



Dirty Dogs Salon

4485 N. Carl G. Rose Hwy. Hernando, (352) 341-0600

Hello again, and welcome to the March edition of this newsletter.

Hearing the birds chirping and seeing signs of a newness of life outdoors certainly does tend to affect our moods and liveliness. It's always good to feel more energized after a little time in the warm sun. But, we're not the only ones who are affected by these shifts. Dogs are, too.

You may have noticed your dog being less active or slightly unhappy throughout the winter, especially if you weren't feeling your best. It's no coincidence. Dogs can suffer mild to severe depression, just as we do, and of course they're very in tune with how we're feeling as well.

The arrival of spring will no doubt be uplifting for everyone; but, until then, there are some things to watch for and try out with your dog if you suspect they're not in the best of moods.

Actual depression in canines isn't much different from that in humans. Symptoms include changes in appetite, sluggishness, a lot of sleeping, clinginess and other personality changes. Again, sometimes it is due to dreary weather, but there are other causes.

Dogs can get a case of the blues when something changes about their environment. Maybe their owner is away more often, they've been moved to a new home, or a person or pet that was often around is no longer there. If there's no obvious reason for the changes in behavior, though, the symptoms could also be due to a health problem. Be sure to have them checked out, and then give some remedies a try.

A few minor changes can really lift a low mood in dogs. Taking them to play at the park, engaging them in games with new toys, and walking them in a new place might perk them up. Pet sitting services are also helpful if the depression is due to loneliness. If none of those measures help, it's certainly worth exploring other treatment options with the dog's healthcare provider.

And it never hurts to do all those playful things just for the fun of it! Hope you enjoy the rest of this month's newsletter. There's some more information on a few other conditions that can affect dogs, as well as us.

LuAnn

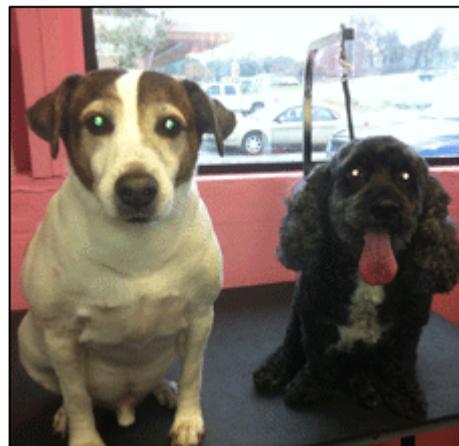
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Tel: (352) 341-0600

Dog Spotlight!

Our February Spot Lite are two "Love Doggies" Jack & Jill
Owners: Lucille & Al Guay of
Hernando, FL



Jack is a Jack Russell age 9 and Jill is a Cocker-poo age 7 Jack and Jill were rescued by the Guays at very early ages. Jack truly loves his Jill. He makes sure her eyes are clean so she can see his cute little face and Jill makes sure she leaves that little bit in the dish for Jack.

The loving couple truly show there love for each other and that is why Jack & Jill were chosen for our Valentines Spot Lite Paws Up to Jack & Jill Guay

Did You Know?

- * Dogs and humans are the only species that have a prostate.
- * Although the Titanic sunk, three dogs that were on board survived. One was a Newfoundland, which is a remarkably good swimmer in comparison to other breeds. One was a Pekingese, and the other a Pomeranian.



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

"When they see your dog it's praises they'll sing, after you have it groomed for the coming Spring"

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 Humor

A man was walking through a hotel lobby and saw three men and a dog sitting around a table playing poker. He stopped and said, *"My, that's one smart dog you've got there."* One of the card players looked up and said, *"No, not really. Every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail."*

Massage for Dogs!

No doubt from time to time you'll encounter a rambunctious dog or two. You know the type? The ones that constantly bounce all over the place and nearly knock you over. While it's obvious they intend no harm and just want to play, they're nearly always much too excitable for their own good.

A good trick to get a dog like this calmed quickly is a little massage. Have them sit for you and gently rub their shoulders and legs as you would when giving someone a back massage. The change in their demeanour while doing this can be incredible. Suddenly, you may find that they're sprawled out on the floor, breathing deeply, with their tongue hanging out the side of their mouth. When finished petting and massaging them you may be surprised to find them sitting calmly.

In fact it's really no surprise at all as massage can be a powerful way of triggering an animal's relaxation response. Just like us, dogs can suffer mentally and physically from high levels of stress hormones. And, like us, their minds and bodies benefit from 'feel-good chemicals' that increase during relaxation. Massage therapy is one method of increasing those chemicals in dogs.

A calmer state of mind is only one of its many benefits, though. It not only decreases their stress, it can relieve pain. Dogs that receive massage therapy have also shown quicker recovery from surgeries, improved flexibility, and better circulation.

Of course, providing massage therapy requires far more than simply rubbing their shoulders! A trained therapist assesses the dog's behaviours and monitors their response to various techniques. Different levels of pressure, from light stroking to deep kneading, address different problems as well.

While it's not a substitute for behavioural training or medical treatment, it's certainly beneficial as an alternative and supplemental therapy. If it's something that interests you, you could always schedule an appointment with a trained canine massage therapist. It might also be interesting to get some training on basic techniques that you could use on your dogs at home.

Caring for a Dog's Stuffy Nose

When dogs get nasal congestion, they tend to breathe loudly and snore while sleeping. Sometimes, they'll sneeze. You can't help but feel bad for them, especially since they're unable to grab a tissue and blow their little noses. There are a few things you can do for them, though.

First, it's important to determine the cause of it. Oftentimes the congestion is due to allergies, particularly in the spring and fall. But, it can also come from viruses and bacterial infections. In addition to any medications needed, a few home remedies will make it more tolerable for them.

Putting a few saline nasal drops in their nose can ease the irritation. A vaporizer in the room with them will also help. Some people have noted that a few drops of peppermint oil in the vaporizer have also helped their dogs breathe more easily.

Conversely, if their noses are running, you can soothe them and wipe it away gently with a warm, wet cloth. In that case, it's good to keep them well-hydrated and comfortable, too.

Myth Busting: Dogs Licking Their Wounds

It's often said that a dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's. And many people believe that dogs lick their wounds—as well as wounds on people—to promote healing. Unfortunately, both of these claims are false.

Dogs' mouths contain as much bacteria as ours do, if not more. While licking sometimes helps them soothe pain or remove excess fluid from the wound, it can actually prevent healing and cause infection if they do it too much.

Dog Trivia Quiz!

1. The name of Odysseus' dog in Greek Mythology was: **A) Argos B) Lassie C) Cheeka D) Sarbi**
2. Dogs show higher intelligence than cats in laboratory tests such as puzzles. **T or F**
3. Some female dogs lift a leg to urinate. **T or F**
4. Hairless dogs have a higher body temp. **T or F**
5. What country worshipped dogs as Gods?
A) India B) Brazil C) Egypt D) Israel
6. Standard poodles were bred for: **A) Hunting B) Fighting C) Companionship D) Looks**

Oh, This Gassy Dog!

Dogs are unfairly blamed for all kinds of foul odors, but sometimes it really is coming from them. Flatulence is a fairly common problem in dogs—in the Boxer breed especially—and it can be quite offensive to their owners.

If it should suddenly start happening frequently and your dog shows other signs of not feeling well, it's important that they get medical attention. However, if they're feeling and acting fine otherwise, try curbing the problem with a few adjustments to their food.

Feeding them a low-fiber diet can help. A few small meals throughout the day, rather than one or two large meals, will also stop them from swallowing too much air when eating. Also, you can try giving them dog treats that contain food-grade activated charcoal. These not only help gassiness, they neutralize bad breath. And, of course, you'll want to avoid giving them any table scraps. If none of those tricks help, talk with your veterinarian about using supplements such as simethicone.

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Quiz Answer Key:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. A) Argos | 4. False |
| 2. True | 5. C) Egypt |
| 3. True | 6. A) Hunting |

Emergency Grooming Kits

In addition to keeping a first aid kit around for your dogs, you might want to have a portable grooming kit around too. A few small items can be a big help when the dog gets into messes, and it's handy to have when you're out hiking or traveling with them.

Basic items to include are tweezers, blunt-nosed scissors, a comb, nail clippers, paper towels and moistened wipes.

The tweezers will get rid of burs (which can quickly cause mats!) and are nice to have on hand during tick season. Towels and moist wipes are good for cleaning off their faces, the spaces between their paw pads and anything that may be hanging from their rear. Using them to wipe off water and fresh mud can also help you prevent matting and tangling, especially when you comb the hair out afterward.

Nail clippers and scissors, however, are mostly for emergency needs when in a grooming kit. For example, trimming up a jagged nail tip can save your car upholstery from being scratched and torn on the way home. Scissors are for truly monstrous messes, such as a big wad of chewing gum stuck on their leg.

Of course, it's my pleasure to have them in for a grooming when these things happen, but it never hurts to minimize the damages of all the little things they get into on a day-to-day basis.

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