



The Irish Grooming Times

January 2006

Hello Groomers and Happy New Year. It was lovely to have some time off over Christmas to de-hair and sleep on. It's a good time of the year to indulge in the over abundance of red white and rose's that my lovely clients brought in. I had a rather embarrassing incident when Mr Clifford arrived in with his two dogs and a lovely bottle of a really good French red. Somewhere in the handover I dropped it! It looked like I had butchered a westie! Oh I was mortified and had to spend the rest of the day explaining that the winzy fumes emanated from the floor and not their groomer.

We overdid it a bit on the turkey though as Pat ordered one that would feed the entire army and even my three scoffers (I mean the dogs not the kids! though I don't know....) were glad when it was gone.

Now this promises to be a very big year for the I.P.D.G.A. Our association celebrates it's 10th anniversary in 2006 and it will be a year of not to be missed seminars culminating with our two day event in October when our two world renowned judges will be the incomparable Denys Lorrain and Italy's wonderful Paula Acco. Anyone who misses this event is mad! So remember 14th and 15th of October 2006. As this is a very special year we are arranging a big Gala Dinner to which everyone is invited to attend and there will be a special memento for those founding members who are still active members. So start the year with enthusiasm and education with the first of our seminars in February. See you all in Waterford.....

Hairy Mary.

FEBRUARY 26th 2006

Seminar

We are very pleased to announce a repeat of last years very successful 1 day seminar held in Waterford .

MOUNT SION CENTRE MARRION PARK WATERFORD

{ same place as last year }

Trade stands in attendance to include
Mullinahone Co-Op
Demo's & Talks

Keep an eye on the website for up-to date listing of these as they quite often change considerably on the lead up to a seminar due to unforeseen circumstances

{ www.ipdga.com }

Great Raffle

€30 payable on door { light lunch included }

Contact number : Dee c/o Saoirse's 087 7699060

Directions to venue: From Kilkenny/Dublin direction come across the bridge in Waterford and keep straight up the hill , you will go thru a cross roads with a shopping centre & garage on your left { Military Road }, just after this you turn right at the Mercy Convent school continue up this road to the top and the Centre is just ahead. If approaching from Cork direction come into the quays in Waterford and turn left at the bridge keep up hill as above



Extreme Makeover



For those of you willing to try something adventurous read on! I have recently included to the Muddy Paws grooming business a coloring service ! I started with my own Westie 'Casey' and dyed her a soft pink She was a great hit with the little girls in the playground.. While my St. Poodle "Sita" and Great Dane "Mouse" were completely ignored, Casey would disappear completely into the throng of girls.

I stuck, a photo of my "Pink Westie" up over the counter with the bottles of different colored dyes underneath it. Two weeks later I had a customer on the phone asking me if I could dye her toy Poodle 'Lucey' pink. Only the feet mind ! Thinking this would look odd, never mind the difficulty of matching up all four pink 'Socks' to the same height I convinced her to let me dye the whole dog. Pink I had run out of so she settled for purple. Lucey looked stunning ! Her mum was ecstatic, thankfully, as it is always a bit of a worry that the owner might be shocked or horrified with the "extreme makeover". Of course now that I was in the swing of things I convinced my sister to hand over her Westie 'Sofie' for a dying session ! She didn't care what color I dyed her, a dangerous thing, as Sofia is now walking around in a traffic stopping shocking pink !

Now, to enlighten you on the dying product I use. It is aptly called 'Crazy Color'! You can buy them at any Salon Services outlet (Hairdressers Suppliers). They also do a great range of shampoos, 5litres for about €6.50. Back, to 'Crazy Color'. There are about 15 different colors and shades to choose From; blues, oranges, yellows, greens, burgundy, reds, purples etc.. A little bit of advice though 'Violet' comes out as a soft purple on a soft white poodle coat (very pretty), and 'Fire', which is bright red in the bottle, comes out as the psychedelic pink that is proudly presented by my sisters Westie. We thought we were dying her bright red so lucky she wasn't fussy !! The point being that the end result was a complete surprise to us and luckily it wasn't an owner's dog, as she might not have been too happy. I would suggest you root around in your bin (carefully!) for some clean white hair so as to try out some dye on it first, before you turn: Mrs. Customer's little pooch into a cartoon character!

I also take a picture of each dog I dye and stick them in a little album with the name of the coloring dye I used. The owner can see what 'snowy' will look like when you are through with your magic bottles of potions and Snowy won't be so snowy anymore!!

Now a bit about the actual dye. There is no peroxide in the dye; it is a conditioning dye that washes out after 3 - 6 shampoos. (This depends on the coat type though). I have tried it on 2 Westies, one of which has the popular SFNAR syndrome {Scratching For No Apparent Reason} and neither has shown any reaction to it at all.

I use gloves to administer the dye and 1 bottle of 'Crazy Color' will comfortably do a small dog (Westie, Toy Poodle Bichon, Maltese). The dye is mild enough to apply thoroughly to the face, taking care around the eyes. Some dogs will lick around the mouth and there isn't really anything you can do to prevent this. Some dogs have sicked up a little fluid colored with dye about a half hour after dying. Both dogs were absolutely fine (none were distressed, heaved uncontrollably or showed discomfort) but I would recommend holding onto the dog for about an hour after you're finished with him. If Mrs. Customer sees her pooch sicking up colored vomit she'll think you've poisoned the dog! I left the dye on for 15/20mins before rinsing and did the dyeing in conjunction with a regular groom. You could in theory charge a fair bit for this addition to the regular service but I don't think it will ever take off here like in the USA { but stranger things have happened !} so I only charged an extra €10.

Hopefully I haven't scared you off because it's a fun addition to grooming if you can convince your customer/family/ friend to let you transform their dog! Now there are plenty of dog dyes out there and I am by no means saying that those should not be used But, for a vibrant color I find you can ' beat Crazy Color. So go out there, get hold of a dog and start a new trend !

Natasja Hoekman

Dear Newsletter,

Having received great support for my 1st year Grooming , "Thank you to everyone for their tips & ideasespecially my tutor (for keeping her phone close by)." I would like to return, even though small, a contact that has been good to me over the years as a Hairdresser. So folks check out the guy, who supplies some of us with our scissors..... Eugene @ 087-7847868. he has supplied me with an excellent scissor & sharpening service over past years in the Hair industry and now in Dog Grooming.

See for yourself! ...*Michele Carpenter* "House of Dog"

Groomer wanted {South Dublin area}

I am looking to employ a groomer to take over from me when I go on maternity leave shortly. I need to get someone fairly quickly (the bump is starting to get in the way!!)

Andrea Murphy
Grooming Manager

LoCall - 1890 364443

What's in a name ??

A lot more than you think !! Your business name is the phrase that customers past, present & future connect with you & your grooming. It is advisable to put some thought into your choice of name. I advise my students to try and pick something unique that can't be easily confused with nearby businesses. For example if you have chosen Cute Paws and someone else nearby trades under the name Paws. Mr or Mrs Joe Public might have come once to you lost your number so consults the local phone book. There they see "Paws" and says " ah there she is now, I'll call her up and rebook cause I was so happy last time !"

end result you miss out on a rebook cause the client has unwittingly mixed up two similar names.

Tips for choosing business name

- ❑ Consult www.ipdga.com and members page to avoid repetition of particular names
- ❑ **Register business name**- registering your business name is now a legal requirement. But it does not stop some one using the same name but in a legal challenge the person to whom the name is registered will be allowed to continue to use it. Contact: Company Registration Office, Parnell House, 14 Parnell Square Dublin 1. phone 01- 8045200
- ❑ Consult the phone book for names already trading
- ❑ Be imaginative and if you can't, hop on the internet & check out far away places for inspiration
- ❑ Maybe include your first name , that can be well on the road to unique e.g. Hairy Mary's or Mary's Doggie Delights

Mug of coffee, bar of choc and roll on inspiration !

It could happen to you

Margaret {one of our committee members} was unfortunate to suffer an injury to her back last February '05. Something as simple as putting a load of washing in the machine was the "final straw that broke the camel's back" not that Margaret is a camel please!! Things can be building slowly and suddenly a crisis point is reached and the body says "stop ! enough is enough " thank fully she is back at work now but she is one of the lucky ones. How lucky might you be ??

You have to look after yourself in this job or no one else will.

PROTECT YOUR BACK:

Working as a dog groomer is very hard and we tend to keep pushing on even if we get a niggling pain in our back, neck or shoulder. We just put it on the long finger and keep on working till the day you find yourself under doctors orders to lie in bed for 1 month and off work for a further 3 months

"Only then do you have plenty of time to think about how your work could be causing your body damage"

A FEW REMINDERS TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON YOUR SPINE:

- 1.Keep an eye on your posture.
- 2.Take proper breaks and time off.
- 3.Get regular massage - you can put it through your books.
4. Bend knees and keep your back straight when putting dog in dryers and cages.
- 5.Use a back support if you need it.
6. Get Help lifting big dogs OR don't do them
7. Sit whenever possible.
- 8.Don't ignore aches & pains- get them seen to
- 9.Take time out to go for a good walk- strengthens lower back muscles.

Nearly all groomers accidents are back related and once you have injured your back you are at high risk to do it again. So be careful and remember the guidelines above. No-body is putting you under pressure only yourself. Take it from me I've been there. I am back working now but taking it easy & enjoying it 'A few westies is better than no westies'

M. Cribben

Return of the Nutters - "Celtic Tour"

Not deterred by our London Adventure we planned the Celtic Tour. June 11&12 2005 was the date, New Lanark in Scotland the venue. And sure after seeing how well the dogs seemed to travel on the previous trip and as we had only half the miles to do this time we thought we'd bring twice the dogs.....that's 2 each....just so we don't get bored!

Jenny was bringing one of her regular clients a border to handstrip also she had been carefully cultivating an Old English client of mine to scissor. I was bringing 2 clients of mine a Kerry Blue to scissor and a Miniature Schnauzer to clip and style.

Only when we were loading the van up did it dawn on us that we were bringing 4 entire male dogs. A Kerry Blue...say no more, the Miniature Schnauzer has to prove himself and will do so at any opportunity he may be mini in name but not in his book! And the other 2 boyo's just **don't socialise** at all we just don't **Right!?!?! Jaysus** we've more Balls then Wimbledon in the van! That was bad planning on our part this is going to make for a lot of solitary walks must factor that in next time...!

So we were getting the 17:30 ferry from Larne to Troon on the Friday. A little matter of a drive up to Belfast and a bit beyond but sure we would have all day. A bit of planning had to go into the van layout, as we had to bring;

1. The tables we needed to compete on so decided on Jenny's electric and my fold up one
2. The 4 cages in the van to travel the dogs in also to make life easier 8 spare cages (4 for the B&B and 4 for the Venue)
3. Bathing gear i.e. towels, shampoo etc and Jenny's favourite blaster for drying(she's very fussy that on !)
4. Beds for dogs, clean spare beds for dogs, cleaner after bath beds for dogs,
5. Kitchen towel, disinfectant, pooper bags
6. A natty 12 volt cooler loaded with human food and cooked turkey mince for the boys, that should be easy on their tummies no diarrhoea, we hope
7. Sleeping bags for us and a small weekend bag each, not much room for human goods.

In all I think a third of Jenny's salon was loaded into the van "Just in case...."

Jenny was getting the 2 South Dublin dogs in her car (along with anything else she might need from her salon), I collected the West Dublin dogs and we met up at my salon at lunchtime. So a final walk out for the boys before we hit the road, a final check that we have everything and off we go. It's only lunchtime but I feel as if I've been up for a week.

We made good time up over the M50 and on up the M1, making sandwiches as we go from the cooler, knew the road a little having travelled up to Bangor for an exam or two recently and we have all day. But we got snared up in some nasty 'slow ya down' road works. It was suggested that I drive because I can handle the van better at speed and we had a bit of time to make up now. Jen said she'd navigate...must've had the map tattooed on the inside of her eyelids, one snore for left, 2 to turn right. Spotted a very sneaky speed trap, too late of course, set up in the middle of the yellow-coated workmen, still waiting for that in the post!

3.30pm now got to be at ferry port 4.45pm at the latest and we haven't hit Belfast yet. She's awake now and starting to panic wondering if we should ring our travel agent and see what other ferry options we have.

Oh ye of little faith! What ever happened to having all day?! Made it to ferry at 4.30pm, no problem. Just enough time to give all the boyo's a walk and allow the van to cool down. All dogs walked and watered next job is administering anti seasick pills to all 4 and 2 leggeds.....all this written and we haven't left the country yet!

At last some one else can drive and we can kick back and relax for a few hours, wouldn't that be nice. It would if we didn't have two written exams for the Advanced happening in ten days time. So the two bags of books that were taking up the middle seat of the van get to come on deck with us and 3 hours of captive studying begins. But we got a bit of light entertainment on the way as the sea was a bit rough and a group of granny's on there day out were in stitches laughing as they tried to Zimmer frame there way to seats. I nearly had a sugar daddy land on my lap cup of tea and all. Glad we had our little seasick pills!

We arrive at Troon, it's a beautiful sunny evening and as we drive away from the port we spot a lovely beach area with rolling dunes and plenty of parking. The boys will appreciate a walk before we go any further. We will definitely be fitter after all this walking. A photo opportunity was availed of on camera phones and the snaps sent back to all the boy's parents just to let them know they are fine.

We'd just over an hours drive to Lanark then we had to find Agnes Murphy's salon where we were going in the morning to prep the boys and then on some more to find our B&B. Almost there and we get a phone call from Agnes to tell us that herself and the organisers have had enough and

Check out the pictures www.ipdga.com

Return of the Nutters - "Celtic Tour"

we'd find them in the pub! Our type of gals. We found the pub and sure enough there they were. We couldn't stay long as the evening was closing in and we still had to locate our B&B.

Our accommodation was a farmhouse set in rolling Scottish hills, beautiful. A large field was available to run our boys, well as far as the flexi lead would allow. A certain Kerry Blue was very good at finding cow splatter to paddle in. We also had a secure shed to house the dogs in nice and cool on those hot summer nights. After walking, feeding, watering and bedding down our charges it was our turn to find some food. Down the road was a lovely Italian restaurant great food but my company was falling asleep into her plate of pasta. Oh these Wild Weekends Away.....tucked up in bed and half asleep at 10pm!

Daybreaks early in the Scottish Highlands 4.30am to be precise and the first of the boys start to bark. We took turns in walking at that hour I took first shift then crawled back to bed for an hour while Jenny amused them. Just as well, I suppose, to be up early as we had a date at Agnes's salon to prep these lads. A lot of washing & brushing and a quick post-bath bedding change, into the van and off we go to New Lanark.

The show is held in a beautiful old mill building but is in an upstairs room. We had an electric table, collapsible table, 4 dog crates, 4 dogs, toolboxes and a partridge in a pear tree to bring up....no lift. There are ramps though and after a bit of networking Jenny had commandeered the use of a flat trolley. All organised now we could watch the end of the poodle class. The sun was splitting the stones outside, too nice to be in! Our 1st class started Jenny scissoring the OES, me with the Min Schn and a girl from Prague made up the International entry. My Kerry who had been ever so quiet in his cage across the room decided he needed to sing along with the master of ceremonies. He got moved from the kennelling area on to the competition floor beside me...detention! Jenny took a deserved First, only first place was awarded so I got a 2nd or 3rd he he. A professional photographer was on hand so we got some shots of our superstars we also took some pics ourselves out in the sun.

That evening there was a ceili organised and poor Agnes was doing her best to coax us to go along, but we had no glad rags and we were just knackered from being up so early (4.30am!) Instead of out gallivanting we were back in bed by 9.30pm starting to write this article but partaking of a glass of vino or two. The next morning we learned that Agnes really wanted to make a presentation to our very own Mary Toland and for us to accept it on her behalf. The Professional Groomers wanted to recognise Mary's "contributions and promotion of dog grooming as an industry" Diana North kindly accepted this on her behalf and nearly hit us with it the next morning!

Day 2 dawned and the dog walking begins again, seems to be a bit of an odour in the dog room but can't locate it until packing up the cages. The turkey mince, Scottish water and testosterone tension has just gotten too much for a little schnauzer to bear, he'd had a botty explosion and covered it with his bed. Just as well there were large sinks in that shed. Poop cleaned up and off to compete again, scissor Kerry for me and hand strip border for Jenny. On a weekend like this the time spent competing is actually very relaxing, just standing in the one spot for two plus hours is a luxury. Only me and Jen in the International, Jenny got the First again only 1st places were awarded. Back to moving again and the packing up begins, we get a lend of the trolley again, which is a lot more difficult to control going down hill with all the gear piled high....no brakes! Strategic packing and another walk for the exploding schnauzer. Almost the last to leave once again as we head for Stranrear, the ferry back. A quick stop along the way to get the little schnauzer some natural yoghurt to try to soothe his gut. It didn't work that well though as few miles before the ferry port he vomited it back up, so now he really stank far from the polished beauty he was 24 hours previous. A quick paddle in the sea was going to be necessary to freshen him up so as I scooped out vomit from his crate Jen gave him a quick paddle - come bed-bath at the shoreline brrr ! Bit chilly for this but he cheered up when we wrapped him up snug in some towels.

We didn't have too long to wait at the port for the ferry and the Port Police laughed at the gear loaded in the van and decided not to search us. Drive on, grab sleeping bags head to lounge, we are getting good at this. It's only as you are then pulling into Belfast port does it start to dawn that we still have at least a 2 hour drive. It's very surreal vrooming down the M1 as the sun slowly dawns to your left; only a truly mad person would elect to do these trips. At last an open garage and some real coffee and we are too early really to drop the boys off to their homes sure it's only 4.30am. Well that third of Jenny's salon needs to be put back ready for work again tomorrow so that's what we did. All done by 6am and the dog dispensing begins. All the sleepy eyed owners welcome their dogs with whispered thanks and gasps of disbelief that we haven't slept yet. My little schnauzer you will be glad to know wasn't out of sorts for much longer following 24 hours of sleep and a good home cooked meal he was right as rain growling at all and sundry.

Well another mission completed where are we off to next.....tune in next time same batty times, same batty people!

Check out the pictures www.ipdga.com

...and now for the science bit ..!!

Thanks to Karina Kerrigan

I guess we have all used the term "it's bad to give your dogs chocolate". We are usually trying to stop Fido from piling on those extra pounds that make him so awkward to manhandle around the table. But it is actually a common cause of poisoning seen in animals. The cocoa bean is quite deadly to animals....not at all a problem for us groomers, the more the better for us, in Humans it releases endorphins and makes us feel GOOOOOD!!!!

Theobroma cocoa is the plant responsible and is found in chocolate, cocoa powder, cocoa bean hulls, cola and tea. Theobromine is the poisonous agent.

The average small Milk Chocolate Bar contains around 240mgs of theobromine, toxic levels for dogs vary between 250mgs-500mgs.

That is for a **milk** chocolate bar if, like me you prefer the darker varieties the levels of theobromine raise right in to the very toxic area.

Your Hot Chocolate Powder is also a trouble especially those who use real cocoa powder...only 4 ounces can be a fatal dose to a small dog.

Cocoa Bean Hulls have been used as bedding under horses and some fatalities have occurred from the horse snacking on the bedding.

There is an increasing trend to use Cocoa mulch on flower beds this smells sweet and tasty to our dogs and cats who have come a cropper from eating only one ounce of this dressing.

One Ounce of the Mulch = 300mg-1200mg of Theobromine

Theobromine affects the heart, central nervous system, and kidneys, causing nausea and vomiting, restlessness, diarrhoea, muscle tremors, and increased urination. Cardiac arrhythmia and seizures are symptoms of more advanced poisoning. Other than induced vomiting, vets have no treatment or antidote for theobromine poisoning. Also the onset of symptom can be hours after the chocolate has been consumed so inducing vomiting may not be effective by the time you realise what is up. Most dogs may show only signs of gastric upset and that will be the sum total of their reaction but in the exceptions to the rule..... Death can occur in 12 to 24 hours.

The Moral of the story is BE SELFISH WITH YOUR CHOCCIE and don't put Fido in danger.