips for Camping with Dogs

Camping with your dog is a wonderful summer holiday event and a tradition in many families. If you are planning on taking your four-legged family members with you on this year's outing considering the following tips to make your trip a success.

- Check ahead of time to ensure that dogs can be at the campground and on the trails and if there are any leash restrictions or requirements.
- Pack a doggy first aid kit that includes basic first aid supplies for cuts, bites, burns and has the supplies necessary for both small and large accidents.
- Bring extra dog food as you may find days of activity make your pet hungrier than he or she would be sitting around the house.
- Make sure your dog has all his or her vaccinations and other treatments, including flea and heartworm medications, in place prior to your trip.
- If you are camping outside of your local area talk to your vet about any possible concerns, including issues with bacteria or viruses that may be present.

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 correct answers are 1 and 3. The most common reason is 3 and can be controlled by flea treatment.

Teaching Your Dog to Swim

Most dog owners are surprised to know that a puppy or dog is not automatically going to be thrilled about going in the water. In fact, dogs and puppies, just like kids and adults, actually need to learn how to swim. Unlike people they don't need lessons, but they do need to be introduced to water slowly to prevent any possible fear of water later.

To start your dog or puppy off on the right path when it comes to loving the water make sure you:

- Let the dog or puppy walk in the water and then move into deeper water as the animal becomes more confident and comfortable.
- Provide treats and praise when the dog goes into the water on his or her own.
- Never pull or push the dog into water and do not ever carry the dog into deep water and simply expect it to swim.
- Monitor the dog or puppy carefully until he or she is swimming without any signs of difficulty.
- Watch carefully when the dog is around any body of water where tides are present. The tide can easily carry a dog out past the point that he or she can swim back to shore.

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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.

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