



POOOH BUSTERS



We Take the Crap, So You Don't Have To!



Call: 403.462.4351 Email: info@pooohbusters.com Visit: www.pooohbusters.com

Monthly Scoop

Cold Weather

Welcome to 2010 everyone! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and a very Happy New Year!

Well now that January is well under way and life is back to normal (whatever normal is), it's time to think about this cold weather. Calgary is having it's fair share of snow and below freezing temperatures.

Mrs. Big Nate and I still try to walk Oscar and Mojo on a daily basis but we keep the walks a whole lot shorter or we skip them altogether if the weather is particularly nasty. I did a little research to see what we can do to help protect our pooches from getting harmed by these extreme temps.

The first thing to keep in mind is what I have already mentioned, **Temperature Checks**. If the temps drop to colder than -15 degrees, it is best to just stay inside. Maybe play fetch with a toy or have a round of tug o' war instead.

Second, when you do venture out into the snow, be sure to keep **Pad Protection** in mind. It had been suggested by some animal professionals to spray a dog's paws with cooking spray like Pam. This prevents ice balls from building up between their pads and provides protection from road gravel and salt. When

you get home, rinse off your pet's feet and everyone is happy!

Thirdly, keep an eye on your dog to make sure they are **Frost Free**. When temperatures are hovering above zero it may seem a little warmer to us as we're bundled up in our coats and boots but make sure you check your dog for signs of frostbite. Dogs shake when they get chilled and their extremities will feel very cold. If you notice their ear tips are swollen and red or absolutely white, those are different stages of frostbite.

And finally, Mrs. Big Nate's favourite thing to do to help keep our dogs warm and safe, **Vested For Safety**. That's right, dog vests, sweaters, bootys and the like. Putting on a dog coat can help keep them warm but also it might help others to see your dog better in the darkness. During this time of year, we are always walking in the dark it seems and a reflective vest helps to keep your dog visible to you and any of the drivers on the road.

Don't forget to listen to your dog, if it is too cold for

them, they will let you know. Oscar walks extremely slow when he is too cold. Mojo stops walking altogether and lifts his paws off the ground when they are frozen.

Our pets love their walks but they want to be warm enough to be able to enjoy it too!



Cold and Bad Weather Policy

I know we have mentioned this before, numerous times in fact. But we always want to keep our loyal clients up to date on what our policy is during the winter.

There are two reasons we may not show up to do your regular, weekly service. One being the extreme cold weather. If

temps drop below -20 degrees Celsius, the team will not venture out and risk the dangers involved with working outdoors during the cold times.

The second reason we may be forced to skip out a scheduled service is due to large volumes of snow accumulation. If it snows heavily over night, there

is not much use in the team visiting your yard. The pooch will be all covered up and impossible to find. That's a waste of your credit for that week!

So if you don't see a door hanger on your scheduled day, we weren't by to visit your yard and your weekly credit will be used on our next trip out!

NEWSLETTER

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Did you know:

☺ ...that Poooh Busters now accepts payments online? Yup! Visa, Mastercard and Interac Online.



☺ ...that you can keep up to date on the latest news and route schedule updates by following us on Twitter? Our Twitter feed will soon be available right on our home page!



Poooper of the Month

Poooh Busters is proud to present Max as January'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!

BigNate@PooohBusters.com

What To Ask Your Future Dog Walker

You may work one or more jobs, putting in very long days at the office. You come home tired, wanting to relax and are greeted by a dog bouncing off the walls, the energy she's been reserving all day in your absence waiting to be released through mental and physical exercise.

You want to sit, she wants to run, walk, and play. Is there a happy medium? Dogs need mental exercise in the form of training, puzzle toys, and play (with humans and other dogs) and also physical exercise in the form of walks and runs. If you cannot provide a dog with adequate stimulation, her boredom may result in any number of unwanted behaviours - jumping, nipping, digging, chewing up your furniture and house, boredom barking, etc.

If your schedule prohibits you from providing for these basic needs, it is time to hire a professional who can provide those services. Dog daycare and dog walkers can be two great ways to give your dog additional exercise and stimulation. Like in any profession, there are very talented professionals and there are not-so-great companies. Shoddily-run daycares or inexperienced dog walkers and day care employees can create as many behaviour problems as lack of exercise can cause, so be very choosy in deciding who you will trust with your dog. Picking the right dog walker is every bit as important as selecting a trustworthy babysitter for your human child - take it seriously.

Come well-prepared with a list of questions:

What credentials does the individual have? Daycare employees and dog walkers should have some knowledge of behaviour, training, and dog body language. Ask for veterinary references, references from other canine professionals in the area (trainers, veterinarians, etc.), and references from clients. What are the businesses rates? Hours? How long has the company been in business? How many dogs do they take at a time? Has a dog ever been injured at or lost by their business? Do they adhere to all local leash laws and clean up after dogs on walks? If your dog is aggressive or reactive on walks, what experience do they have working with these dogs? How would they deal with a reactive or aggressive dog being approached by a strange human or loose dog?

If the answers to these questions are all satisfactory, it is time to observe them in action. You should always view the professional "in action." Regardless of whether you're seeking to employ a dog walker or dog daycare, they should have no objections to you observing them during a work session. Ask to visit or follow along on walks. If they refuse this request, look elsewhere for a professional - your dog walker or daycare provider shouldn't have anything to hide. Again, no exceptions. Follow your gut. If you get a bad feeling about a potential dog walker or daycare, keep looking.

Also keep in mind, there are no requirements for dog walkers, daycare professionals, or trainers. Anyone, without any experience or knowledge of dogs, can start taking clients as a dog professional. There are many unknowledgeable individuals in all of these fields looking to make a quick buck from dog owners.

Not all the dog walkers or daycares in the phone book will have the knowledge to keep your dog free from illness or injury, physical or behavioural.

If you are ever looking for a trusted dog walker, trainer, daycare or any other professional animal service, contact Pooh Busters. We have been in the industry long enough to know who is reliable and knowledgeable.

Be prepared when leaving your beloved pet in someone else's care!

Pooh Busters

Tip of the Month!

Some of you may be wondering, "How do I get *my* dog featured as Pooper of the Month"? Well wonder no further! All you have to do is send a picture or two or three and a short bio about your dog to me, Big Nate. Tell us how your dog came to be in your family, any quirky habits they have or what their favourite things to do are.

Not only will your dog be featured on our website for an entire month, they will also be showcased in our monthly newsletter *and* your dog will have his or her own month in the official 2011 Pooh Busters calendar!

Make your dog famous today and email your dog's pics and bios to bignate@poohbusters.com!

Unless you want to see pictures of Mojo and Oscar all year long... (Mrs. Nate would love that).



Check out the official Pooh Buster's Twitter feed!

<http://twitter.com/poohbusters>

Top Ten Countries With Most Pet Dog Population

10. **Thailand** - Who knew? Thailand comes in #10 with a population of 6,900,000 pet dogs.
 9. **Poland** - Three countries in Europe made this list and Poland is one of them with 7,520,000 pet dogs.
 8. **Italy** - Italy comes in just above Poland with 7,600,000 pet dogs and is the second European country.
 7. **France** - the third and final European country of France comes in seventh in the world with 8,150,000 peu de chien (little dogs).
 6. **South Africa** - This nation boasts a pet dog population of 9.1 million!
 5. **Russia** - Our friends on the other side of the polar cap love their pet dogs with a population of 9,600,000.
 4. **Japan** - The Japanese come in slightly higher than the Russians with a pet dog populace of 9,650,000.
 3. **China** - now it gets interesting! China comes in third in the world with an impressive 22,908,000 pet dogs.
 2. **Brazil** - number two in the world is Brazil? I never would have guessed if you hadn't told me! They love their pet dogs by keeping just over 30 million in their homes.
 1. **USA** - Surprise, surprise... The United States comes in as the top country in the world with a booming 61 million pet dogs! That is a lot of dog poop!
- Hard to believe Canada didn't even make the list. In 2007 Canadians owned approx. 5.9 millions dogs.