

Absolutely Animals News

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

October: A Month of Beauty and Celebration!

The leaves are beginning to change colour while the days are getting shorter and shorter—it's that time of year again!

Autumn is here and with the chillier weather she brings delightful scenery, which is a wonderful time for walking our best little friends outdoors. But she also leaves with a host of ghouls and frightening goblins, so we've got to prepare our dogs for the sight of people in scary costumes and masks, as well as the noise of fireworks.

So this month I've included some good tips to help you and your dog through this frightening time of year. Of course, when combined with a little consideration for our dogs' needs, it's also a fun time of year, so I do hope that you and your dogs have a lovely time this month.

Heidi

GROOM TEAM ENGLAND!

Took part in the FOURTH WORLD TEAM GROOMING CHAMPIONSHIPS which took place in Dachau, Germany on 20 September and GROOM TEAM ENGLAND were placed THIRD in the WORLD!

..... The trophy is shown here

There were twelve international teams taking part and seven international judges including one from UK (being our own Colin Taylor)

Teams consisted of four groomers and each team member competed in the one of the following classes: Purebred Scissoring; Handstripping; Spaniel & Setter and Poodle. First place went to the USA, second was France with England in third place. This makes England THIRD in the World and SECOND in Europe.



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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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Grooming Nervous or Frightened Dogs!
- Don't Drop that Fruit!
- Doggy Humour!
- Keeping Your Dog's Ears Clean!

A Busy Month Ahead for us!

Heidi and Colin will be judging the Irish grooming championships on the 10th and 11th of October and Christine will be competing at the British groomer of the year in the 16 and under group on the 18th October at Coventry with our very own Beckham. All the luck to Christine as these heats also qualify for kennel club junior groomer of the year.



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.

Groomed really well and left so nice, gasps from your friends they're sure to entice!

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! A Tibetan mastiff has reportedly become the most expensive dog ever sold. According to ananova.com, the dog named Yangtze River Number Two, was sold to a woman in the Chinese province of Shaanxi for around £350,000. This price beats the previous record by a staggering £260,000.

! A Border Collie puppy named Pixie is learning sign language after it was discovered that she is profoundly deaf. Liz Grewal, who has been an owner of deaf dogs for six years, is teaching the youngster to recognize hand commands. So far the bright young pup has learned to sit, lie down and come on command with hand signals.

! A cat weighing two-and-a-half stone is believed to be the heaviest cat in the world. According to Ananova.com, Chubby, who comes from Qingdao, in northern China's Shandong province, has a 27inch waste – which is bigger than some humans. The obese feline is gaining weight at a rate of 2lbs per year which is likely to be due to her love of raw pork instead of fish.

! A dog who was left tied to a railing while it's owner went into a shopping market has been given a parking ticket. According to the Northern Territory News in Australia, the dog received an infringement notice tied to its lead after two traffic wardens decided that it was 'parked' illegally. A council spokesman said, "You cannot just leave a dog tied up and leave it".

How to Stop the Demons Getting to Your Pet!

Even if we're having lots of fun on Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night, it can be absolutely terrifying for our pets. Some pets dread the noise so much that they'll do anything to escape and can even injure themselves while trying to find safety. That's no reason to forego the festivities, though, because there are things you can do to help your pets relax and enjoy the evenings along with you.

- Desensitization: This is more of a long-term process that helps pets adjust to loud noises, but it's never too late to start! You can play a recording of fireworks, thunder or gunshots in your home, beginning at a low volume, to introduce the noise to your pet. Slowly increase the volume over time so that they can adjust. Reward them when they remain calm with the noise and they'll associate it with good things.

- Limit Affection: This is the hardest thing to do when our dogs are frightened, because we want to comfort them and let them know that everything is OK. But when we pet them and say, "It's alright," while they're in a state of panic, it reinforces the behavior. Instead, use commands such as "sit" and reward them for following your direction. They'll soon understand that listening to you means nothing bad will happen to them, which helps them stay calm.

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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 is assured.**
- ✓ **A standard of grooming that will make you so proud of how your pet looks.**
- ✓ **Fully trained and authorised to microchip pets. You can have your pet microchipped for only £15.**

Call for an appointment today. Tel:020 8857 2888

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- Remain Calm: Dogs often mimic what they sense in us, their owners, so when we're anxious or fearful of loud noises, you can bet they will be too. By ignoring loud bangs (when possible) and staying relaxed, we help our dogs do the same.

Most importantly, we must not punish pets for their fears, as this only makes it more stressful for them.

These things help our pets get used to the noise, but taking some extra precautions will ensure they stay safe. To lessen the impact of fireworks, you can draw your curtains and let them stay in an area that helps them feel safe—even if it's under the couch! But if they'll be out in the garden or if there's any chance of them escaping your home, be sure to lock your gates and have proper identification attached to their collars. This is the worst time of year for pets running away, so it's important that we do all we can to keep them home safely.

If you'll be seeing lots of masks and costumes around your home this year, try wearing one around your pet beforehand so that they can get used to the sight of it. To do this, let them sniff the mask before you put it on and let them watch you do this. Stay calm and cheerful while letting them sniff at your hands; reward them with a little treat if they stay relaxed at the sight of you in a mask. And if you have little ones, remind them not to jump out at the pets while in their costumes. But because some dogs can become aggressive when frightened, it's best to keep them on a lead and under your calm command if you'll be around costumed strangers.

Grooming Nervous or Frightened Pets!

While grooming is a pleasant experience for most pets, a few can become very nervous. They may not like getting bathed, having their hair blown dry, their nails trimmed or even just the strange settings and various grooming tools.

This can happen for many reasons; unfortunately, some pets may have had a bad experience with less than reputable groomers or weren't introduced correctly to grooming during their first visit. Others just have anxiety over things they're not overly familiar with.

When pets become nervous during grooming, it can make the process a bit difficult, as they can be fidgety or even become aggressive from their fear. When this happens, extra special care and consideration is required. It's so important that grooming is as pleasant and stress-free as possible, and thankfully, there are methods to use in the shop and at home that help pets overcome any fears they may have.

The following list of strategies is the at-home version of methods we use during grooming, which can help make the whole process feel like second nature for your best little buddy.

* Whenever you run a bath or use the sink, you can cup a little bit of water in your hand and let your dog sniff and lick at it. Eventually, you can run the little bit of water over their heads and down their backs, while praising their calmness, so that they find it a relaxed and

enjoyable experience.

* To help them with the noise of dryers and clippers, you can turn on a hair dryer or hair clippers while they're in the room with you and calmly talk to them. Once they approach you, praise them. If they remain calm, continue praising them as you blow a light whoosh of air over them with the dryer or hold the handle of the vibrating clippers near to them. What's important here is that they don't perceive it as being a "big deal".

* Handle their paws as often as possible, as this encourages them to be less protective of their feet.

When dogs have a great deal of anxiety at home or with grooming, one of the best things we can do for them is give them lots of exercise. If you're concerned about your dogs' nervousness or behaviors during grooming, try taking them for a walk before their appointment—this gives them a chance to relieve themselves and to get rid of some excess energy. 30-45 minutes of walking is ideal, but of course, there's not always time for that, so any little bit can help.

If you have any questions or concerns about your dog's comfort level with grooming, please let me know, and we can figure out the best course of action to make it the most pleasant experience for all of us.

Doggy Humour!

A traveler was checking into his hotel when he noticed a dog sleeping on a chair close by. He asked the rather grumpy receptionist, "*Sir, does your dog bite?*" to which the receptionist replied, "*No*". The traveler reached out his hand to pet the dog and it immediately leapt from the seat and sunk its teeth into the man's hand. "*I thought you said your dog doesn't bite!*" exclaimed the traveler. To which he got the reply "*Sir, that is not my dog*".

Don't Drop that Fruit!

Last month we talked about the toxic effect that chocolate has on dogs, but unfortunately, it doesn't end there. There are actually fruits that can make dogs very ill, too. All unripe fruit can make dogs sick and should be avoided, yet there are ripened fruits that they shouldn't eat either.

Two of the biggest culprits are grapes and raisins. You may have already fed some of these to your dogs without seeing any harmful effects, but they can and do poison dogs. Grapes and raisins contain a canine toxin that has not yet been identified—what has been identified is kidney failure resulting from these two foods. So even though they may love them, it's best not to let them have any whatsoever.

Two other harmful fruits are avocados and black cherries. Again, it's best not to let dogs eat any of these, as it's too dangerous. But if your dogs are fond of apples, it is okay to give them the occasional slice so long as it doesn't have any seeds or stem attached—seeds contain a tiny bit of cyanide which can cause illness. And if that weren't enough, the pits of peaches and plums are harmful, too!

Dogs love to share our favorite treats, but with chocolate and these fruits, it's just not worth the risk.

More Animal Humour!

'A Dictionary for Pets'

LEAD: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

PET BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

SOFAS: Are to pets what napkins are to people. After eating, it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

BATH: This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

Word Search!

The following Word Search contains 8 common words relating to pets. The words are listed below:

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

Groom, Neuter, Vaccinate, Microchip, Brush, Exercise, Socialize, Train.

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.

Keeping Your Dog's Ears Clean!

Something that can easily go unnoticed in dogs is the cleanliness of their ears, because unlike us, most of them have flaps hanging down over the openings. But their inner ears can develop a build-up of dirt and waxy residue that can lead to problems, such as ear infections. To complicate matters, some breeds grow an enormous amount of hair from their inner ears that can trap this dirt and wax.

To prevent infection from dirt and debris, it's important to keep their ears clean and to pluck out excess hair. Some dogs, such as poodles, require hair plucking more often than others, but it's usually best to do it monthly.

Hair plucking requires a gentle process with specialized tools, so it's best to leave this job for the groomer. To help keep their ears clean between appointments, you can use cotton balls and canine ear solution to wipe dirt and wax away from their inner ear flaps. But be sure to avoid their deep inner ear and to use large cotton balls rather than the little swabs. However, monthly grooming is usually adequate for clean ears.

If you notice any strange odors from their ears or if they're scratching at them and whining, it's best to contact your veterinarian, as this could be from mites or an inner ear infection.

Did You Know!

! A single pair of cats and their kittens can produce as many as 420,000 kittens in just 7 years.

! When out walking your dog it's better to choose different routes as much as possible. Walking is great for your dog's physical health, but taking them to new places where they can find new scents and smells can really help keep them in good mental shape as well.

! The domestic cat is the only cat species able to hold its tail vertically while walking. All wild cats hold their tails horizontally or tucked between their legs while walking.

Collect Your Loyalty Card!

To show that I really do appreciate your loyalty I have introduced a Loyalty Card. At every other appointment you will receive between 5 – 20% discount. Call in to pick up your Loyalty Card or ask about it at your next appointment!

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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