

Creature Comforts: Caring for Your Best Friends

By Michal Smith

First, I'd like to mention and give credit to Victoria Guerrero, Creatures Pet Store's own Animal Health Consultant and Groomer. She, not I, wrote last month's very informative article about the relationship between fleas and the healthy animal. Thank you Victoria, your expertise is a wonderful addition to our staff!

Now that fall is here we don't want to lose focus on our pets health, sooo... how about a pedicure!? Not for you, but for your pet! With the weather starting to turn wet and cool, our pets natural outdoor terrain, which acts as a natural nail buffer when they are outside playing and exercising, will soften and become ineffective at keeping their nails a healthy and comfortable length. Owners will need to begin monitoring the length of the nails and overall

condition and health of the feet. This includes brushing out or cutting out hair mats or mud balls in between the toes, monitoring the pads for any cracks, as well as trimming the nails.

How do you know if your pets' nails need trimming? If you can hear your dog's nails clicking on the floor when they walk; if your cats nails are getting caught in the carpet or rug as they walk across it; if the animal is chewing at their nails, it's time begin trimming.

Many animals are extremely resistant to having their nails trimmed. They may squirm a lot and make this a very difficult task for the owner. Veterinarians and Groomers are good alternatives for owners to utilize for nail trimming on all kinds of pets from birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, cats and dogs and everything in between. Touch your pets feet regularly to get them used to being handled as early in their life as possible.

This can be done during play and in rewarding moments. Regular grooming throughout your pet's life can also help avoid problems from occurring.

If your pet gets really stressed out during nail trimming, there are a variety of natural calming supplements that can help your pet relax.

For the nail trimming do-it-yourselfers, make sure your tools are sharp so you can make a swift clip and have on hand a styptic powder in case you do cut the quick and it begins to bleed. The quick contains nerves and blood vessels that can bleed and is painful when cut.

It is much easier to safely trim a light colored nail than a darker one. That's because, with a light colored nail, the quick is easy to see, therefore you know exactly how far down to trim. This is not the case with dark nails. Since the quick is not visible through darker nails,

it's much easier to cut too far. To avoid this, trim in several small cuts. For dogs, the dew claw is easy to overlook since it is located higher up on the dogs leg but it must be trimmed as well or it can grow right into the skin and cause infection. Nail trims for any pet and/or small animal can be scheduled at Creatures Pet Store with a quick phone call at 503-429-PETS!

When it comes to inclement weather, paw pads need a little TLC too. Extreme cold, salt and ice-melting chemicals can do damage to doggie feet, not to mention what muddy terrain contributes to the post-walk cleanup. Inspect feet for cuts and scrapes that may need attention or consider investing in some protective boots which are available in all sizes and several styles. Footnote: At Creatures we are always able to special order.

Bull Stories: Bow Hunting for Elk

By Don Webb

I had some good hunts using the Bow. That was before so many hunters got into it. I could get the bulls mad and upset. I only got one bull and lost one before I went back to the rifle.

My Only Bull With the Bow-It was getting late in the day and I was out on a lookout point seeing if I could spot some feeding and locate some for tomorrow. I left my fanny pack in the pickup, which turned out to be a dumb move. I thought there might be some in the flats below me that I couldn't see into. Sure enough I got into some feeding--I got within twenty yards of a small bull and thought this would be a good eater and put a shot behind the shoulders. He ran down through a beaver pond and up into a grassy flat and lay down. It took me a little while to get to him and when I found him I got one more shot

and missed. He jumped up and ran for the timber.

Now I know you should let them lay awhile but it was getting dark and I didn't have a light with me, thanks to the dumb fanny pack in the pickup. If I didn't get him tonight he would sour in the warm weather by morning. He traveled a game trail into the timber for about a hundred yards before I found him again, laying down and breathing real hard and fast. I knew he was hit hard so I stood about a hundred feet from him for a while, but it was getting dark real fast in the timber so I broke a small limb and his head didn't move. I broke a larger stick that made a lot of noise and his head still didn't move so I moved up and got about ten feet from him. I couldn't see my pins on my bow and used all of my last three arrows to finish him off. It was getting real dark by this time and I thought I better tag him but

I couldn't even see the date on my tag, (dumb flashlight in my fanny pack). I dressed this bull in total dark--I couldn't see my hand in front of my face. I also knew there was a Brodhead in him and didn't relish getting hold of it--I found it the next day, under the shoulder blade.

The next problem was getting back to the truck. It wouldn't be smart to go back the way I came because of the beaver ponds and the drop-offs. I decided the best route would be to go uphill through the timber until I found the old rail road grade and then follow it to my

pickup. I put one hand over my eyes so as not to get poked with a limb and held one hand out in front of me to feel the trees. This was slow going, you put one foot out and feel for solid footing before taking the next step.

I made it to the pickup in about an hour and got on the radio to tell my partners I had a bull. My son Dale and nephew Steve Weller were just getting ready to go out and look for me. I made it home a little after eleven. My other nephew Dennis Weller helped me pack it out the next day.

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Vernonia Students of the Month

September 2011



Cooper Morrison, Grade 5

Cooper is kind to everyone in his class regardless of who they are. He does an extra good job on assignments by taking his time and doing his best work. He is also an amazing artist! Cooper enjoys playing sports and participates in football, basketball and baseball. He says he is really into skateboarding and practices almost everyday and his favorite subject in school is art.

Jake Harbour, Grade 8

Jake has demonstrated good study habits and improvement in behavior within the classroom and instructional times. There has been a notable maturity in Jake, as he daily shows the qualities of Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. Jake gives a helping hand whenever asked, offering to help whenever he sees a need. Many staff members have noticed and commented on the positive changes in Jake. Jake says he likes to skateboard and hang out with friends. He plays football, baseball and runs track. Jake says his favorite subject is Math.



Shylo Dooley, Grade 12



Shylo comes to class every day with a positive attitude. He is active in sports while keeping grades up and never uses football or practice as an excuse for not being prepared for class. He is respectful of his teachers and insists his classmates do the same. Shylo is an All-District Wrestler, is playing football this season and may play baseball in the spring. He works part time at Meyer's Auto Body, helps out at school as an aid to the Athletic Director and enjoys hunting and driving his truck.

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