

Absolutely Animals News

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

Hi again everyone and welcome to the September issue of this newsletter.

With the kids going back to school and the cooler weather soon to be with us (sorry for reminding you!), it's likely that some of you will be warming yourselves up with delightful evening treats of hot cocoa along with a chocolate biscuit or two. Although these may be some of our favourite treats, we must keep a tight eye on our dogs whenever chocolate is around.

Shockingly, reports made to the Veterinary Poisons Information Service of dogs being poisoned by chocolate has increased dramatically in the last year. Chocolate can cause severe health issues and even death to our dogs because it contains Theobromine, which is a toxic poison to canines. While many people know not to let their dogs eat chocolate, it is difficult. The real trouble is that dogs love the taste of chocolate and they know how to make us feel guilty, but they really shouldn't get any at all.

The absolute worst type of chocolate for a dog is baking chocolate, because it has the highest concentration of Theobromine. The least harmful is white chocolate and all other types fall somewhere in the middle regarding toxicity. There is no standard amount of chocolate that's okay for a dog to eat, as their ability to handle this toxin is dependent on their size, overall health and the type of chocolate.

If you find that your little friend has dug into your chocolate cake then please be on the lookout for symptoms of poisoning! As the toxins begin to spread through the body, you may notice that they become hyperactive or that they're panting a lot. In more severe cases, there will be vomiting or diarrhoea. Regardless of the symptoms you see, it's important that you contact your vet as soon as possible.

If your dog has already developed a taste for chocolate, you can purchase dog treats that contain carob. Carob tastes a lot like chocolate – you might enjoy it, too – but it does not contain Theobromine. Just be on the lookout for specialty dog treats and you're likely to find some.

Of course it's important not to overdo it on the treats as well – wouldn't want them getting overweight or unhealthy!

Maybe with all that talk of chocolate you should go put on the kettle, grab a couple of chocolate digestives, sit yourself down and enjoy the rest of the information I've shared with you in this newsletter.

See you soon and have a safe and enjoyable time with your best little friends!

Heidi

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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.

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JUDGE: Colin Taylor (England)
 started his career in pet grooming 1985. After two year in Hong Kong he goes for more then 20 year to the USA. Colin Taylor characterise himself as Dog Stylist and not more as dog groomer. His formidable kudos include a lot of medals in competitions



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.

My best little friend you shout aloud, groomed to perfection so you can be proud!

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! A blind collie has got himself his own guide dog. Clyde, who is completely blind, relies totally on his companion, Bonnie, who is also a collie. Bonnie stays close to Clyde all the time and guides him to his food and water and when they're out for walks.

The pair were given up for adoption to Meadow Green Dog Rescue centre in Loddon, Norfolk, UK and are looking for a good home where both of them can go together.

Centre manager Cherie Cootes said, "*Clyde would be lost without Bonnie and [they] have to be re-homed together. If Clyde's unsure where he is, he will suddenly go behind her and put his face on her back so she can guide him where he is going. He totally relies on her the whole time. When she walks she tends to stop and make sure he's there - she does look out for him.*"

! A Chinese family borrowed a pet cat from their neighbour to catch a mouse which had invaded their home - only for them to become best friends.

According to ananova.com Mr Li, of Changchun in north east China, borrowed the cat who quickly caught the rodent but let it go after smelling it

"they just started playing together" said Mr Li, *"Now they are friends and the cat even cuddles up with the mouse to sleep,"* he said.

! Stray dogs in Moscow have learned to use the subway to travel around the city. According to rupor.org, scientist Andrew Poyarkov believes the dogs board the trains in the morning to travel into the city centre where it's easier to get food and then travel back to where they stay at night.

"They seem to have learnt how long they need to stay on the train to leave at the right station," said Dr Poyarkov. He also claims to have observed the same dogs waiting at green lights before crossing roads and believes they have picked up these commuting habits from humans.

Choosing a shampoo for your dog?

Just as there are different types of shampoo for all the different hair types us humans have there are also different types of shampoo for our dogs. Firstly it's important that you use an actual 'dog shampoo' as human shampoos can cause damage or harm to your dogs skin or coat. You must never use washing up liquid or any other cleaning materials as they may contain harmful toxins that could burn your dog's skin.

Secondly it's important to choose the right shampoo to suit your dogs coat to keep it in the best condition. I know choosing which one can be daunting so I'd be happy to give you any advise I can. Just call or drop in to see me.

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

The Correct Way to Brush Your Dog!

You've no doubt heard me talk quite a bit about the importance of keeping your dog brushed regularly. It stimulates their skin, removes excess hair and helps to prevent tangles and matting. Whether your dogs have short or long hair, they really do benefit from having a full-body brushing whenever possible.

But while it's important to brush your dog regularly, it's even more important to brush your dog thoroughly using the right brush. A quick run with any old brush over your dog's back and sides will not be enough.

For longhaired dogs or for hair that easily tangles, it's ideal to brush them daily. Shorthaired dogs will also benefit from a weekly brushing.

But what type of brush should you use, and what exactly does a thorough brushing include? The type of brush you should use depends on the length and thickness of hair, as well as susceptibility to tangles.

If your dog's hair is medium to long in length or tends to mat, it's often best to use a slicker brush. These brushes usually have a square or rectangular head of thin wire bristles and they're available in all sizes. For shorthaired dogs, consider using a rubber currycomb. When used in light circles, these feel great on a dog's skin and help you remove excess, dead hair. For curly and thick-coated dogs, you can use a wire-pin brush but it's recommended that you also use a rake if your dog has a thick undercoat.

Of course, brushing should be an enjoyable experience for our dogs, which is why it's important that we're always gentle. This can be difficult when the hair mats or tangles, so think of it as a tangle in your own hair. By holding onto the tangled portion of hair with one hand placed close against the skin and brushing with the other, you can prevent the painful pull to their skin as you would on your own head.

When brushing your dog, you can begin by brushing from the back of the head to the base of the tail. Then brush the chest and sides by going with the grain from top to bottom. If your dog has a very thick undercoat, you can also brush against the grain to remove some excess hair.

Then comes the tricky part! Many dogs end up with mats on their stomachs, in their armpits and on the backs of their hind legs. For large dogs, encourage them to lay down so that you can thoroughly brush out their stomachs. For small dogs, you can hold their front paws with one hand to help them stand on their hind legs whilst you brush their bellies with your free hand. But also try to get under that tail if they'll let you!

Frequent brushing provides a nice bonding time between you and your dog, but it also saves you both from a lot of hassle that comes from mats and tangles.

If you think you need some spray-on conditioner to help with tangles, or need a little more advice on brushes or brushing technique, please just ask, I'll be happy to help.

"Cats know how to obtain food without labor, shelter without confinement, and love without penalties"
~ Walter Lionel Georg

Famous TV Dogs Quiz!

The following dogs are all TV stars. Can you guess their stage names? Answers are on the back page. Don't be looking!

1. This Poodle was owned by Den Watts in Eastenders
2. This Neapolitan Mastiff has been a star in the Harry Potter films since 2001
3. The slobbering St Bernard who stars in this film of the same name
4. The little Cairn Terrier who went with Dorothy to the Land of Oz
5. This Belgian Shepherd was rescued by Robbie Jackson in Eastenders and more recently looked after by Gus
6. This Bloodhound struck it rich along with the Beverly Hillbillies in the 1960's
7. The Pug who starred in both 'Men in Black' films
8. The most famous Blue Peter dog who was inseparable from John Noakes, who would say, "Get down????"

Choosing a Bed for Your Best Friend!

Many of us don't mind at all when our dogs sleep in our own beds with us; that is, of course, until they start stealing our pillows or taking up more space than we do! But when they sleep elsewhere or if they're not allowed on the furniture, a doggie bed is the next best thing.

There is an unbelievable selection of dog beds on the market, from simple and low cost to extravagant and expensive designer beds. But choosing the right bed is more than a matter of taste; it really all depends on your dog's needs.

When shopping for a bed, it's important to consider your dog's size, how they lay when sleeping, whether they have any health issues and the average temperature of where they sleep.

For smaller dogs that like to curl up in a ball, it's usually best to get a circular or donut-shaped bed that has a nice cushion. You can get a plastic one with a liner or one that is cloth and filled with stuffing. Larger dogs or dogs that like to stretch out will enjoy a larger mat-style bed, doggie mattress or a lounge.

When it's colder, you do have the option of buying a heated bed but they're really not necessary. Dogs are thrilled to have a little blanket and this helps them choose their preferred amount of warmth. If your dog stays outdoors in a shed or kennel, it's often best to get an elevated plastic bed, as this allows for air circulation and keeps them above any wet ground.

You'll find that there are a few different bed filler options, such as foam or stuffing. When testing out beds, look for something that is dense enough to hold your dog's weight but soft enough to provide some comfort. This is especially important if your dog has hip problems or any type of health or age-related soreness. Although some of the nicer fillers raise the price of the item, they tend to last longer and endure more wear and tear.

Last but not least, it's better to opt for something with a removable and washable cover. This is great for when our dogs get dirty, shed a lot of hair or bring those dreaded fleas home! Plus, with all the gorgeous designs, it's nice to keep them looking great in our homes.

But of course what's most important is that our dogs have a comfortable place to rest their little heads for a nice long doggie snooze.

The Devil Dressed in Disguise!

'A limerick about a mischievous little puppy dog'

Because I'm a puppy I know I look cute
So I'm sure you're not really going to give me the boot,
I know you'll forgive me just as those times before
Because with a wag of my tail your heart melts to the floor.

You get all alarmed at the things that I do
But for me it is fun when I chew that big pot of glue,
And what's the big deal if I poop in your shoe
I thought I was being nice leaving it right there for you!

Why don't you have fun when we go to the park
You get to run through all that mud and stay out 'til it's dark,
I thought we were playing chase when you had that big fall
That's why I ran off and refused to come when you called.

When I ate all that chicken I'd forgotten the rule
With it there on the counter I had started to drool,
And I couldn't have known the cat would say no
Maybe I shouldn't have but boy did he go.

I really didn't mean to burst that little boy's ball
You looked awful scared when you saw his dad was that tall,
Maybe it didn't help when I peed on his leg,
It seemed really painful the way he then made you beg.

Ok I'll admit I know I could do better
I'll stop eating the plants and chewing your letters,
I'm sure I'll get forgiven when I flash my big puppy eyes
Even though you keep saying I'm the devil dressed in disguise.
- M.J.Hill

Did You Know?

A cat has a total of 24 whiskers, 4 rows of whiskers on each side. The upper two rows can move independently of the bottom two rows. A cat uses its whiskers for measuring distances.

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.

Pet Dandruff!

Just like humans, pets get dandruff too. It tends to be seen more in the shorthaired pets but all kinds get it.

Dandruff is usually just the aging dead skin cells scaling and flaking off. While it's normally harmless, in some cases it can indicate an underlying health issue in your pet, such as an infection, allergy or parasites.

So if your pet starts to show signs of dandruff, do not just put it down to its skin. Do a little investigation and maybe see your vet to make sure there are no bigger issues causing the problem.

Please Know That I Really Appreciate It!

You've all been a blessing to me, to my business and, most importantly, to your pets. I am very thankful that you choose me to groom them with the care and attention they deserve.

It's always nice chatting with you when you get your pet groomed, and there's really nothing like working with your lovely little friends throughout the day.

You have helped to make my business a success, and the opportunity to provide pet grooming in our community is simply fantastic. So thank you for all your support.

It's great that you look after your pet so well because there are many who don't. To give your pet the love and care you do is everything they ask of you.

Please be sure to let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns about your pet or any of the services I provide. Your happiness and satisfaction are my top priority (alongside the absolute best care for your pets!), and it's my pleasure to provide the best experiences for you and your special pet.

Thank you

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.

**ANSWERS
to Quiz**
1. Roly
2. Fang
3. Beethoven
4. Toto
5. Willard
6. Duke
7. Frank
8. Shep

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