



Scruf to Kruffs News

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



Hello again to you and your fabulous pets! It's not long till Christmas now and oh what an exciting and busy time it is for us all. I hope you're getting some well deserved time off to spend with your family and friends – and your dogs as well of course! Simply having a little more time to share with our dogs at Christmas can make it extra special. Our dogs will no doubt be quite pleased to have us around a little more as well, making feasts and curling up for cosy evenings indoors.

You may find, however, that your dogs act a little out of the ordinary if your routine changes, though. They tend to prefer strict schedules and are often calmer when they know exactly what to expect each day—when to eat, walk, play, go outside, and sleep. When our routines change for holidays, they can get excited or anxious. They can also have trouble adjusting back to their old routines once we do. For this reason, it's good to keep things as normal as possible for them even if you're home more or less, travelling, or around more people than usual.

If your home will have lots of noise, visitors, and rambunctious activity, it really is a good idea to give the dogs a quiet place of their own to retreat to as needed. As much as many of them love to socialise, they also like to take a moment to themselves to relax sometimes, especially when lots of people or children are doting on them. Maybe put their bed in a room that no one's using or even make them a little hiding spot. A blanket over a low-lying table makes a nice doggy fort.

They certainly won't mind coming out if you serve a Christmas feast though! While it usually doesn't hurt to share a little with them on occasion, don't forget to keep those cooked turkey bones well away from their drooling mouths.

Chocolates, grapes, ham, onions, and potato skins are also a no-no. All those foods can cause awful problems, including digestive upsets, poisoning, and injuries.

As always, however, a little precaution helps us all to enjoy a delightful time for both our families and pets. So please have yourself the very best Christmas and a brilliant New Year!

Pamela

Happy Christmas!



"Recommend a friend offer"

"As a **"Thank You"** to our ever loyal customers who are always happy to spread the word—
We will be having a

"Recommend a friend offer"
from 31st Jan 2012 for a limited time only*

Recommend a friend and **YOU will receive 15% off YOUR next trim***

Please ask at the salon or give Pam a call for details.
01592 770202

*Terms and conditions do apply.

Blueberry Facial Wash



All customer's dog will received a complementary and relaxing South Bark's Blueberry facial wash.

For your reassurance, South Bark's Blueberry Facial all the way from the USA is all natural, tearless and doesn't stain the coat. It is a lovely relaxing therapy treatment which brightens their facial hair.

'Dog of the Quarter'



Bella is our dog of the quarter for her good behaviour. She is love and owned by Karen & Shaun Flett in Glenrothes.

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Scruf to Kruffs

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"Take some time to just sing & play, and have lots of fun on Christmas Day!"



Oh, Christmas Tree

Many dogs love Christmas trees as much as we do—but for completely different reasons. We see a piece of nature indoors; they see a new bathroom. We see beautiful lights and decorations; they see a bunch of new toys. Unfortunately, this can be very dangerous for them as well as maddening for us.

If you've a live tree inside, you may want to try blocking the water dish beneath it. The water can contain pesticides and fertilisers from the tree, which sicken dogs if they drink it. Some dogs are also drawn to wires, thinking they're rubbery chew toys, so it's good to keep the cords from lights hidden when possible.

Yet another potential danger for dogs and cats is tinsel. They bat and chomp at the thin strands and sometimes end up getting them stuck in their throats or digestive systems. Some people avoid using tinsel altogether if they've pets at home; however, with dogs, you may just want to do some extra training to keep their noses out of the tree.

Lights and tinsel aside, there's all the candy canes and bulbs they find quite interesting too! Rather than reprimanding them for going near the tree, you might want to try teaching them to sit or lie down within a specific distance from it. Place a small blanket or dog bed on the floor, name the spot, and use treats and/or a clicker to get them using it. Then, when they get into the tree, say no and redirect them to their spot.

With a little caution and training, you can enjoy your tree without worrying much about the dog enjoying it too!

Quiz

Can you match the breed to its country of origin?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Vizsla | A. Switzerland |
| 2. Greyhound | B. England |
| 3. Saint Bernard | C. Hungary |
| 4. Bull Terrier | D. Croatia |
| 5. Dalmatian | E. Germany |
| 6. Pomeranian | F. Egypt |

Keeping Dogs Clean, Comfy & Dry in Winter!

Keeping a dog's coat looking and feeling nice in winter can be difficult, especially if they spend a lot of their time outdoors.

If you have a fenced-in garden for your dog or if they run round outdoors throughout the day, you may want to hang a tarp or provide an enclosed area where they can escape the rain or snow. Putting an elevated area outdoors for them can also help them stay dry and warmer when the ground gets soggy. If nothing else, they benefit greatly from clean, dry blankets and a supply of fresh water along with their toys and meals.

To keep their coats and your home clean when taking them in and out, you might consider keeping a stack of towels near the door. Toweling them off—even if they're only slightly damp from moisture in the air—can remove dirt and excess hair while also preventing mats. Rinsing their paws with warm water and then drying them helps them stay clean and comfortable, too. Of course, you also have the option of doggy boots and coats, but you may find that your dog isn't fond of wearing clothing!

Brushing out any mats before they form, keeping their coats trimmed, and having them washed regularly can also make the wintertime mess much more manageable.

Preparing Dogs for Guests (and Vice Versa)!

Unfortunately, not all people are dog lovers and not all dogs are comfortable with new people entering 'their' home. Even if dogs and guests are moderately accustomed to each other, there can be a bit of confusion over house rules and acceptable behaviours.

If you'll have guests or children over for the holidays and aren't sure how your dogs will handle it, you can practise with them by having people ring the bell, knock on the door, and greet them. This helps you identify any potential problems, such as excessive barking or jumping up on people, and gives you an opportunity to provide real training prior to your celebrations. It's much easier to manage problems beforehand than it is to stop them on the special day!

For the comfort of your dogs and guests, you might also ask people ahead of time to behave a certain way towards your dog. For example, ask them not to pet them unless they're sitting and behaving and that they do not give them 'people food' which could make them sick. Knowing ahead of time helps everyone settle in, relax, and have a great time.





5 Tips for Keeping a Hair-Free Home!

For many of us, dogs are a part of our families, so we're happy to share the sofa with them and give them hugs when we leave or come home. Unfortunately, even when they're not allowed on the furniture, their hair tends to end up everywhere...

1. Quick Fixes – A damp sponge, fabric softener sheet or rubber glove pulled in one direction on furniture or clothing usually puts all the hair in a single pile you can pluck right off. Sometimes it works even better than a sticky roller.

2. Vacuuming – Unless your vacuum has special attachments for hair, it may not pick up as much as you'd like. Try adding a few drops of liquid fabric softener to a bottle of water, shake it and spray it on the area, let it sit a while, and then vacuum. It should come right up! A static guard on upholstery can also make it come off easier.

3. Extra Towels – Keeping towels or blankets in your pet's favourite spots can save you lots of time on cleaning. They'll collect most the hair and protect your floors and upholstery. Simply shake them outside and toss them in the wash each week

4. Brushing – Nothing controls hair like a good brushing. A slicker brush or one with soft bristles is usually best for gathering excess hair in the coat, though it depends on your breed. Aim to brush them daily while outside. Ruffling the coat a bit will loosen the hairs they've shed from the undercoat as well.

5. Grooming – A rich bath and thorough drying leaves the coat sleek and shiny, with very little excess hair. A trimming also reduces the amount of clumps and loose mats that fall to the floor. If your dog has a thick undercoat and sheds a lot, you might consider having it thinned or raked also. Having them groomed regularly will greatly reduce the amount of hair left indoors.

More Wonderful Animals of the World!

! An Austrian farmer is now making a bit of cash thanks to his runaway heifer, Laura. The cow left her pasture and walked through a shopping centre, where she ate a T-shirt and a couple of bras before security guards were able to detain her—with a skipping rope. According to *Orange News*, the store's spokesman thought Laura 'had the right idea' regarding winter preparations and decided to feature her in the TV adverts.

! A Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act was approved in the United States in mid-October. The act is new legislation that pairs dogs with wounded and disabled veterans. In addition to assisting veterans with PTSD and other conditions, it may save the lives of many dogs. The bill requests that dogs from shelters and foster homes receive the therapy training and get placed with the soldiers rather than purebreds that already have homes and job opportunities.



Doggy Humour!

A Labrador walked into a telegram office, took a blank card from the desk, and wrote, 'Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof, woof, woof. Woof. Woof. Woof'. The clerk looked at the card and said, 'You might as well add another woof. Ten words is the same price as nine'. 'But,' the dog replied, 'then my message would make no sense at all'.

I'll Have Some, Too, Please?

Dogs are firm believers that they need to have some of whatever it is you're eating. If you'd rather not have them trying to stick their noses in your meal, standing beneath your feet as you're cooking, or sitting there looking longingly at your dish as you eat, there are a few things you can do to curb the behaviour.

Ask them to go lay down. Some will lie at your feet and continue to nudge or even whine. In this case, physically direct them away from the table or to another room, and praise them for sitting and staying. Once you've finished eating, you can give them a treat if you'd like. What's most important is that you don't give them a bite while you're eating—at any time. Even if you only do so on occasion, they get the idea that persistence will pay off. The behaviour is much easier to break if you're strict about what is and is not acceptable.

Another trick is to schedule their meals around your own. If they're busy gulping down on their own food, they're less likely to concern themselves with yours. Dogs who are simply obsessed with human foods are not as quick to fall for this, however. Some will ignore their bowls and seemingly go on a 'hunger strike'. But again, if you're consistent in your own behaviours, they will change theirs.

Pampering the Paws!

If your dog's paw pads tend to get dry and cracked during the winter, you may want to start using a balm on them this month. Keep in mind, however, that overly moisturizing them can actually cause problems.

Dogs need their pads to be tough, and there's nothing unhealthy about them having rough skin. It's when they split, peel, and bleed that they need extra care.

With the cold and wet weather, now's a good time to get the long hairs on their paws trimmed up, too. Rather than keeping them warm, those hairs tend to get full of mud and knots instead.

Gift Ideas for Dogs!

Dogs have fun when people are opening gifts whether they get anything or not. To them, ribbons, balls of paper, and people in high spirits are all the entertainment they need! But because they're family, you may want to include them in the gift exchange as well.

A popular hit with dogs and children alike is a stocking stuffed with goodies. Letting them dig out all the toys and treats can be lots of fun for everyone (though, of course, you may want to put them out of reach afterwards and let them have one or two at a time).

Another fun gift is an oversized ball. Lots of dogs can entertain themselves for hours trying to pick them up and catch hold of them. With or without someone tossing the ball, some dogs rarely tire of chasing it round the room. A large ball is also good because dogs usually can't bite them into pieces.

Functional gifts are equally appreciated by them. A new dog bed, a box of gourmet treats, and even a clean and comfortable collar or harness make excellent doggy gifts. There's no shortage of quirky or luxurious gifts, either, such as meat-flavored doggy champagne or a trip to the doggy spa for a massage and pampering.

Helping Dogs on the Holidays

The true spirit of the holiday season has many of us thinking about those who are less fortunate than we are, and, sadly, that includes many people and animals around the world and in our own communities. If you wish to help dogs during the season, there are many small things you can do to make a big difference in their lives.

Shelters and rescues are always appreciative of monetary donations, which they put towards food, veterinary care, and rescue missions. If some of your friends and family are avid dog lovers, you might consider making donations on their behalf as gifts.

Money is not all they need, though. Supplies or even a little bit of your time are also helpful. You could contact local shelters to see what types of items they need, such as blankets, bags of food, materials for the actual shelters, and more. The dogs would certainly enjoy some treats or toys too. If they need lots of items, you could make it a group effort with family, friends, and co-workers.

Volunteering is another option. Some shelters allow people to serve as dog walkers or come in to play with the dogs. Doing so can help both you and the dogs enjoy brighter, warmer, happier days this season.

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6.	5.	4.	3.	2.	1.	Quiz Key
E	D	B	A	F	C	

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