



Fur Babies News

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

It's a great feeling to get started in with a new year and, when thinking back on all that's happened in our lives over this last year, it's quite exciting to plan for all that we hope to accomplish in 2010.

One of the many excellent ways to keep focused on plans for the new year is to make New Year's resolutions, because they're almost always about the things we put off for another day but really want to work on for ourselves. Of course, we all know how long those resolutions tend to last, but that's no reason not to give them another go this January. In fact, one of your New Year's resolutions could be to stick to your resolutions! So, what is it that you'd like to do for your own self this year? No plan is ever too big or too small, because it's really all about setting your sights on something you hope to do for yourself, whether it's something to accomplish in this new year or something to work toward for the whole next decade.

And while it's fantastic to reach a goal you set for yourself, you can help make it an even more fulfilling experience by rewarding yourself along the way. Say you make a resolution to be more organized in 2010. That can be a big task to take on, but won't it be more rewarding if you treat yourself to something nice for every step you take toward the goal? For example, say you need to sort through that huge stack of papers on your desk as a step toward organization of your things. Having that done will bring you some relief from stress, which is great, but knowing a treat is waiting for you afterwards can give you a lot more motivation to get it done and to take the next step toward achievement of the larger goal. There's no need to get stressed out over whether or not resolutions are reached—what's much more important is taking the time and steps to do something positive for yourself.

People often find that they're able to reach goals more easily when they have an accountability partner, but dogs make it much easier too! Maybe walking your dog more often this January will help you keep a clear mind and stay focused on all the good things you want to do for yourself this year. Not only will that keep you and your dog in better spirits, it'll help you both stay fit and healthy too. And won't it feel terrific to spend more time doing fun and lively things with the dog?

The end of every year brings us all a new beginning, and we're hoping everyone has a great New Year and greets 2010 as a fresh start into doing all the wonderful things you want to do for yourself and for your best little friend.

Sincerely, Shona, Denise and the staff of Fur Babies

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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 is Always Kinder!
- Caring for Older Dogs!
- The Truth about Mutts!
- Introducing a New Dog!

A Wonderful World of Animals!

! Five white tigers in Chongqing Wild Animal Park have become so tamed from their domesticated lifestyle that they're now afraid of live chickens. According to Ananova.com, the tigers ran for their lives when an unconscious chicken woke up and squawked at them. The park is changing the tigers' routine in an attempt to toughen them up a bit and bring back their natural predatory instincts.

! Paddy, a 10-year-old English bull terrier, has recovered from a life-threatening incident with a plastic egg. According to K9 Magazine, Paddy's owner feared the worst when she fell gravely ill, because she's been undergoing treatment for heart disease. But when staff at Stoke PDSA PetAid Hospital took a look at Paddy's emergency, they discovered that her new symptoms were from a lodged plastic egg she had swallowed. Though the operation was dangerous, it was a full success for Paddy and her owner.

Did You Know?

Russian scientists completed a study on canine telepathy and found that dogs can sense unspoken commands from their owners more often than not.

Dogs pant to increase air flow to their noses, because it's actually the cooling of nasal gland secretions that keeps their bodies from overheating. So, the bigger a dog's nose, the better his internal air conditioning.

"My best friend is what we hear, so how will you treat them this New Year!"

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS PAGE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT WE 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, we 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 little buddy 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 standard 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 process.

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 prices.

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 groomers, the above five benefits are the guide by which we provide our services. Dogs and grooming are our passion, not just our business. By bringing your dog to us 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 Us!

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 as soft as velvet and just a dream to cuddle? And above all, do you want reassurance that your dog is getting the same gentle care and kindness during grooming that you give her at home?

Well, you've just found a groomer that can provide everything you want, plus much, much more!

With us, you can be sure that your dog will be groomed to the highest standard. You'll be so pleased with how she looks that you'll be proud to walk her down your street and show her off to your neighbors - just like the many other clients we have.

When we advise you on grooming styles for your pet, we always take your preferences, lifestyle and your dog's character into account. The health, safety and welfare of your pet are always our priority, so you can have peace of mind knowing that you'll get the best advice available to help you choose the right options for your dog.

As a good and caring dog owner, you'll want your pet to be healthy and happy. Therefore, it'll be reassuring to know that with us 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 worrying ailments can make all the difference to your pet, so we make sure to keep a close eye during grooming.

Your dog will be well looked after and will always get the 'one to one' attention that she needs. You'll always feel confident that she's in the safest of hands with us; we can assure you of that.

Your pet deserves the best so we 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 we simply will not compromise on.

With us, 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 we're more than happy to provide. You can call us 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 dog looking fantastic then give us a call. You'll be over the moon when you see what we can do for you and your little furry friend.

Fur Babies Dog Grooming

"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 ours, you'll get the respect and service from us 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.**
- ✓ **We 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 us and you'll love how she looks afterwards!**

Call for an appointment today. Tel: 905-792-0428

Grooming is Always the Kindest Option!

Although all dogs feel and look much better when they get the regular grooming they need, some owners tend to put it off because they worry that grooming is stressful for their dog. For some dogs it can seem that way and, of course, no one wants to put their dogs through anything that could make them unhappy. But, regular grooming actually has quite the opposite effect when approached with care from both the owners and groomers.

Having a matted coat and overgrown nails is much more stressful for dogs than the brief time it takes to have them groomed properly. Hair mats can be awfully painful and uncomfortable for dogs, because they pull on their skin and don't allow any air circulation through their coats, which can cause sores and infection. So, even when a dog isn't thrilled about taking a trip to the groomer's shop, they'll feel much better from having clean and tangle-free hair. The same goes for their nails too. Some dogs do dislike the nail clipping process for a variety of reasons, but it's far better to do this as needed than it is to let them get overgrown, because this can lead to puncture wounds in their paws and can even cause joint and muscle pain throughout their entire bodies.

What many people don't realize is that their own anxiety is often the reason for their dog's anxiety. Dogs sense the energy of their owners, and if they perceive that their owners are nervous about something, they can become jittery and worried too. So, it really is important to keep in mind that a good groomer takes very special care in ensuring the comfort and safety of your dog. It's essential to a dog's mental and physical health that they have a positive association with grooming, and there are plenty of good techniques used to help nervous dogs feel more relaxed throughout the process.

If you find yourself putting off grooming or feeling anxious before coming to your dogs appointment, try taking a walk with your dog beforehand. A walk will help you both relax, and you'll both enjoy the clean and healthy time afterwards!

True or False Dog Quiz

Dogs stare at objects to show aggression	T	F
The tallest dog breed is the Irish wolfhound	T	F
Puppies can see and hear when one week old	T	F
The smallest dog breed is the toy poodle	T	F
All dogs descended from wolves	T	F
Dogs typically have 5 toes on their front paws and only four toes on their hind paws	T	F
Large dogs usually have a longer life expectancy than small dogs	T	F

A Dog's New Year's Resolutions!

I will not run to fetch the ball before the human throws it, and I will watch to see where it lands too—there'll be no more running in the wrong direction or making my owner search for hours trying to find my ball for me.

I'll stop snacking in the cat litter tray between meals, and I'll also try to understand that the cat runs away when he does NOT want to play.

I will not roll my toys under the sofa or behind the fridge and then bark at them for hours because they're out of my reach.

And I will always take time from my very busy schedule to stop and smell the behinds of all the dogs I meet.

Caring for Older Dogs

We can always tell when our dogs are getting older, though it's something we don't ever really want to think about. Maybe they start showing gray hair around their muzzles or they aren't so quick to run and jump around as they used to be. Dogs' mental and physical abilities do deteriorate as they grow older, just as our own do, but there are plenty of things you can do to help older dogs maintain a high quality of life throughout their golden years—it's a matter of changing routine to match their changing needs. The needs of an aging dog include changes in grooming, diet and exercise, and overall health care.

A dog's skin and coat usually gets dry or extra oily with old age, and their nails typically get thicker but become brittle. So, it's usually best to keep them groomed for practical purposes rather than worrying too much about keeping them in a standard cut or style. Brush older dogs every day to keep their skin stimulated, and keep them bathed regularly to promote healthy skin and coat condition. By trimming a bit off their nails every couple of weeks and by keeping their hind ends free from fur and mats, you help them stay healthy and comfortable.

Older dogs also tend to put on extra weight due to having less physical activity. You may need to cut back on the food given to them or feed them something entirely different, but keep in mind that exercise is still really important to their mental and physical well-being. Exercise may have to be something different than usual due to pain and difficulty from arthritis and other age-related ailments, but short walks and daily play helps them stay in shape. Low-impact exercise, such as swimming, can be a real treat to an older dog too.

What's most important, though, is that an elderly dog gets the care and treatment recommended by their veterinarian. Sometimes a good teeth cleaning or medicated shampoo can greatly improve their health and comfort, and medical treatment for their aches and pains can help them feel up to the exercise that keeps them healthy and happy.

Doggy Dictionary

Sniff: A social greeting custom similar to the human exchange of business cards.

Thunder: A signal that humans can't interpret—it means the world is ending!

Bump: A method for getting the human's attention; use it when they're holding a hot cup of coffee.

Don't Forget About The Mutts!

Lots of people shy away from the idea of adopting or rescuing a mixed-breed dog, and they tend to stick with their favorite dog breeds when deciding on a new pup to bring home. Of course, there is lots of fun and excitement with getting a purebred dog and they do have many special characteristics that set them apart from each other. But, there are actually just as many benefits to having a mixed breed dog as there are to having a pedigree dog.

Mixed breed dogs are much less susceptible to the diseases and illnesses that affect purebred dogs, because their mixed genetics generally make them biologically stronger. And even though you can't be sure of their inherent characteristics, they are usually quite moderate in both temperament and personality. They can also be trained just as easily as purebreds and some are even easier to care for than those that are bred for special traits.

Many dogs that end up in shelters are usually in there through no fault of their own. Some people get dogs for all the benefits of having one but don't realize how much care and attention they need, and so they abandon them rather than giving them the necessary care. You may think that rescue dogs have something wrong with them since they were given away by their owners but, truth is, they usually make really great pets once they're adopted into a loving and caring home.

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**Answers
to Quiz**
1 - T
2 - T
3 - F
4 - F
5 - T
6 - T
7 - F

Fun Exercise Tip - Hide and Seek Treats!

Dogs love a good challenge to keep them occupied and, since they love treats too, they have tons of fun looking for treats you've hidden from them. Show them a treat and then hide it within their reach in another room. Tell them to seek it and then praise them when they find it. Or, place treats in an upside-down container or inside of a treat toy so that they can play and work toward their reward.

Introducing a New Dog to the Family

If a puppy or adopted dog will be joining your family in 2010, get them off to a great start by giving them a proper introduction to their new environment. Here are a few tips for easing a dog's transition into your home:

Walk the dog on a leash around the neighborhood and around the outside of your home before entering the door. This helps you both establish a bond and decrease any anxiety the dog may have. Also, walk the new dog with your other dogs to introduce them to each other before they go inside—this will lessen the chance of aggressive behaviors and relax everyone through healthy exercise.

Keep the new dog confined to one area until they're comfortable and settled enough to explore the rest of your home. A new home brings excitement and lessons to learn, so it's helpful to start off with plenty of exercise and direction to help them adjust to their new environment.

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.

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