



NANAIMO PET SERVICES

nanaimopetservices.com

(250)758-3908

After 25 years in the same location, Nanaimo Pet Services is moving directly next door to 4512 Wellington Road!!

We are thrilled to be moving starting January 2nd and to be able to offer even better services with more room to move around.

A spacious reception area, as well as grooming and bathing and additional parking space will benefit our clients and staff .

Starting February 2014 we will also have an exercise and play area for the dogs in our care to make our services more complete.

Super easy to find, directly behind Nanaimo Veterinary Clinic, one driveway over from our current location.

Many people have taken the 'wrong' driveway into our current location by mistake, well, after January 2 it will be the 'correct' driveway to take!!

We are looking forward to being of service for another 25 years!!



Attention is being drawn by the handler (not visible in the picture) to the next obstacle on course.

Competing with your dog in Sports?

Maybe you never thought of it, but competing with your dog, or rather, participating in competitions and dog sport events is a great way to exercise and meet people that are just like you: dedicated and kind to their pets, enjoying the interaction and bonding experience that comes through doing

something with your dog and enjoying it with your friends as a team.

For some people it becomes a way of life, and their human social circle expands from local to regional and even to national and world wide!

We all share something special, a connection with our dogs that other dog people totally understand!

At a personal level: All of my friends over the last 25 years have become my friends through the dogs. A nice side effect is that I can travel anywhere in the country, and stay with any of my dog friends at any time.

They will pick me up, drive me places, and even offer me a dog for the night if I was to feel lonely!

For most of the newbies to our dog sports it seems a little daunting, maybe even scary to go out on their first trial

A little bit of Stress is actually a healthy part of our daily lives!

event. They trained for it, the instructors say they are ready. But still, they worry about not succeeding or winning in the competition, of not being able to show others how well trained and well behaved their dog is. After all, there is some stress around the element of competition, both for you and your dog!

A little bit of Stress is actually a healthy part of our daily lives! without a little bit of stress and pressure, we would not improve ourselves, we would not go for that healthy walk, we would not talk to others, we would just sit at home and watch TV or sit behind our computer screens and play games.



Learning the equipment, handling techniques and how to deal with stress in a class setting.

And so it is for our dogs!!!

A little bit of stress will help our dogs and us to overcome problems, to find solutions, to make things work, to feel better, to succeed, to make us better balanced in every day lives. !

There are so many ways we can put small challenges into our lives and our dogs lives :

Obedience Competition, Canine Good Neighbour test, Freestyle Competitions, Frisbee Competitions, Trick Dog Certifications, Draft tests, Scent work Certification, Tracking tests, and our favourite: Dog Agility!!!!

Dog Agility sport is a fun way of learning about yourself and your best friend. We have DAWG members who have participated and succeeded at the National championship level, Not an easy task, it requires great commitment and desire. We also have DAWG members that do NOT officially compete, but test themselves and their dogs weekly in class, where there is friendly competition going on to excel at your own level , and try just a bit harder!

Whatever level of "competition" you are ready for, I know your dog will love you for it and you will experience something unique, a feeling of great accomplishment and well-being as you achieve a goal surrounded by people that understand.

In the end, if you participate there are no losers, everyone wins!

Cleaning you dogs ears, yes or no?

We have heard and seen it all, customers that insist on NEVER cleaning their dogs ears, to dogs that are in desperate need of ear cleaning and heavy hair removal every 6 weeks.

The healthy ear should be free of heavy ear wax.

It totally depends on your dogs ears!

Dogs with heavy haired hanging ears tend to have more need of regular cleaning and checking then dogs with erect ears.

The ears that are heavy with hair growth and hanging down, will often restrict the free flow of air into the ear canal, thereby creating a moist and warm environment and a breeding ground for bacteria and yeast, which can cause severe and chronic infection.

Many breeds can be affected, but particularly schnauzers, poodles and doodles can have such severe hair growth in the ear canal, that it may be hard to remove. Left unchecked, many dogs end up with smelly ears and will scratch and rub their heads excessively.

How to check for ear problems? once a week look in your dogs ears, and smell to see if all is still well!



This ear has heavy build up of hair and wax. If not cleaned out it will prevent air circulation. If left untreated it will cause irritation and possible infection of the ear canal.

The normal ear should be free of heavy ear wax, with healthy looking skin, that is not hot or red and have no odour to it. A small amount of dust or dirt that can easily be wiped out with a baby wipe or moistened Kleenex is normal.

Never use a Q tip in your dogs ear or use more then your finger wrapped in a baby wipe , as it is very easy to damage the inner ear or actually push wax down the ear canal, creating more problems!

If your dog has an excess of wax build up, but the ear otherwise looks and smells fine, you can apply an ear cleaning product once or twice a week (pet store or vet clinic) , letting it sit for several minutes. the dog will usually shake out the excess cleaner, and the wax will dissolve and will be easy to wipe out.

For dogs that swim frequently it may be a good precaution to use drying ear cream (pet store) from time to time to help eliminate moisture build up in the ear canal.

For dogs with erect ears, there is a greater possibility of a foreign body such as spear grass or other debris entering the ear canal. that often results in the dog shaking its head and pawing at the ears trying to dislodge it, while there is nothing visible by eye. A rinse with an ear cleaner may be helpful, provided there is no swelling or redness. A exam by your vet many be in order if the irritation lasts longer then a few hours or becomes severe. NEVER use alcohol or water or any other substance then a designated pet ear cleaner!!

Ear mites are not often found in dogs ears nowadays, thanks to excellent parasite control products, but we do see several suspected cases a year in cats. When the ear has dark gritty wax build up, and the ear is itchy when it is gently cleaned, there is the possibility that small mites are present in your pets ear canal. This is a condition that must be treated by your veterinarian,

Every dog and cat that comes to our grooming salon will have their ears checked for problems, and cleaned out as needed as part of the total grooming package for no additional cost. We always work with you and will inform you if there are issues that require veterinary attention!

Watch out for the Christmas Holiday

While the holidays are often filled with fun these can be stressful times for both families and pets. Keep in mind that your pet will need a place where they can get away from all the activity especially is you have visiting family and friends visiting or young children running about.

Other concerns for the holiday season include pets getting into some toxic and dangerous substances that are around this time of year. Above all you want to limit your pet's access to these things! Keep in mind that leaving your dog in the car with your shopping that can be risky as well!

Antifreeze (highly toxic for all pets)

Chocolate (especially dark chocolate)

Poinsettias (very toxic for pets)

Tinsel (can cause obstructions in the intestine and is very appealing to cats)

Salt on the roads (rinse your dogs feet when you come in from walking along a salted roadway as salt is corrosive and can cause severe sores on your pet's paws)

Cooked bones (never allow pets access to cooked bone as it is fragile and will splinter and can cause perforations in the digestive track)

Glass ornaments (in danger of being knocked down off the tree)

Corn on the cob (causes intestinal blockages)

If your pet ingest a poisonous substance, get as much information together on how much your pet ingested and if you have a label for the substance keep that handy and contact your veterinarian immediately or call the emergency clinic here in town 250-933-0913

For Poison Control Toll Free 1-800-567-8911

Safely travelling with your pet(s)

As I drive around town I often see people driving with their pets in their laps or with the pets hanging their heads out the window, or laying across the seat backs in the back window or loose in the back of an open or closed pick up. It is a terrifying experience for me as a driver knowing that at any moment someone ahead may suddenly brake and cause these unsecured pets to become projectiles.

I can not stress enough that your pets safety in transit is extremely important. Not only can they become a projectile, but they can also be a distraction while driving.

There are several ways to make your pet's trip a safe one; these include a pet seat belt, and a transport carrier that is secured by a seatbelt or wedged so it is unable to shift during transport. A hard shell carrier can help to protect your dog in case of an accident. Remember you may be a good driver, but the person who hits you may not.

If you are unable to seatbelt or crate your pet (some larger dogs especially) you want to consider keeping them down low in your vehicle, in the back where they will not interfere with your driving.

It's not just safety during transport that is important but also safely getting from the house to the car and from the car to the groomer, vet, daycare etc or having to get out of the car on the side of the road if your car breaks down or you are in an accident.

My dogs always ride either crated or seat belted and will have their leashes handy or attached so that they can not bolt from the car. Though they have been trained to wait even when the doors are open, this is not something I ever want to take for granted if I am stuck along side a busy road and need to get out!

Remember your pets are family too, protect them like you would your children and happy and safe travels to you all!

This months winners of a Free grooming package (\$55.00 value) and 1 session of training classes (your choice) are:

Grooming package: Patti Crosson

Training Classes: Andrew Cathers

Up coming events:

Agility Trial

February February 21st, Friday - Starts at 5:30pm (Limited one evening trial)

AAC Sanctioned Agility trial, Agriplex Building, Nanaimo, B.C. indoor on hog fuel.

Judge: Bernadette van Klaveren

CKC Canine Good Neighbour Test

February 28, 2014 Friday- Start at 5:30pm

Registration on site from 5pm on

\$20 for class dogs \$25 for non-class dogs

Canine Good Neighbour Test at Nanaimo Pet Services (indoor and out)

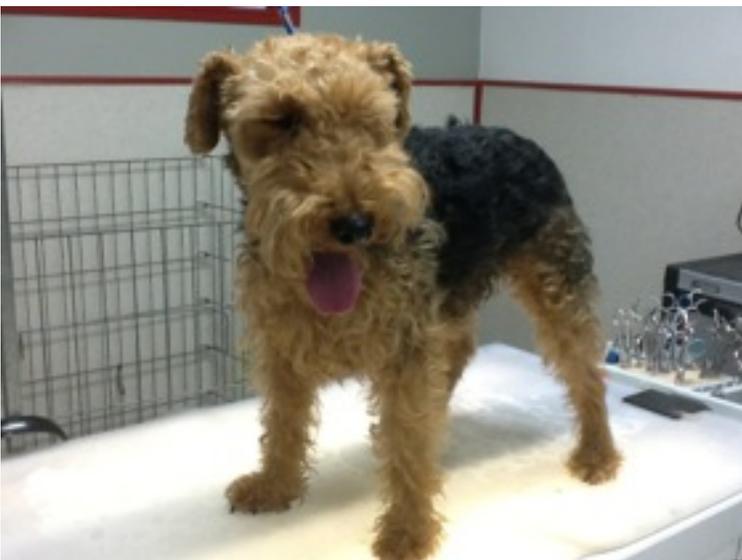
Evaluators: Bernadette and Linda van Klaveren

For more info on CGN check out the CKC (Canadian Kennel Club website) www.ckc.ca

We leave you with some tails to ponder!



And a "Before" and "After





All that's left is to wish you and
your four
footed companions a very
merry Christmas
and all the good things in life
for the New Year 2014!

