



Absolutely Animals News

Tips, advice and some fun facts about our best little friends who mean so much to us!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here already? Isn't this just the best time of year for little children? Seeing the delight on their faces as they open their presents from Santa is just wonderful. For me, having all the visitors, turkey dinners and the hustle and bustle of it all brings lots of warmth and happiness. I really hope it's a lovely time of year for you too.

Of course it's a pretty exciting time for our pets, too, as they get to spend lots more time with us during the holidays. Some will especially enjoy all the mischief they can get into with the gifts and decorations.

While it's great to relax and enjoy Christmas, it's also worth taking a little extra care with our pets over this period. A change in routine and all the new strange objects in our homes can provide extra risks for our pets. So, here are a few pointers to make sure your little friends have an enjoyable and safe Christmas too.

First of all keep an eye on your Christmas tree, especially if you see that your pet loves it as much as you do. It's not hard to imagine a large dog knocking it over and trailing it across the living room, or a cat climbing up through the branches to get to the sparkling lights or tinsel!

The festive season brings a temporary change in routine for many pets, so it's not surprising that some get anxious over the new and noisy kids' toys or over all the family gatherings. If you'll have lots of excited little children in your home this season, maybe remind them to play gently near your pets and to slowly introduce them to their new toys. While a remote control car whizzing along the floor can be hilarious for children, it can be absolutely terrifying for pets!

It's likely your dog will beg for a bite of that delicious turkey dinner or your cat may lick its lips in anticipation of a feast of meat. Of course the occasional scrap of pet-friendly food won't hurt them a bit if you want to give them a special treat—just be very careful with turkey leftovers, because dogs and cats tend to get right to the bones and can get them lodged in their throats. It's best to give them a little piece of the meat that has no bones in it if you want to give them something tasty to enjoy with the family. Remind the kids, too, that chocolate agrees with them much more than it does with dogs!

Anyway, the most important thing this Christmas is that you really enjoy it and that you, your family and your pet stay safe and well. I really do hope you get plenty of time to relax and spend precious time with your family because, before you know it, we'll be starting a New Year once again. Have fun and have a lovely Christmas.

Heidi

Absolutely Animals Dog Grooming

43B Burnt Ash Hill, London SE12 0AE

Tel: 020 8857 2888

Email: info@absolutelyanimals.biz

www.absolutelyanimals.biz

Are you new to this Newsletter or trying to find a good Dog Groomer?

If you're reading this newsletter for the first time or are looking for a Dog Groomer, please read page 2. There you'll find out how we could really benefit you and provide you with exactly what you're looking for.



Exciting News in January!

I've got some great news to tell you but I can't reveal it just yet. So please make sure you keep an eye out for the January issue of this newsletter.

20% Discount
on Grooming
in January & February.

Everyone who brings this coupon to us will get 20% off their grooming appointments in Jan and Feb 2010.



I'm an approved member of both the Pet Care Trust and British Dog Groomers Association. So you can have peace of mind knowing that while your dog is in my care it will be groomed to the highest standard and will be given the greatest level of care at all times.

Training Fellow Groomers:

We are a Premier Pet Care Trust Accredited Grooming Training Centre.

"Our best little friends is what we say, so let's treat them well on Christmas Day"

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! Alfie, a flat-coated retriever, is now "Alfie the Arsonist" to his owners, the Gregson family. Ananova.com notes that Alfie caused £6,000 worth of damage when he jumped up on the Gregsons' stove in search of a bite to eat and accidentally flipped a switch that lit up the chip fryer. The Gregsons awoke to smoke detectors late that night and were able to escape the fire unharmed. The fire brigade responded quickly and took care of Alfie's accidental arson.

Did You Know?

*The Basenji breed does not bark, and the Newfoundland is a great swimmer because it has webbed feet.

*Dogs are not actually colourblind—they see in colour but the colours aren't as bright as they are for humans.

* A cat's heart beats twice as fast as a human heart, at 110 to 140 beats per minute.

Does Your Dog Have Tear Stains?

Eye tear stains are quite common in some dog breeds and are caused by a variety of factors, such as allergies or genetics. The dark staining can come from bacteria or yeast that grows in the moisture, but there are things you can do reduce and remove these stains.

The first step is to cut back or eliminate foods and treats that contain artificial colours. A quality dog food will reduce the tear staining and also keep stains from forming around their mouths! Provide your dog with bottled or filtered water, too, as a concentration of minerals in the water will contribute to the stains.

Use a wet cloth to wipe the tears away each day, and talk with your veterinarian about tetracycline or calcium carbonate used for reduction of tear stains. You may also want to have your dog's eyes examined for any possible infection or underlying problems.

Exercising Your Dogs

Did you know that small dogs may need more exercise than a great big dog does? The amount of exercise needed by dogs depends on their age, breed and level of energy, though they may need more if they have any behavioural problems. Aim for 30 minutes to 1 hour each day, and split the time up if needed. You and your dogs will both feel good from that extra lap around the park!

A LITTLE ABOUT ABSOLUTELY ANIMALS AND ME!

Please don't think I'm including this section to brag or bore you. I just think it's so important that you know a little about who you're dealing with and who you're leaving your precious little pet with, to be groomed.

I have been grooming for the past 20 years working in many grooming salons. In 1995 I opening my own grooming salon with the help of the Prince's Youth Business Trust and backing from my then veterinary surgeon, Christopher Godfrey MABvet Med, MRCVS(now retired)

As this is not yet a licensed or regulated industry I felt I wanted to prove my competence so I could give the best service to my clients. I am very passionate about the service my clients and their pets receive and I'm dedicated to improving this service at every opportunity. So far I have achieved the following National Grooming Qualifications:

- **Advanced City & Guilds level 3 in Dog Grooming**
- **LCGI - level 4**
- **Higher Diploma in Dog Grooming-level 5**
- **Teaching Certificate (level 3)**
- **Assessor for City & Guilds 7750-02**
- **Examiner for City & Guilds 7750-03**
- **Pet Log certified in Micro-chipping**
- **Qualified in Animal First Aid**

I am also a member of the Guild of Master Groomers, Pet Care Trust, British Dog Groomers Association, Guild of Master Craftsmen and the Federation of Small Businesses.

Even though these exams have taken a lot of time, dedication and expenses, the knowledge I have gained has been invaluable for my clients.

In 2004 I became the 'British Dog Groomer of the Year' and I have been multiple competition group winner at Eurogroom, Groomer of the Year and the Scottish Grooming Championships. In 2007 I was asked to judge at the 'British Dog Groomer of the Year'.

Competing against the country's finest has also been and still is a great challenge which I thoroughly enjoy and where I also learn about the finer points of gaining that WOW factor finish which is also passed on to my clients pets and students

I am very keen to promote training for groomers and to pass on the skills which I have acquired over the years including not only the aesthetics but also the good service and handling techniques required to make sure my clients, my trainee's and their pets have an enjoyable experience whilst in our care

I have an open door policy at Absolutely Animals where you can come and view grooming, styling and teaching in progress at any time.

Absolutely Animals Grooming Salon.

"providing an exceptional service both in grooming and in groomer training"



Heidi relaxing and taking some time out from her busy Grooming and training schedule.

- ✓ **City & Guilds qualified so you can be assured that your pet is being groomed to a High Standard, using the most advanced and safest techniques.**
- ✓ **A passion for dogs and for top quality grooming not found anywhere else.**
- ✓ **A modern salon with an open door policy so you never have to wonder what happens behind closed doors.**
- ✓ **We teach the groomers of tomorrow so you can be assured that we're totally committed to improving everything we do for you.**
- ✓ **A Safe, Relaxed & Clean Environment for your best friend where only the Best Quality and Safest products are used on your pet.**
- ✓ **20 Years of grooming experience so your dog is in the safest of hands.**
- ✓ **A Calm, Relaxed, 'tender loving' approach where Patience, Praise and Kindness towards your pet**

Call for an appointment today. Tel: **020 8857 2888**

Don't Forget Your Pet at Christmas!

While some people may decide not to include their pet on Santa's list, more and more of you aren't forgetting about your four-legged member of the family. Christmas gifts for dogs and cats can range from a necessary item to an over-the-top extravagant gift. But however you choose to celebrate Christmas with your pets, you're sure to find something special for them that's within your budget—because some of the best gifts are free!

Some extra play time or a walk through a new area is one gift that a dog is sure to love, as they'll adore the time spent with you and will feel good from the exercise. A new area delights them with new smells and a sense of adventurous travel so, if Christmas gifts for doggies is not your style, you can still make it a special occasion for them, too.

Go for something practical if your pet's belongings are wearing thin. A new collar and lead or a doggie backpack is something useful that you both can enjoy during walks. Or, pick up some nice dishes for their food or a comfortable new bed.

There are plenty of edible and non-edible treats to fill a gift basket for pets if you'd rather go that route. Gourmet cookies, a few bones, some new chew toys, a pet blanket and spa-quality brushes or conditioners will give your pets lots of enjoyment throughout the festive season!

But if you really want to go all out with your Christmas gifts, you can find fun and interesting presents for your canine and feline companions. There's actually a dog-friendly non-alcoholic wine for dogs now, so you can sip your own wine and offer your dogs a beef or chicken-flavored beverage to share at your side. How about a canopy bed or a plush convertible automobile bed? Anything you can imagine for your pet is probably out there, so take a look at pet gifts online or shop around your local pet stores for that perfect find.

However, a pet's real happiness comes from their loving owners and from having all of their needs met, so whatever you choose to do with your pets for the festive season it's sure to please them!

Doggy Quiz

Dogs were bred for specific jobs and activities. Can you match each breed to its historical use?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Poodle | A. hunt wolves and bear |
| 2. Rottweiler | B. house pet for Ming dynasty |
| 3. Pug | C. retriever of game |
| 4. Labrador | D. herding and guarding |
| 5. Weimaraner | E. game retriever from water |
| 6. Shih-Tzu | F. pet of Buddhist monasteries |
| 7. Pomeranian | G. sheep herder |

Pet Humour & Wisdom!

"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast." - Anonymous

* * *

Woman to dog trainer: "My dog goes into the corner whenever he hears a bell ring."

Dog trainer: "Well this is normal—he's a boxer!"

* * *

"Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later." - Mary Bly

* * *

"Never try to out-stubborn a cat." - Lazarus Long,

8 Signs Your Dog is Happy and Healthy!

The little differences in a dog's behaviour and appearance can tell you a lot about whether they're feeling their best or if they could use a visit to the vet. Is your best little friend showing the signs of health and happiness?

1. Plenty of tail wagging and normal behaviour: Dogs can show a change in character when they're not feeling their best. There's no cause for concern here if your dogs are interested in all of their favourite activities and if they maintain their normal levels of energy. Check behaviour changes with your vet and then a dog trainer if your dogs don't seem their usual selves.
2. Bright and shiny eyes: Redness, cloudiness, discoloration, sensitivity or coloured discharge can signal eye health problems, such as injury, infection or disease.
3. Soft and shiny coat: A clean and silky coat comes from proper grooming and overall dog health. Watch for mats, ticks and fleas to keep a gorgeous coat, and check their diet and skin if you notice any problems.
4. Smooth and healthy skin: Skin that's free from sores, itching, redness and parasites is skin your dog loves to be in!
5. Clean ears: Odor, itching, redness or waxy buildup can indicate a problem with a dog's ears, which may require medical treatment.
6. A Healthy Mouth: Pink gums, clean teeth and non-offensive breath are all signs of good health in dogs. Foul breath can come from a variety of internal issues, so please contact your vet if your dogs have bad breath or if you see any sores in their mouths.
7. Clean Anal Glands: If your dog scoots their bum on the floor or has soreness around the rear, it's time to have their anal glands checked for buildup or infection.
8. Wet and Cool Nose: Dog's noses are so very important to them! It should be slightly moist and cool to the touch without discharge or cracks in the skin.

Why Dogs Bark!

Some dogs bark inside the house and others do it outside, but why? A social bark is used to greet you and to bark along with other dogs outside, while an alarming bark is used to warn dogs away or to warn you of an intruder. Other barking can come from anxiety or attention seeking. If you're working with your dog to bark less often, the first step is figuring out why he's doing it!

Thinking of Less Fortunate Pets This Christmas!

Your pets, and all those who belong to loving families like yours, are so very lucky to have a wonderful home throughout the year. However, there are many, many homeless and less fortunate dogs and cats who have not yet found owners as good as you. Hopefully they will receive some of the care and attention they deserve when the spirit of Christmas reminds us all to do what we can to help them out.

Please take a moment to think on the needs of rescue animals as you celebrate Christmas with your own pets. These less fortunate animals of the world truly appreciate whatever it is we can offer them, from a small gesture to a major change in their lives!

There are lots of ways to help. Maybe a dog or cat lover in your family would appreciate the gift of you making a donation to a rescue shelter on their behalf. Or, ask the local shelters if there are any items or supplies they specifically need this season.

While the donation of money is often the best way to help these pets they can also get lots of benefit from a donation of your time. Maybe offer to walk a shelter dog with your family one day, or stop by to give homeless cats some love and attention.

If a puppy or kitten is on your family's wish list for the New Year, please consider a dog or cat adoption, as this will bring joy and fulfillment to the pet and to you!

If you could help a pet in need this Christmas that would be so kind of you. The smallest things really can make a world of difference to their lives. Plus, it will leave you feeling great knowing that you've made the lives of a few defenceless animals that little bit better.

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.

Answers
to Quiz
1 - E
2 - D
3 - F
4 - C
5 - A
6 - B
7 - G

A Month to look Forward and a Year to look back!

A new year will soon be upon us and it's exciting to look forward to what's ahead. But it's also good to have a look back over this year as well and have a think about the joys of the highs and of course, the lessons of the lows!

It's important to take stock of where we're at and to be thankful for everything we have.

The doom and the gloom that our media seems intent on spreading should be ignored. Because you know what; as long as we have our health, our families and of course our best little buddies, who love us so much then it's never so bad!

I'm also lucky enough to have you as well, my loyal clients and for that I have to say one really big THANK YOU! With having you and your lovely pets, who brighten up my every day, it's easy to look forward to the New Year with optimism!

So have yourself a really lovely Christmas and I'll be back in the New Year with another issue of this newsletter.

Get This Newsletter Every Month!

To continue providing you with information, help and a little bit of fun about dogs, 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 give me your email address or send me an email. Once you're on my list I'll send you a copy every month.

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