



Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders



Routine Grooming Promotes Good Health in Pets



Routine grooming and cleaning is as important for our pets as it is for us. It improves their appearance, helps to prevent diseases, and contributes to their overall well-being. Grooming can be simplified with a few tips and hints to make the task a little simpler:

- ✓ When grooming, first start with a wide-toothed comb, combing from head to tail, looking for signs of fleas, growths, and mats. By using a wide-toothed comb first, you can minimize hair pulling. Follow up combing by brushing with a wire brush made specifically for grooming pets to remove any dead hairs. Hair mats can be removed by simply isolating them from the rest of the hairs, gently splitting them into smaller clumps, and then, while firmly holding the skin underneath, pulling the mat upwards and towards the head. Never use scissors to cut out mats because you may accidentally cut the skin underneath.

- ✓ Ears are also an important part of pet hygiene. Most pets' ears do not require routine cleaning. However, the ears should be examined routinely and if your pet has excessive hair, dirt, or wax build-up, they must be cleaned. While mineral oil and alcohol are often recommended for ear cleaning, products presently on the market for ear cleaning (available from your veterinarian) are far more effective and cause less problems. Cotton-tipped applicators should never be used to clean ears (except by your veterinarian) because of the risk of inadvertently damaging your pet's ear drum. Instead, wrap a cloth or tissue paper around your index finger and clean the ear canal gently.



- ✓ Bathing should be done on an "as-needed" basis. Frequency depends on the individual pet and your veterinarian should be consulted regarding the most appropriate bathing schedule for your pet. Never use a shampoo intended for human use on a pet. For example, dog skin is much more sensitive than human skin. People shampoo can cause a serious skin irritation in pets. They also tend to be heavily perfumed (which pets do not like) and they tend to cause excessive drying of the hair and flaking of their skin.
- ✓ Keeping the nails trimmed contributes to the health of the paws and also ensures that your pet will be comfortable when running and walking. Failure to keep nails clipped can, in some cases, result in in-grown nails, which can become infected and painful. Your veterinarian can demonstrate the correct way to trim nails without causing bleeding or pain.

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"PAWS FOR LIFE"

Dinner & Silent Auction

Date: Saturday September 24th

Time: 6:00 PM – 11:00

**Place: McMorran's Beach House
5109 Cordova Bay Road**

Price: \$40.00 adult - \$24 child (Huge Buffet)

Singing Entertainment by : Natalie Ghos

Over 300 Items up for Auction



**Purchase Tickets In ADVANCE by
September 20th**

Tickets on Sale Now !

Bosley's - 491 Burnside Road East
Bosley's – 107-1790 Island Highway, Colwood
Pets West – 220-777 Royal Oak Drive
Your Pet Pals – 5-100 A Aldersmith Place –
Admirals Walk Centre
Maria Manna Life Spa – 714 View Street

Animal Crusaders is a non profit Spay & Neuter Society that also assists with vet costs and care for abandoned and abused animals. For more information call 381-4744 or visit

www.members.shaw.ca/gvac



Children Must be Taught How to Handle Pets

Many children, especially very young ones, do not realize that pets are living animals and not toys. Failing to teach a child how to handle pets properly can result in suffering on the part of the pet and, in some cases, injury to the child.

To prevent children and animals from getting hurt, it is wise to teach children how to properly handle pets. When introducing a pet for the very first time in a household that has young children, parental supervision is very important. Supervision is a must until parents can be certain that a child is able to handle and interact with the pet in a responsible and humane manner. Initial supervision also allows the parent to make sure that the pet is safe for the child. This is especially true with children under five years of age. Children must be taught how to show affection towards pets. Most children tend to "pat" animals rather than "pet" them, and this could prove too rough for some pets. They must be taught to be gentle and not to push, prod, poke, or tease pets in any way. They should also be shown the proper way to stroke a pet, as well as the correct way to pick up a pet.

Whenever possible, children should be involved in the care, feeding, grooming and training of the pet. Involving the children in the daily care of the pet instills a sense of responsibility in the child. It also teaches the child that the pet is dependent on him or her for good health. Parents can put up a list of daily pet chores that the children can check off once they have completed the assigned chore. At the same time, parents must make sure that these chores are being completed, since failure to do so can result in suffering on the part of the pet. The family veterinarian can be of considerable help in these efforts by discussing the importance of health care, grooming and proper feeding, with children.

Respect for a pet's privacy must also be instilled. Pets should have a "private area" such as a crate or a specific corner of the house to allow them to get away from kids from time to time. Children must be taught to respect this need for privacy and the existence of a private area. Children should be made aware that quick and sudden movements or

loud noises/yelling might startle or frighten animals. They must be taught that animals prefer to be handled in a gentle and quiet manner. Otherwise, pets may become frightened and reluctant to be approached or handled, or worse, may bite. Before handling or petting an unfamiliar animal, children should be taught to first ask for permission from a parent.

Not all animals are necessarily friendly and some may even perceive a child as a potential threat. In fact, animal bites most often involve children. In the case of dogs, children should be taught not to stare directly at a dog, as this may be perceived as a threat. Pets have been shown time and again to be valuable tools in teaching children respect, empathy, responsibility and gentleness, traits which stand them in good stead throughout their lives. The bond between a child and a pet lasts a lifetime and enriches their lives as nothing else can.



"Dogs are not our whole lives, but they make our lives whole." Roger Carras

Pet Diaries

Dog's diary:

8am -- Oh Boy! Dog food! My favorite!
9am -- Oh Boy! A car ride! My favorite
10am - Oh Boy! A walk! My favorite!
11am - Oh Boy! A car ride! My favorite!
Noon - Oh Boy! The kids! My favorite!
1pm -- Oh Boy! The yard! My favorite!
3pm -- Oh Boy! The kids! My favorite!
4pm -- Oh Boy! Dog food! My favorite!
5pm -- Oh Boy! Mom! My favorite!
7pm -- Oh Boy! Playing ball! My favorite!
9pm -- Oh Boy! Sleeping in master's bed! My favorite!

Cat's diary:

Day 183 of my captivity...

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture. Tomorrow I may eat another house plant.

Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded -- must try this at the top of the stairs.

In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favorite chair -- must try this on their bed.

Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. This did not work according to plan.

There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the food. More importantly I overheard that my confinement was due to MY power of "allergies." Must learn more about what this is, and how to use it to my advantage.

I am convinced the other captives are flunkies, or more likely snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit.

The bird on the other hand has got to be an informant, and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room, for now his safety is assured. But I can wait; it is only a matter of time...Time is my friend, I can wait, I will repay them all.



Something you want to see in our News Letter??

Email any story or topic suggestions to the email below.

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