



# D'tails Pet Spa News

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

Hello again and welcome to the February edition of this newsletter! With love in the air this time of year for Valentine's Day, we're reminded of the special relationships we share with others and how much they mean to us. Although our love for dogs is different in nature from what we share with humans, there are many similarities to be celebrated!

You may have noticed that some dogs gravitate toward a certain member of their human family and that some people develop a really special bond with a particular dog. It's also not uncommon for a person to wonder why their dog seems to love the spouse or child more in spite of that person being the one to feed, walk, and cuddle the dog the most. There are a few interesting theories on these loving relationships.

First, it's possible that a dog seemingly loves a certain person more because the person exhibits a dominant attitude and strong leadership skills. This is often one of the more confusing dog-human relationships we witness. We wonder why a dog would be so attracted to someone who rarely pets them and refuses to share toys or food! But when we consider dogs' natural inclination toward packs and hierarchy, it begins to make more sense. In this type of person's presence, a dog may feel safer, calmer, and more receptive to following direction.

Researchers have also found that dogs are attracted to the complex behavioral patterns of humans. They learn by watching and interacting with us, and the more interesting our behaviors, the more interesting we seem to them. So, it's also possible that a dog is simply more intrigued by a certain person's traits and behaviors than they are by those of others. One thing is clear, though: Unless a person treats a dog poorly, there's certainly nothing personal about the animal taking more of a liking to someone else.

The tendency for a person to "fall in love" with a particular dog is not so easily explained. The reasons for this can range from the dog being there for the person in a time of stress, to the person simply enjoying the mannerisms of a certain dog. What we do know is the dog-human relationship can be healthy and nurturing for both and that strong emotional bonds are developed.

If you wish to show your dogs how much you love them in return, lots of praise for good behaviors and an outdoor adventure will be sure to please them. Unfortunately for them, they can't share the sweets and chocolates. Here's wishing you a lovely month full of warmth and happiness with your pets and loved ones.

*Garoleen*

## D'tails Pet Spa

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### February Pet of the Month!



Chloe, an adorable, much-loved 2-year-old Yorkiepoo, is the poster child for beloved and spoiled dogs for the month of February. Chloe is a petite girl who loves the flowers and bows she gets at the end of her beauty treatment at D'tails. She prefers small toys to play with and especially loves small (and large) children! Chloe enjoys watching out the window and will act pretty big and tough if a cat or rabbit comes within view.

Her owner, Sharon Thibault, of Phillipsburg says, "Chloe is a snuggler in bed and if she wants to be petted, she thumps my back with her legs or does a low growl. This is one of my favorite things she does!"

We appreciate Sharon's devotion to Chloe and thank her for entrusting D'tails with Chloe's grooming needs.

**"Find us on  
Facebook!"**

**facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/DtailsPetGrooming](http://www.facebook.com/DtailsPetGrooming)**

*"It's fantastic to do so give yourself a shove, go out walking with your dogs and give them lots of Love"*



# Howland Mobile Veterinary Service, LLC

Amy Howland D.V.M.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and your pets!

## Why Is My Dog Always Scratching?

A dog's constant scratching can be worrisome, as well as bothersome. Many people have difficulties focusing and sleeping when their pets are always scratching or grooming themselves. This behavior can be stopped, however. You simply must figure out the root cause of the problem and address it.

First, it's helpful to rule out the most common culprits: mites, fleas, and ticks. Not seeing any evidence of them does not necessarily mean they aren't there and aren't responsible. A single flea bite can cause incessant scratching in dogs with flea allergies. Other types of allergies are another possibility. You may want to try using hypoallergenic products in the home or having your dogs tested to see if certain irritants affect them. This is as simple as a blood test that is mailed to a reference lab with a detailed description of your pets' symptoms.

Surprisingly, nerves and anxiety can have a lot to do with this behavior. Some dogs will lick their paws or legs nonstop to soothe themselves (arthritis can be part of the problem), and others claw at themselves when they're distressed. Increasing exercise during the day and reducing stressors in the home can greatly help with this.

A nutritious diet and routine grooming and bathing to help keep their skin and coats feeling clean and comfortable are the first steps in keeping them happy. However, if that isn't keeping the itching at bay it's time to call so we can discuss your pet's specific issues and form a treatment plan.

Thank you,  
Dr. Amy

## Word Search

Find the hidden words listed below!

R	L	H	M	N	R	C	N	A	I	L	S	D	K
P	R	E	I	N	F	O	R	C	E	M	E	N	T
F	B	A	E	A	H	P	B	O	N	D	D	M	D
S	C	R	L	I	B	G	A	M	N	T	A	J	A
X	Q	T	R	E	E	F	E	P	U	R	M	G	C
D	E	I	C	L	S	K	R	A	K	A	P	O	H
T	S	H	E	L	T	E	R	N	J	I	O	L	V
O	I	R	I	A	F	C	G	I	T	N	I	L	N
C	W	I	Y	J	R	J	H	O	E	I	M	F	S
L	O	C	P	B	I	J	S	N	S	N	X	R	E
P	A	C	K	L	E	A	D	E	R	G	R	F	U
W	T	E	D	I	N	Y	S	C	T	O	O	L	P
T	B	R	N	O	D	K	Y	U	M	A	H	C	S
R	O	E	L	E	G	I	V	D	R	Y	D	R	Q

PACK\*LEADER BOND REINFORCEMENT TRAINING  
HEART SHELTER COMPANION BEST\*FRIEND

## National Dental Month is approaching.

Call ahead to reserve your  
appointment today.

10 % Discount on Dental Services

Performed from Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>

**785-569-1042**

## Waxy Buildup in the Ears

A common concern among dog owners is a persistent wax buildup in their dogs ears. While this is considered normal in some cases, excessive buildup could be the first sign of an infection. Having the material examined by a veterinarian is the first step and can rule out problems such as ear mites, bacteria, and yeast infections. Severe reoccurring cases may be related to allergies. Following that, routine ear cleaning by yourself and your groomer can keep their ears looking and feeling much better!

## Pet Obesity!

! The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention has reported that more than half of dogs in the US alone are overweight. Fortunately, this trend can be reversed! With everyone still in gear for the New Year, now is a great time to be thinking on all the lifestyle and behavioral changes we can make to help us and our dogs feel fit, healthy, and happy. Only 10 extra minutes per day spent walking or playing can make a significant difference!

## Heart Health Reminder!

If you haven't already done so, you may want to speak to your veterinarian about having your dog tested for heartworm. Catching heartworm early can reduce the risk of serious health complications from it and will ease the treatment process. A clean test is also an opportunity to start your dog on a preventative medication for heartworm. This is usually administered as a monthly pill and can save you and your dog the heartache of infection.

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## Does Your Dog Need a Jacket?

There are two schools of thought on dog clothing:

**1)** dogs are naturally clothed in hair and therefore need no clothing, and **2)** clothing is as appropriate for dogs as it is for us. Perhaps it depends on the individual dog and type of clothing, as there is a functional aspect to it.

Although dogs are naturally equipped to handle various types of weather, domestication can make them thin-skinned, so to speak. When they are used to living in an indoor environment, rain and cold temperatures can have more of an effect on them. Some dogs are very hesitant to go outside in poor weather and may even refuse to do so. In these cases, a jacket is a great idea.

It's important to consider the breed and its natural environment. A Great Pyreneese may be perfectly comfortable in the snow, whereas a Chihuahua is less likely to be. Short-haired dogs, especially smaller ones, tend to shiver when it's chilly, and many of them are much more comfortable in cold elements when bundled up.

A jacket can also help prevent matting in long-haired dogs, as the moisture from rain and snow tends to cause their hair to clump together. Putting them in a jacket before going out can save you lots of time and hassle with keeping their coats soft and clean!

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## NEW OPTIONS FOR DOG OWNERS!

Do you need boarding/doggie daycare services or just plain socializing/fun for your dog?

Marcia Suchsland has opened a retreat for dogs. It is ran from she and Larry's home in Smith Center and offers a friendly home environment that includes: a dog room for sleeping, eating, relaxing, private bone chewing, that is both air conditioned and heated, of course. Outside, there is a 50x80 foot fenced in area that offers plenty of room for a good romp and then a nice shady spot to relax and enjoy the outdoors. They live onsite and someone is always available.

Both Marcia and Larry have a passion for pets and our "guests" will be welcome to curl up on the couch in the evening for TV "watching" with much petting and cuddling.

All activities depend on our "guests" age, limitations/handicaps, personality and activity level. Our "guests" depending on personality and preference at the time of stay, can have group play or private play as some dogs do well with others and some dogs do not.

**For more information please call  
Marcia at 785-282-6021.**

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## Doggy Humor: New Dog Rules

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
2. OK, the dog is allowed in the house but only in certain rooms.
3. The dog is allowed in all rooms but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The dog can get on the old furniture only.
5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture but is not allowed to sleep with humans on the bed.
6. OK, the dog is allowed on the bed with us but only by invitation.
7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but he is not allowed under the covers.
8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.
9. The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.

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## Should You Share Your Bed With the Dog?

Many people intend to have their dogs sleep in crates or on the floor when they first bring them home but then ultimately allow them into their beds. It's difficult not to, especially when they whine all night to be with you. Is it OK to let them up, though? The answer depends on your needs and your dog's personality.

If your dogs tend to bully their way into getting what they want, you may want to consider enforcing a no-bed rule. The training can be difficult and time consuming; however, it will carry over into other areas of your relationship with the dogs and promote more obedient behavior.

You may also want to keep them out if you suffer allergies, are prone to insomnia, or have a significant other who doesn't want to share the bed with pets. In some cases, people find they sleep better without their dogs because the dogs scratch often or hog the blankets. On the other hand, having a dog in bed can actually help some people get a better night's sleep. Their presence can be very comforting.

If you prefer they stay off, you have a couple options. You could begin crate training them or set up a sleeping area for them on the floor. The key is to be consistent with whatever direction you give them. For example, you tell them "off" each time they jump up, direct them to the appropriate area, and then praise and reward them. This can take a few weeks and several restless nights, but the training does pay off in the long run!

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**Howland Mobile Veterinary Service, LLC**  
785-569-1042

**Amy Howland D.V.M**  
[dramy2010@hotmail.com](mailto:dramy2010@hotmail.com)

***We strive to offer the very best care available for your pet!***

**Smith Center** Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday (Parked at D'tails)

**Mankato** Every Tuesday (Parking lot of the Central National Bank on Hwy 36)

**Jewell** the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (At the City Park) ***Remember we make house calls!***

♥ **End of the Week –** ♥  
**SPLASH n' Dash**

*Dry skin is a very common problem for humans and canines in the winter months.*

People apply moisturizing lotions to ease the dryness and itch. What can Fido do? For itchy skin we recommend a gentle cleansing shampoo formulated for pets and All-In-One leave in conditioner or a Medicated leave in conditioner. This may reduce scratching and enhance Fido's over-all comfort. It's an old wives tale that dogs shouldn't be bathed in the winter. People wash their hair often in the winter and we get a long just fine.

But we all know sometimes it's hard to find the time to give the dog a bath. Then deal with the clean up and hair in the tub?

**Wouldn't you enjoy a time saving alternative to wrestling around your bath tub with Fido?**

**To fill this need D'tails proudly Introduces our SPLASH n' DASH Service!**

D'tails offers a special price on monthly, bi-weekly or weekly baths for dogs groomed on a regular schedule as well as short haired pets that would benefit from more frequent bathing. Deb is available most Fridays to make your pet "company ready" and treat your pet to a spa treatment bath with our special hydro-massage bather that deep cleans and feels like a warm, wet, relaxing massage while thoroughly cleaning not only the hair itself but clean clear to the skin. Your fur kid will be dried efficiently in a draft free area and nails trimmed & filed to keep the nails short and smooth. Routine professional grooming is more like a spa visit than a trip to the hairdresser! Top it all off with a spritz of D'tail's signature scent "Blueberry Clove" pet cologne and a seasonal bandana or collar bow.

**Doesn't your best friend deserve the benefits that routine professional grooming services provide?**

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To be able to continue to provide the quality grooming services you expect there will be a grooming charge increase effective March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*If you are a dedicated pet owner committed to having your pet groomed regularly we can save you up to \$4.00 per pet on each grooming appointment*

**Example Small Dog:**

*2012 call in price for small dog - \$34.00 + tax  
Prebook for the entire year before  
March 31 - \$30.00 + tax*

*Garoleen will be happy to schedule this for you.*

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**Newsletter Copyright!**

This newsletter is provided to you every month so that I can give a little bit extra back to you. The content has been carefully selected in order to provide you with the best possible information. Hopefully you find it entertaining and useful.

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