



# Fur Babies News

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

Lately there's lots of talk about camping and going on vacation. These summertime activities are a real treat for dogs, so if you're thinking about taking your own dog along on a trip, here are a few tips for making it an all-around good time for everyone.

Whether you're traveling short or long distances, you may have a more relaxing journey if you prepare in advance for your pets. If traveling by car, map out some dog-friendly rest stops beforehand. These may include dog parks, outdoor shopping centers, and open fields. Then you'll have a better idea of where you and your dogs can safely stop to stretch your legs. A few walks during the trip may help your dog remain calm and on good behavior for the ride.

A checklist will remind you of all the odds and ends your dog may need. Items to include are a collar and leash, food, fresh water, toys, bedding, a kennel, and any medications they may need.

Other forms of travel require additional measures, so be sure to check with the travel company about pet restrictions ahead of time. Airlines typically require recent documentation from a veterinarian. But even if you aren't traveling by air, it doesn't hurt to schedule them a wellness check-up before leaving. This ensures their vaccinations are up-to-date and that they're in good health for the planned activities.

For camping, it's good to follow the "better safe than sorry" rule of thumb as you're packing for the trip. An emergency kit can make the difference between a lovely time and a stressful misadventure. The bare essentials for a kit include tweezers, bandages, styptic powder, saline solution, and an antihistamine. A quick review of canine first aid procedures can also better prepare you for an emergency.

If your dog doesn't already have a microchip or ID tag on their collar, put that on the to-do list as well. There's nothing like the wilderness or unfamiliar territory when it comes to piquing a dog's curiosity! Even if they don't tend to roam when excited, there's a possibility something could startle them into running off. With a microchip or ID tag, there's a much better chance of having your dog returned to you safely.

Last but not least, you may benefit from scheduling their grooming appointments for immediately before and/or after the journey. Traveling with dogs is much nicer when they're clean—and camping can certainly make a mess of their coats. Here's wishing you and your dogs a fun and stress-free time with all the warm-weather activities you've planned!

*Sincerely, Shona, Denise and the staff of Fur Babies*

## 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:

- Is Your Dog Overweight?
- Battling Boredom in Dogs
- 5 Tips for Clean, Healthy Eyes
- Day in the Life of a Matted Dog

## Dogs in the News!

! Although penalties for skateboarding are usually reserved for teenagers who disturb public areas, a man in England has also received a skateboarding fine—for his dog. Bodhi, a Lakeland terrier, amuses the town with his skating and curb-side stunts, but complaints were issued when two women tripped over his board, according to *Orange News*. His owner, who reportedly did not even train the dog to skate, says Bodhi's not a criminal and is always under control. He must pay the fine but, fortunately, Bodhi is still allowed to skate in the parks.

! Four dogs were recently inducted into the Purina Hall of Fame for their service to others. Two of the dogs saved their owners' children by alerting them to injuries and an illness that required hospitalization. One dog saved his owner by chasing away another animal that was attacking her. The fourth dog was a 10-year-old Rottweiler who spent the year assisting soldiers who have PTSD.

# Fur Babies Dog Grooming

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*"A stinky dog can be a real bummer, so book them in for a wash and they'll look great for the summer!"*

## **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**

### Doggie Word Scramble!

Unscramble the letters for these dog breeds. Use the letters in the shaded areas for the final puzzle!

A B L  
[ ] [shaded] [ ]

A B E E G L  
[ ] [ ] [shaded] [shaded] [ ] [shaded]

D H N O U  
[ ] [ ] [ ] [shaded] [shaded]

E E I R R R T  
[shaded] [shaded] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [shaded]

Answer:

[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [shaded] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

### When Large Dogs Pull on the Leash

If big dogs become excited and try to dart after something when out walking, one of two things usually happens: the dogs end up choking themselves on their collars, or they take their owners for a walk rather than having their owners walk them. To stop this from happening, you can try using a collar or harness specially designed for this.

The Halti is one such collar. It wraps around the dog's face and prompts the dog to turn sideways whenever they attempt to lunge forward. Therefore, it discourages them from yanking on the leash. The Halti does not restrict their mouths; it simply puts the owner in more control. There are also harnesses that humanely discourage pulling. These wrap around the chest and attach to an ordinary collar.

### You Know You're a Dog Person When...

- ...you have 23 different names for your dog, most of which make no sense, but they answer to them.
- ...you have baby gates installed inside and a small wading pool outside, but you have no children.
- ...you can't see out the passenger side window of your car because it's smudged up with nose prints.
- ...you like people who like your dog but distrust any person who doesn't. You also distrust anyone your dog seems to dislike.
- ...you never completely finish a delicious piece of meat just so your dog can have a taste of it.
- ...you keep eating even after finding a dog hair in your dish.
- ...you wrap gifts and there's hair stuck in the tape.
- ...you sign the dogs' names when sending a card from your family.
- ...you don't think it's odd to stand in the yard late at night or in the pouring rain repeating, "Go pee!" over and over, though your dog's paying no attention to you.

### Is Your Dog Overweight?

Because obesity can lead to discomfort and health problems in dogs, it's important that we monitor their weight—and do what we can to control it if needed. Monitoring is especially important for older dogs and certain breeds that are prone to obesity.

It's actually quite simple to determine if dogs are heavier than ideal for their breed and build. The basic rule of thumb is you ought to be able to feel their backbone, and when pressing gently on their sides, you ought to be able to feel their ribs. When looking at them from the side, there should also be a discernable waist between their hipbones and the lower portion of their rib cage.

If they look rather rounded and feel squishy on all sides, then they are at risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, and joint problems, among other conditions. Fortunately, there are things you can do to get them back in shape and in better health.

Smaller portions of a higher-quality food can effectively reduce their weight. Due to the possibility of the suggested serving size being too much for your dog, you may want to ask your veterinarian for personalized feeding guidelines. It's also helpful to cut back on the number of treats they get. No need to feel bad for doing this—you could be saving their life!

While decreasing the number of calories they consume, increase the amount of physical activity they get. Even an extra 10 minutes of walking each day can help them slim down. Depending on the severity of their obesity, you may need to gradually increase the amount of exercise they get. Otherwise, a sudden shift in activity level could put too much strain on their heart and limbs.

### Battling Doggie Boredom

When people get home after leaving their dog alone, they're usually greeted with lots of excitement—and sometimes with a huge mess. "What on Earth have you gotten into now?" they say. Some people believe their dogs tear into things from spite over being left alone, but it's more likely they were suffering from boredom.

A few things have proven helpful for this problem. By walking them before you leave, they'll have less energy and desire for playing when you're away. Food puzzle toys, such as a Kong ball, can occupy and entertain them once their energy returns. For soothing anxiety, you can also try electric diffusers that calm dogs with the scent of pheromones. And, of course, you'll want to be sure to get back to them as soon as possible!

## 5 Tips for Clean, Healthy Eyes

A common complaint among dog owners is the look of their dogs' eyes. Oftentimes, dogs have a discharge that stains the hair on their faces.

1. Because there are many causes of this—from allergies to breed-specific abnormalities—a veterinarian should check it out to see if the dog is in need of medical treatment.
2. Keep the hair around the eyes clipped short or pulled back in long-haired breeds. Not only can these hairs scratch their corneas, they can soak up moisture from the eyes. This causes matting that irritates their skin and becomes discolored.
3. Prior to taking dogs for a swim or giving them a bath, put a canine ophthalmic solution in their eyes. This protects their eyes from irritants in the water.
4. Wipe discharge from their hair with a soft, damp cloth as needed, and gently rub any excess moisture from the hair with a dry cloth. This stops it from building up and matting.
5. Use a canine-approved cleanser for removing discoloration. In severe cases, a daily treatment can help keep stains at bay between their regularly scheduled grooming appointments. Just be sure to follow the label's instructions!

## Newsletter Copyright!

This newsletter is provided to you every month so that we 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 we're afraid it can't be copied or re-used. If you are ever given a newsletter from another groomer with similar information and articles, we'd be grateful if you'd let us know.

## A Day in the Life of a Matted Dog

The problems for a matted dog go far beyond the fact that their coat isn't looking as nice as it could. In fact, they probably couldn't care less about the way it looks. All they know is the way it *feels*.

If you take a moment to pull the hairs on your arm, you can get an idea of what a dog's skin feels like when their fur is matted together. Only the dog feels it day and night because the mats are constantly pulling. This can limit their range of motion in severe cases. But even small mats can further irritate them. The skin beneath a mat may have debris trapped on it and it gets no fresh air.

As if that weren't distressing enough for the dog, they can also receive less love and attention because of it. Most people don't like the feel of a rough and clumpy coat, and so they stop petting dogs that have one, or they pet *around* the matted area. The dog then loses stimulation that normally helps keep them healthy and in good spirits.

For these reasons, it really is important that mats be removed as soon as possible. With daily brushing and routine grooming, the problem can also be avoided altogether. If you have any questions about managing mats, please do let us know! We'll be happy to help you care for them.

## Word Scramble Answer:

GREAT DANE

## 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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