

Monthly Scoop

Back to School Blues

The "dog days" of summer are coming to a close as back to school is upon us. We spend much time preparing our children (and ourselves), yet this transition also affects our pets. Although it seems our summer weather is finally here!

The freedom and attention received during summer vacation abruptly ends at the first day of school. Without warning, schedules shift - coming and going, eating, exercising, freedom may be limited and human companionship lessens. Human playmates of summer suddenly have new interests and friends. All of this can create a great amount of stress and fear in our pets.

This stress adds uncertainty and affects our pets in many ways. It can cause behavior problems such as chewing, soiling in the house, excessive barking with dogs or clawing furniture with cats.

These problems can be annoying to us, but more serious health problems can also occur with your pet. The distressed pet may experience vomiting, diarrhea, skin problems or eating problems. Eating problems may range from not eating at all to eating strange objects such as gravel, dirt, plants, toys, etc. This can lead to emergency medical problems as these objects



can easily get caught in the intestinal tract.

Emotionally, pets can also suffer from depression. This can lead to a depressed immune system leading to increased susceptibility to arthritis, heart disease and even cancers.

What can we do to help these important members of our family? If possible, make changes and adjustments slowly, over a period of time. If Fido will be kenneled when the kids go back to school, start kenneling slowly for shorter periods of time before the big day. Also be sure to provide toys or chew sticks to help occupy their time alone.

Avoid abrupt changes especially in eating and diet habits. The first week of school is not the time to change either the time of feeding or type of food. Always be cautious when making any drastic changes to a pet's diet and talk with your veterinarian.

For pets that become overly stressed when being left, there are several holistic remedies available. Bach Flower Remedies are quite commonly used. Aromatherapy can also be useful. Lavender essential oil for example can safely be used around pets to help with calming.

And finally, give your pet the most love and attention you can. Reassurance through regular walks, exercise, playtime and grooming will help your companion make a much smoother "back to school" transition.

NEWSLETTER

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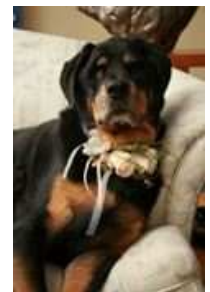
Did you know:

- ☺ ...that as many as 1 million dogs in the US are named as beneficiaries in their owner's will?
- ☺ ...that designer labels are available for dog products and clothing? You can buy dresses, hoodies, jackets, jewelry, bathrobes, costumes, and on and on and on...
- ☺ ...that you can buy all this stuff online from a Calgary based business called The Pawhaus Pet Boutique? Check them out at pawhauspetboutique.com

Poooper of the Month

Pooh Busters is proud to present **Cheyenne** as September's Poooper of the Month!

Want your pooch to be showcased on our website and in this newsletter?



Email Big Nate and get your dog featured!

Now accepting pictures and bios for 2010.

BigNate@PoohBusters.com

Online Payments now Available!



Well we finally got there and we are very excited to announce through the magic of Paypal, we are now able to accept credit cards as a form of payment. Visa, Mastercard and American Express can be used to purchase your weekly credits. No more remembering to put out cash or cheques in the

backyard, mailbox or your BBQ.

Whenever you need to top up your credits for another 4 or 12 weeks, just go to our website and click on the green box from any page. You will be able to conveniently make a payment using your credit card! The use of Paypal is a tempo-

rary measure as we will soon be able to process all payments right on our website including the use of your debit card.

That is coming soon and we will announce that when it is available.

Contact Roland, Erin or Nate if you have any questions regarding online payments.

What If My Pet Outlives Me?

A few weeks back I did a story in our Blog about the loss of our cat, Monster. This is most certainly, the worst part of owning a pet!

One of our loyal clients and regular Blog followers, Anne, sent me an interesting email asking me to write something about what should happen if the pet actually outlives its owner. Funny, but I never would have thought about that myself! I'm sure it happens all the time.

Anne brought it to my attention because she was experiencing this very thing and it turns out she herself was nice enough to actually adopt a dog of someone she knew who passed away. The surviving dog had no home and no options as the family of the deceased was unable to care for the dog.

So...what can we do as pet owners to ensure our animals are taken care of after we're gone or even disabled to the point where we are unable to care for them?

After a little internet research I came up with a few tips that might help in planning for our beloved fur-kids.

What would you want for *your* pet? A shelter? Out of the question! A family with young children, other cats or a dog? Could be tough for some dogs to adapt into that kind of situation. Well whatever your choice, you have to make plans the same as you would for any member of the family.

In a culture in which pets are treated like children rather than possessions, more and more people are choosing to include Fido and Fluffy in their wills, according to lawyers and animal advocacy groups. Law professor, Gerry Beyer, an expert on the topic, said 12 to 27 percent of people include pets in their estate planning. In most cases, that involves establishing a "pet trust," leaving a certain amount of money in the animal's name and appointing a friend, family member or organization to look after it. A few non-profit groups accept pets through bequest programs as well. A growing number of people around the country are establishing pet trusts, according to lawyers who help clients plan and manage their estates.

There are many things to consider when setting up a trust for your pets. Types of trusts:

- **Pet Trusts:** a specific arrangement in which your dog is the beneficiary.
- **Common-Law Trusts:** some places in our country might not legally recognize a dog as a beneficiary, only people. So you can establish a "common-law" trust where an appointed caregiver is entrusted to receive funds from your estate to take care of your pets.

In either case you still must choose a trustee, someone you know who agrees to take the responsibility and someone you know you can trust.

You can learn more by going to the American Kennel Club Pet Healthcare Plan website at www.akcphp.com

Poooh Busters

Tip of the Month!

Poooh Busters owner/operator, Roland Pearson spends many hours with his Canine Correction clients teaching them how to be pack leaders and get the much needed respect from their dogs.

I want to dedicate our Tip of the Month section to dog behaviour and training. This month's tip is for those of us who have dogs that are "pullers".

If your dog is a puller, don't let him pull you! As he attempts to pull you, don't let your arm extend all the way out, which is enabling him to pull.

Keep your elbow bent and tucked in, and when he starts to pull, don't let the elbow straighten and pull back. If this is done enough times, it should help... it may not eliminate the pulling, but the dog will not pull as hard.



Don't forget to check out the official Poooh Buster's Blog!

www.pooohbusters.blogspot.com

Top Ten Dog Breeds of the Year

10. **Shih Tzu** - A compact and solid dog, the shih tzu's long, flowing double coat is its most distinctive feature.
9. **Poodle** - though often considered high maintenance due to its coat, is actually one of the high achievers of the canine world.
8. **Bulldog** - Known for their loose-jointed, shuffling gait and massive, short-faced head, the bulldog is known to be equable, resolute and dignified.
7. **Daschund** - meaning "badger dog" in German, is a lively breed with a friendly personality and keen sense of smell.
6. **Boxer** - The well-conditioned middleweight athlete of dogdom, the boxer is a powerful dog with an intelligent and alert expression.
5. **Beagle** - A sturdy hunting dog, the beagle should look like a foxhound in miniature. His easy-to-care-for coat, combined with a merry personality, has made the beagle a favorite of many families over the years.
4. **Golden Retriever** - whose trademark is its light to dark golden-colored coat, possesses great intelligence and an eager-to-please attitude.
3. **German Sheppard** - hailed as the world's leading police, guard and military dog, however, this dependable breed is more than just a hard worker.
2. **Yorkshire Terrier** - affectionately known as "Yorkies," offer big personalities in a small package.
1. **Labrador Retriever** - gentle, intelligent and family-friendly, he is the most popular breed in the US. Because of his aptitude to please his master, they excel as guide dogs for the blind, as part of search-and-rescue teams, and in narcotics detection with law enforcement.