



With a warm hello to you and your dogs, I'd like to welcome the warmest month of the year with a note on keeping dogs cool and comfortable in hot weather.

Dogs are more susceptible to exhaustion and heat stroke in the latter end of summer. They can't always access shady areas, and their natural methods of cooling down aren't as efficient as ours. Imagine sweating only through your feet and having to breathe harder to lower your body temperature!

Fortunately, it's usually easy to prevent any heat-related troubles. Here are a few tips on keeping them safe and comfortable this August:

1. If you must take your dog along in your vehicle, keep the windows partly opened for fresh air circulation. We've all heard stories about dogs who suffered heat stroke from being shut into cars, regrettably. So don't leave them there unattended for more than a minute, and never leave them in with the windows closed.

2. Play with them and take them for walks in the early morning or evening when the temperatures are lower.

3. Be sure they always have access to fresh water. If you'll be away from home for a few hours, try leaving a few ice cubes in their water dish. This keeps the water cold but is also a treat to those who love chewing ice.

4. Provide a shady or cool area for them, especially if they'll be outdoors. Trees or a canopy gives shelter from sunlight, and a hard surface such as tile flooring can be a cool resting area. If you notice your dog digging a bunch of holes in the yard this time of year, they're likely turning into the earth for a cool and cozy place to relax.

5. Have them groomed regularly to rid of excess hair and any mats. You may also want to keep their hair clipped, though it depends on the breed and their living situation.

These simple precautions can make all the difference with a dog's comfort and wellbeing in summertime weather. So try to have a ton of fun with them before autumn arrives, but stay on the lookout for anything that could make warm weather a bit easier on them.

Jeff

Please see page 4 for additional information on what to watch for and do if your dog is at risk of heat exhaustion.

**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:**

- To Shave or Not to Shave
- A Look at the Basset Hound!
- Recognizing Heat Stroke
- Breaking the Territorial Bark

**A Wonderful World of Animals!**

! A dog in China has been nursing a kitten along with her own pups. Li Dajie bought the kitten soon before her dog gave birth to a litter and, according to *Orange News*, the dog and kitten "quickly became inseparable."

The dog allows the kitten to nurse from her while the pups are suckling, and the kitten is growing rapidly!

! A couple in England raised a seagull that seems to think he's a cat. Mr. and Mrs. Grimwood found the seagull in their fireplace a few years ago and hand reared him because he'd been abandoned.

The seagull eats cat food alongside the Grimwoods' pet cats, according to *Orange News*, and has become good friends with the felines. However, now that he's older, he's living on their roof with a female.

**Did You Know?**

\*A dog's nose print is as unique as a human's fingerprint.

\*The name Fido for dogs originated from the Latin word for 'fidelity'.

\*The most popular names for male dogs are Max and Jake, and for females they are Maggie and Molly.

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*"Washed and brushed and left beautifully clean, when you're out for a walk you'll love them being seen!"*

# IF YOU ARE NEW TO THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS PAGE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT I 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, I 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 dog 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 standards 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 experience.

### **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 rates.

### **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 a groomer, the above five benefits are the guide by which I provide my services. Dogs and grooming are my passion, not just my business. By bringing your dog to me 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 Me!

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 soft while being just a dream to cuddle? And above all, would you like reassurance that your dog is getting the same gentle care and kindness during grooming that you would give her at home?

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

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

Your preferences and lifestyle, as well as your dog's character, are always taken into account as I advise you on grooming styles. The health, safety and welfare of your pet are always my priority, so you can have peace of mind knowing that I only offer the best advice to help you choose the right options for your dog.

As a caring dog owner, you'll want your pet to be healthy and happy. Therefore, it'll be reassuring to know that, with me, 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 ailments can make all the difference to your pet, so I make sure to keep a close eye out for physical and behavioral changes during grooming.

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

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

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

## **Companions Grooming, LLC** *"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 mine, you'll get the respect and service from me 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.**
- ✓ **I 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 me and you'll love how she looks afterwards!**

Call for an appointment today. Tel: **704-483-4375**

### Doggy Humor!

A group of children were outside playing together when a fire truck flew past them. In the front seat of the truck was a Dalmatian. The children started talking about the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep the crowds back from the fire," said one of the children.

"No, he's only there for good luck," said another.

The third child ended the argument. "They use dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

### To Shave or Not to Shave

That is the question if your dog's looking miserable in their heavy coat this summer. The answer may surprise you, though.

We often think of a dog's coat in the same way we think of our own coats. We can't imagine wearing a wool coat on a summer afternoon, and so we assume that our dogs must be roasting beneath all their fur.

But, that's not necessarily the case, and the decision to clip all their fur off should not be taken lightly.

A dog's coat protects their skin from the sun and other outdoor elements, while also insulating them against both hot and cold weather. So they may be more susceptible to sunburns, skin cancer, and heat exhaustion if they're mostly outdoors without their coats.

Moreover, the coats of certain double-coated and longhaired breeds are never quite the same after they've been clipped.

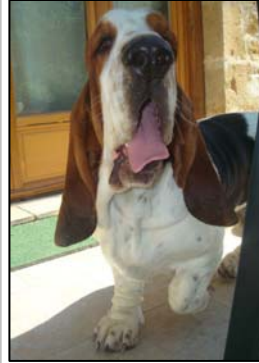
That is not to say you shouldn't have your dog trimmed or clipped, though.

A thorough trim will remove shaggy hair and, depending on the breed, a full clip can be both stylish and practical. The ultimate goal is to keep them in a well-maintained coat, which promotes air circulation and healthy skin regardless of the hair length or thickness.

Unless a close shave is necessary due to severe matting or a skin condition, it's best to consider these factors and talk it over with your groomer before committing to full coat removal.

### A Look at the Basset Hound!

The Basset hound originated in France in the 1500s, moved on to England in the 1800s, and is now one of the most recognizable dog breeds. Its short legs, long ears and sorrowful expression form a classic look that's adored by many.



The Basset hound is second to the Bloodhound in its ability to trail a scent and was bred for tracking small game with hunters.

In spite of their sluggish appearance, they're quite active on the trail and keep their owners moving when taken out for their walks.

Basset hounds tend to get along well with other dogs and are obedient companions. Perhaps the most charming aspect of the breed is its calm and friendly temperament.

But because they love to sleep and are prone to obesity, it's important to take them out often for walks and tracking activities. Monthly grooming is usually adequate for keeping their coats nice and healthy, but they may get into messes when following a scent!

### One More Reason to Have a Dog!

People who own dogs tend to live longer and are less likely to have heart attacks than those who do not. And, believe it or not, pet ownership is linked to decreased stress levels!

### Word Search

Find the hidden dog breeds listed below!

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

CHIHUAHUA COLLIE AKITA BASSET PULI  
BULLDOG VIZSLA CORGI KOMONDOR

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## **Recognizing Symptoms of Heat Stroke**

Taking precautions against the August heat is only half the battle, as some dogs will still overexert themselves or are more susceptible to heat exhaustion than others are.

Large and short-nosed breeds typically have the most trouble coping with hot weather.

If you're out with your dog and they are panting heavily or feel warm to the touch, move them into the shade for some rest. If possible and if symptoms worsen, wet their neck, stomach and armpits with cool water.

The more serious symptoms to watch for include tongue swelling, dry or pale gums, listlessness, vomiting and diarrhea.

If you suspect that your dog is suffering exhaustion or heat stroke, it's critical that you cool them down and get them in to see a veterinarian as soon as possible. Left untreated, the condition can worsen and is sometimes fatal.

While it's always good to be prepared in case an emergency arises, the most important thing to remember is that *prevention* is usually sufficient for keeping dogs healthy and comfortable throughout the warmest season.

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## **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.

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## **Breaking the Territorial Bark**

Last month's issue of the newsletter contained an overview on breaking problematic barking. As noted there, it's helpful to identify the reasons why a dog barks uncontrollably before attempting to break the behavior.

One of the reasons a dog may do this is from an urge to guard and protect their territory. This is usually the case when a dog barks relentlessly at people or animals that approach the owner's property.

Territorial barking can be a good thing, of course, as it's comforting to know that your dog will likely scare intruders away. However, if you're unable to make them stop barking when you're welcoming someone to your home, it can be really frustrating.

If your dog does this and you'd like them to stop, try teaching them to "speak" and "be quiet." With lots of tasty treats in hand, invite someone to approach your home and command your dog to "speak." Give them a treat for barking, and repeat this exercise until your dog speaks on command.

Practice the "quiet" command afterward. Hold a treat to their nose while they're barking, say "quiet," and give them the treat the second they stop barking. By practicing this routinely with positive reinforcement your dog will quickly learn to stop barking when told.

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## **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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