



# Perfect Pets News



Tips, advice and some fun facts about our best friends!

Hello again and a warm November welcome to our newsletter.

With winter approaching and cooler temperatures likely, many of you may be wondering if getting your dogs groomed in the next few months is really necessary. After all, won't they be cold if they get their fur clipped in the cooler months?

This is understandable—no one wants their dog to get cold—but what you may not realize is that grooming is just as important in winter as it is in every other season, for short- and long-haired dogs alike.

When out walking our dogs on wet days, their coats are exposed to the weather. For a dog with a thick coat, getting wet is like us wearing wet clothes—we soon get cold and start to shiver! It takes much longer for the coat to dry when it's thicker, so they're left cold and shivering for longer. Plus, even a little bit of moisture is enough to cause matting, and we all know how dreadful those hair mats are for our dogs. A long coat is far less comfortable for a dog when it's full of mats and knots, as it pulls on the skin and can cause painful irritation.

When going for walks outdoors, it's easier to put your dog in a little doggy coat or sweater than it is to manage an unruly coat of knotted hair. Plus, if the coat or sweater gets wet, we can easily remove it when we return home so our dog is not sitting for hours with wet fur.

Regular grooming at this time of year also helps keep their ears and paws free from extra hair while ensuring healthy nail length. When spending more time indoors, dogs' nails don't wear down as quickly as they do with regular walking on pavement.

By keeping the same grooming routine in winter that you would during any other part of the year, you can prevent a lot of the mess and discomfort that comes from matting, damp weather and less frequent grooming. Better to keep up with it now than to wait until spring returns. Your dog will definitely be so much happier with a lighter, cleaner and matt-free coat!

If you have any questions or concerns about keeping your dogs warm and clean through the winter, please ask. Together we can find the best routine to make this cold season healthy and delightful for you and your best little buddy.

Kathy

## Pets of Perfection Perfect Pet of The Month!



### "Natalie"

Natalie owns Louis Rosenberg  
of Boynton Beach, FL

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can become a "Perfect Pet" of the  
month too!

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**Your Perfect Pet Deserves the Best!**

### Miracle Dog Walks Again!

! A smooth-haired Miniature Dachshund has taken his first steps after pioneering treatment by scientists at Cambridge University. According to ananova.com, Henry was left paralyzed after discs ruptured in his spine last November.

Using a new treatment that is hoped to one day help humans with spinal injuries, cells were taken from Henry's nose and were injected into his spine.

His jubilant owner, Sarah Beech from Birmingham, told how Henry is now walking and wagging his tail again.

*"It's incredible. I didn't think Henry would ever be able to walk again, but over the last few months he has been wagging his tail and taking small steps. The vet told me to put him to sleep because he wouldn't have a very good quality of life and he was very depressed. But this treatment has really helped."*

! A cat and dog in China are sharing the job of looking after their offspring. According to ananova.com, both the cat and dog gave birth only a few days apart and moved their newborns into the same box together.

When the dog goes out, the cat will lie down and nurse the kittens and puppies, and when the dog comes back, the cat will go out, leaving the nursing job to the dog.

When both mothers are in the box they can get quite mixed up but, overall, it works well for them all.

### Pets of Perfection Pet Spa

is a full service pet grooming  
and styling salon offering:

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- \* Terrier Hand Stripping \*
- \* Show Styling and Pet Grooming \*
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- \* Fancy Collars, Leads & Accessories \*
- \* Designer Pet Carriers \*

From Little White Westies to Large Red Setters, we treat them really well yet they treat us even better!

## Walking Safely at Night!

With the colder weather approaching it may make it a little more difficult to get outside for all of the exercise our dogs need. But a dark evening can actually be a nice time to go for a stroll with your best furry friend, because the crisp air and exercise can be quite refreshing for you both, especially if you've spent most of the day indoors.

Safety for you and your dogs is of the utmost importance, though. If the evenings are the only chance you have to get out for exercise, it's good to be cautious and to have a plan in place for returning home safely.

Firstly, if it gets cold out you want to be sure that you are both protected from the weather. If your dogs have short hair or if they've been groomed recently, it's good to dress them in sweaters to keep them warm and clean. It's also better for you to have extra layers of clothing that you can take off if you get too warm.

Try to find a brightly lit area to walk when you're going at night. This helps protect you, but it also makes you and your dog easier to see for people who are driving through the area.

If you'll be walking near traffic, remember to dress your dog and yourself with highly visible clothing. You can purchase reflective dog leashes and collars to make them stand out, and you can also put reflective stripes on your own clothing. Light colors and reflective materials will immediately jump out to drivers. But let your dogs walk near the hedge rather than the edge of the street, because they might try to jump at something or slip their feet into the roadway. Try to walk on paved roads, but if you need to walk on roads with no pavement, always walk on the side that faces oncoming traffic. Facing the traffic means you can quickly step out of the way if a car is coming too close to you.

Think about packing a little bag of items that could help you out during a late-night walk. Plastic bags and a poop scoop are necessary if your dogs relieve themselves along the way. A whistle, flashlight, some money and a cell phone are also good to have in case of an emergency. You might even take a little snack for you and your friend in case your pleasant walk takes you a bit further from home than you had planned.

Try to walk with a friend or family member whenever possible. If you have no one to walk with, let someone know where you're going and when you plan to return. That way, they'll know that you may be in need of help if you haven't checked in with them by a certain time.

While we need to take extra care when walking our dogs in the winter, the most important thing is to have fun with our little friends. Taking these few extra precautions will mean that it's safe for us as well as fun.

## Top Reasons Why it's Great to be a Dog....

1. If it itches, you can reach it. And no matter where it itches, no one will be offended if you scratch it in public.
2. Who needs a big home entertainment system? A bone or an old shoe can entertain you for hours.
3. You can spend hours just smelling stuff.
4. No one ever expects you to pay for lunch or dinner. You never have to worry about table manners, and if you gain weight, it's someone else's fault.
5. It doesn't take much to make you happy. You're always excited to see the same old people. All they have to do is leave the room for five minutes and come back.
6. Having a wet nose is considered a sign of good health.
7. No one notices if you have hair growing in weird places as you get older.
8. No one thinks less of you for passing gas.

## Take Your Dog's Flatulence Seriously!

While it may just seem like a smelly problem that ends up with your dog being moved to another room for an hour or two, flatulence may indicate a deeper issue. In most cases it's due to no particular reason. However, it may be a sign of infection or inflammation in their bowels. If your dog also shows changes in their motions or has a loss of appetite at the same time, you should speak to your vet immediately.

Diet, and your dogs' age, can also play a big part but please do take any noticeable changes seriously.

## The Basics of Doggy Paw Care!

The proper care of dogs' paws is so very important to their health and happiness. Their feet require a lot of attention throughout the year, but the winter months beg for extra attention to foot and paw pad care. Water, dirt and colder air can hurt a dog's paw pads, and extra time spent indoors means their nails usually require more frequent trimming.

When they're unable to walk comfortably, their everyday lives suffer from the soreness, so it's really important that their feet receive routine care and that we take precautions when needed.

**Nail trimming:** If you're not able to trim your dog's nails, it's best to have them done monthly at the groomer's. When they spend extra time indoors, they may need it as often as twice monthly. If you can hear their nails clacking across the floor, or if they're beginning to curl inward, it's time to have them trimmed as soon as possible. The quick, which is a tiny blood vessel, can actually grow longer when nails aren't trimmed regularly, which makes it very difficult to keep them at a healthy length. Dogs can also get muscle and joint pain, so try keeping their nails trimmed all year long.

**Dewclaws:** The dewclaws are the tiny toes on the inside of a dog's legs. These claws are not necessary and are sometimes removed when a dog is still a young pup. But a lot of dogs have them, and they're not always noticeable. These claws can curl into a circle or even puncture the inside of a dog's leg, so they must be trimmed as often as the other nails. If they do become completely curled or if they've burrowed into the skin, a trip to the veterinarian is in order. These can become painful and infected, so they often require treatment or surgical removal.

**Paw Pads:** Paw pads will crack or dry out from being wet a lot and from allergies, fungal infection or chemical irritants. Be sure to wipe your dog's feet off with a wet, warm cloth when you both return from a walk outdoors. This will remove any irritants and can prevent the skin from drying and cracking. In the winter months, consider protecting their paw pads with doggy boots or a paw pad balm that provides a layer of moisture. In the case of severe puncture or irritation that persists, please see your veterinarian for treatment.

**Extra Hair:** Hair grows from between the toes and out from paw pads without regular grooming. By keeping this trimmed, you greatly reduce the risk of painful mats and lodged debris. This is especially important in winter, water and dirt can leave a mess between their toes and paw pads.

Regular grooming and preventative care will keep your dog's feet healthy and comfortable to walk upon all year.

## Mixed Up Dogs Quiz

Can you unscramble these dog breeds?  
Answers are on the back page.

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. tianrmeui zehnracsua | 5. rekocc esiapln   |
| 2. edr tretse           | 6. ansaakl Itemamau |
| 3. lbcka rdlarbao       | 7. drdaeeb lciioel  |
| 4. erebsen              | 8. nahsudhdc        |

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## Doggie in the Window

Editorial by Tori Rose.

A little girl beams with sheer happiness as she runs through her front door, her brand new puppy in tow. Her mother notices the puppy is lethargic for their typically hyper personality, but the pet store owner assures her it was the result of playing with other puppies all day. Progressively, the puppy begins to get weaker and weaker. Two days later, the puppy begins vomiting, has terrible diarrhea and can barely walk. The mother and her devastated daughter rush the puppy to the vet, only to discover that the pet store owner had sugar-coated the situation.

The world of dogs is a rapidly growing industry, which unfortunately has gained the attention of unscrupulous puppy mill breeders nationwide. Puppy mills are the major supplier of puppies to pet stores across the country and breed dogs simply for profit, with little concern for the health and safety of the mothers, stud dogs and puppies, let alone the betterment of the breed. Mill breeders view these dogs as cash crops, rather than man's best friend.

The pet store staff may tell you their puppies come from a breeder that carries nothing but champion pedigree pups. Do not be fooled. Much of the time, the treacheries behind this trickery are puppy mills. A puppy mill is exactly what it sounds like—a mill or farm to produce puppies in mass quantities to gain profit. They are based solely on profit rather than the well being of the dog. Do not let the word "farm" throw you off; puppy mill animals usually never see life outside a crate until they are sold.

These dogs are usually kept in filthy conditions, rarely receive any sort of basic veterinary care, and experience severe neglect. Their eyes are often filled with pus and their fur with excrement. Furthermore, mills commonly use the most minimal amount of funds on food and shelter, which can cause these animals to suffer from malnutrition and exposure. Puppies are often packed into small cages with several to one cage. These puppy filled cages are stacked on top of one another like cargo. The wired flooring can cause injuries to the dogs from their feet and legs falling through the wire. Frequent injuries often lead to infection due to the lack of veterinary attention and proper hygiene. A dog could have a broken leg or an open wound from a quarrel with another dog and would most likely sit for weeks before the mill owner decided to act. Of course, by this time infection has become so severe that the dog has no chance of survival without veterinary care.

Federal law prohibits puppies being separated from their mother before eight weeks of age. However, puppies bred at mills are usually sold within six weeks of age and then cleaned up for whichever pet store has bought them. As a result, the puppies often die of starvation because they were separated from their mother before they were weaned.

The dogs kept for breeding live a different life. In addition to these horrific conditions, they are constantly impregnated and are rarely given any rest between litters. When they are no longer able to reproduce offspring, due to exhaustion or disease, they are often abandoned or disposed of.

Disease and genetic health problems are frequent and expected from puppy mill puppies because of living conditions and reckless breeding programs. Parvovirus, a common disease found in puppy mills and the condition the little girl's puppy suffered from, attacks the lining in the digestive system in dogs. Some diseases, like brucellosis, can be contagious to humans. Brucellosis causes chronic flu like symptoms and is relatively paired with a high fever. Symptoms may last and even be reactivated for years. The mother and daughter were at serious risk by purchasing this puppy. There are an infinite amount of diseases that spread like wild fire through puppy mills like upper respiratory infections, kennel cough, pneumonia, intestinal parasites and heartworm. Bringing a sick puppy into your home jeopardizes the health of everyone in the household. These puppies are also prone to congenital and hereditary conditions such as epilepsy, heart disease, kidney disease, musculoskeletal disorders, diabetes, blood disorders, and deafness. This avaricious "puppy mill" industry is detrimental to the purity of dog breeds. by the breeding program (often closely incestuous, not just line breeding) which is just performed to produce a puppy, rather than breeding the healthiest traits and weeding out the congenital defects.

Thousands of puppies are sold everyday under these conditions, all because of the business between pet stores and puppy mills. Spending hundreds or even thousands of dollars on a puppy from a mill supplied pet store, not only hurts your wallet, but also your heart. These puppies can die from sickness only after a few weeks of entering the family or their lifespan has been tremendously shortened.

This heartache can be avoided. The sport of purebred dogs is a passion to many dog fanciers who understand that ethically breeding dogs in an effort to weed out congenital defects will improve the breed and uphold the breed standard. This is a sport of passion not a profitable business. Supporting pet stores that sell mass produced puppies perpetuates this serious and inhumane assault on innocent animals and must be stopped.

The ball is in your court. You, as a consumer and animal advocate can help put an end to the inhumane mass breeding of dogs, by choosing wisely when purchasing a puppy or even better.... Adopting a dog from a shelter.

... editor's note ...

***Please consider very carefully the idea of presenting a puppy as a present during the holiday season. Puppies are living, loving and wonderful creatures but a decision to bring one into your household or gift to a friend or relative should be considered, researched and well thought out. Animal shelters across the globe have a huge influx of "throw-aways" shortly after the holidays because a well intended gift was not given appropriate consideration.***

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*Please submit your questions, concerns and ideas! We would love to receive your input!*

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**ANSWERS  
to Quiz**

1. Miniature Schnauzer
2. Red Setter
3. Black Labrador
4. Bernese
5. Cocker Spaniel
6. Alaskan Malamute
7. Bearded Collie
8. Dachshund

### **Dog Owners Tip!**

To be completely sure that you are doing the best for your dog, do a little research into what your dog's breed was originally used for. This will give you a great understanding of your dog's mental and physical needs. For example, Terriers were bred for digging out vermin, Springers & Pointers for flushing out birds, German Shepherds for guarding, etc. Reading up on your dog's background will make it much easier for you to choose the right sort of exercise and games they need to stay in tiptop mental and physical shape.

### **Thanks to You!**

Traditionally, November is the month for giving thanks for the harvest gathered during the summer months. This month's celebration of Thanksgiving reminds us that it is always good to take some time to remember all the things we are thankful for in our lives.

We're thankful for lots of things—our health, our family and of course all of our fantastic clients. We're thankful that we get to do the job we love and spend each day with lots of dogs.

We'd like to give thanks to all of our dogs, too! They fulfill our lives, and they may even make us better people. Dogs bring us a lot of joy and laughter through the time they share with us, and their loyal companionship really does make them man's best friend.

Thank you for supporting our business through your visits and referrals. And thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide our service to you. You are appreciated for all that you do and for taking such excellent care of your beloved dogs.

We hope that you enjoy the month of November and that you too have a lot to be thankful for in your lives.

### **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.

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***Your Perfect Pet Deserves the Best!***

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