

Happy Dogs Daycare

Fireworks:

Fireworks on Bonfire Night, New Year's Eve and many of the upcoming religious festivals can be a stressful time for many dogs. Below is some advice we hope will help you and your dog feel a little more at ease. We have highlighted below a link to sound files, for best results play these sounds very quietly over a few evenings; once your dog has become desensitised, increase the volume slightly and continue to do this over the few weeks leading up to nights where fireworks noise can be expected.

<https://soundcloud.com/dogtrust/sets/sound-therapy-sounds-scary>

How to prepare your dog before fireworks begin

- Walk your dog before dark – make sure your dog is well exercised and has had a toilet break before the fireworks begin.
- Feed your dog before the fireworks begin as he may become unsettled and not want to eat during the fireworks.
- Make sure your house and garden are secure during the fireworks as fear may make your dog try to escape.
- Try to settle your dog before the fireworks start – if your dog is in familiar safe surroundings it will help him cope with the noise.
- Provide a safe hiding place – at noisy times around Bonfire Night, make sure your dog has somewhere safe in his or her favourite room, perhaps under the table. Close the curtains, turn the lights on, and turn up the volume on your TV or radio to drown out the firework noises.

How to help your dog during fireworks

- Don't punish your dog for cowering or reacting to the fireworks as this will intensify his fear. You should aim to remain relaxed and therefore provide a good role model to your dog when he is afraid. However, if your dog comes to you for comfort don't ignore him – interact with him calmly.
- Don't leave your dog alone in the house during the fireworks period – he may panic and this could result in an injury.
- Keep your dog busy indoors – play games or enjoy some reward-based training to keep his mind off the noises. However, if he just wants to hide away then don't force him to come out of his hiding place, allow him to stay where he feels safe.

Welcome...

In this edition we look forward to the end of the year and thank you all for your continued support. 2019 has been an eventful year in the Happy Dogs world, where we have successfully launched our apprenticeship program, opened for Private hire, upgraded the arena equipment and splashed a little more paint around. Our new dog family is ever growing; Saturday morning puppy parties are going from strength to strength. We also thank you all for your valuable feedback through our survey earlier in the year. We look forward to what 2020 brings to us and all your lovely fur babies. *Thank you, Paul & Adam*

We're Getting Full:

A quick reminder that we are now fast approaching capacity; In order to comply with the licensing regulations, we do have a maximum number for our arena. Please be mindful to secure your place by ensuring you commit to regular visits every week. Ideally one day or two half days per week as a minimum. If you're not already on a recurring booking, please ask us to set this up for you.

Happy Birthday to us...

We are fast approaching our second anniversary (end of October) and feel very proud of what we have achieved so far. Interestingly we have grown from just four dogs on our first day, to in excess of 30 dogs every day. Those first 4 dogs **Molly** - Lhasa Apso, **Scamp** - Cairn Terrier, and **Charles & Dexter**, 2 Border Terriers, (affectionately now known as Charles and Eddie; anybody remember them?) still join us every week for their regular fix of fun & frolics.



Did you know...

According to 2014 national statistics there are 9 million dogs registered to owners in the UK, that is 24% of UK households are home to mans' best friend.

For anyone interested there are 8 million cats in the UK.

The Wall:

We are always looking at new and innovative ways of improving our arena to help enhance the stay for our dogs. A recent change has been to divide the main arena into 2 equal sized sections, this is designed to encourage a calmer play and interaction among the dogs, this also allows us group the dogs into similar play styles. By maintaining slightly smaller groups of up to 15 dogs in one particular area not only encourages more dogs to play and interact (making their experience less overwhelming) but also allows us to manage games and activities suitable for each group. 'The wall' along with our existing castle area this has already proved a huge success and we have seen 'quieter' dogs start to gain confidence and become more lively and involved in activities. Throughout the day as more dogs come and go we reassess the dogs comfort and mix the groups accordingly. We also make sure all dogs get enough outside time (weather dependant) and have enough stimulation to keep them all entertained and exercised throughout their stay.



We have also seen the advantages of the dividing wall for our Saturday morning puppy parties. The benefits of being able to split the pups into 2 groups (large & small) has already helped make the puppy socialisation more controlled and less daunting for our younger puppies. We have more plans for 2020 to further improve the arena and in turn the overall comfort of our furry customers.

Happy Dogs Emporium:

November will see the relaunch of our small shop located in the reception area. We will stock popular essentials such as leads, harnesses, collars, healthy treats and our ever popular buffalo horns as well as seasonal gifts, toys and not forgetting our exclusive fragrances. Watch this space for our new 'Gold' fragrance.

For Christmas we will be selling:

Doggy advent calendars
Doggy *Christmas stocking* selection boxes
Bow ties
Ties
Kong teddies
Lickie trays
Our fragrance range
Collars
Leads & harnesses
Plus much much more...

NOTE: If there is anything specific you would like us to source and stock in our shop at any time in the future please just ask and we will do our best to stock at competitive prices.

Christmas Opening Times:

Monday 23rd Dec	7.30am – 6.00pm
Tuesday 24th Dec	7.30am – 6.00pm
CHRISTMAS DAY 25th Dec	CLOSED
BOXING DAY 26th Dec	CLOSED
Friday 27th Dec	9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday 28th Dec	CLOSED (No puppy party)
Sunday 29th Dec	CLOSED
Monday 30th Dec	9.00am – 5.00pm
Tuesday 31st Dec	9.00am – 5.00pm
NEW YEARS DAY 1st Jan	CLOSED
Wednesday 2nd Jan	7.30am – 6.00pm



New & Improved Happy Dogs Grooming: Meet Beckie...

Many of you will have already had the pleasure of meeting our lovely new Groomer Beckie, but in case you haven't - here we are! Beckie achieved her City & Guilds qualification with a reputable grooming organisation and has continued her professional development with self-study and online courses. If you already follow our grooming page, you will have seen her fabulous cuts from the photos she regularly posts. In addition to this, Beckie actually worked in our daycare (for many months) last year, so we have the added advantage that many of the dogs already know and love her. Beckie is here to discuss all your grooming needs and if you aren't available to call in, she can also conduct a phone consultation with you.



Did you know...

Despite popular belief, dogs don't only see in black and white. In fact, they see mainly in blue & yellow and some shades of green and grey too.

PRIVATE HIRE

Don't forget you can now have your very own puppy party, doggy birthday bash or host your special indoor dog fun experience. We offer private hire for any situation from BSL to breed gatherings or any dog club meeting. Speak to Paul or Adam for details and quotes.

Winter's coming...

As the colder weather starts to set in please don't forget to bring your dog's coat / jumper. Although on rainy days and particularly cold days throughout the winter months we keep the dogs mostly inside, it can still get quite cold in the arena especially in the early mornings and towards the end of the day.

Did you know...

When dogs howl at each other they adjust the pitch of their howl to sound more unique.

ODE TO POO-BAGS!

Some like old bags; some like new bags;
Some love handbags; some love shoe bags.
I'm a big fan now of poo-bags!
Always have some at my side.

Some are black and some are coloured.
If you forget one, you'll be mullered!
All your neighbours scream, 'You Dullard!'
(And much worse than that besides!)

Some are plain, some bags have handles.
Should they get **it on their sandals
All your neighbours scream, 'You Vandals'!
They will curse – and hope you die!

All the dear folk who live near you
Live in constant angst - and fear, too!
Lest that smelly doggy doo-doo
May get trod and tramped inside.

Watch as you and dog are roving!
Sense your neighbours fear and loathing
Lest they get **it on their clothing!
Scowl as you pass by.

It's no wonder that they're griping!
YOU are not the one who's wiping
Fido's poo-poo off their piping
And their boots and shoes besides!

Hope you don't think that I'm nagging -
Criticising – finger wagging;
But if everyone was bagging,
We could walk our dogs with pride.

Bags are cheap and tough and cheerful,
But beware! I'm rather fearful!
Change your ways – or you'll be tearful
When they catch you one dark night.

One more thing, if you will pardon.
PLEASE! - Don't lob it in my garden!
That's a sure-fire way to harden
Peoples' prejudices! - Right?

Don't you think it would be topping
If we picked up all their droppings?
Bag it up, until we're popping
Past a bin – chuck it inside!

Then the job is done-and-dusted!
Won't get caught - you won't get busted.
Cool and calm – and never flustered –
Doing what we know is right.

PS:
If you find you've got some clinker
On your hands or thumbs or finger,
Please don't hesitate! Don't linger!
Use a hand gel or a wipe!

Anon.



Thank you one of our customers for writing this poem.