



# Stoney Plains Kennel & Cremations

## Fall News Letter

Welcome to our very first ever news letter for the Stoney Plains Kennel and Cremations. Our intention of this news letter is to educate and inform area residence of the wonderful pet related activities happening around the Parkland. This news letter is also meant to invite new, current and past pet parents to learn about our kennel, training and grooming facility.

### **What's New**

Every year the plan is to update, renovate and add to our kennel and boy have we done that in the year 2017. Adding 14 brand new limestone pads and chain link runs allows our dogs to spend more time enjoying romping around, barking and playing with other kennel mates in a safe manner. This also gives them more space to play ball or catch with our kennel attendants when they need more playtime. Thank you to Birss Greenhouse and Landscaping and J&M Industries for their very professional and timely instillation of the new runs.



## Hangin Bar J Grooming

Stoney Plains Kennel would like to welcome to Jill Mulligan of Hangin Bar J Grooming. Jill had been previously grooming part time in her home and moved to the kennel in August to offer her services to more clients as well as the kennel clients. When dropping your dog or cat off for a stay at the kennel include a spa treatment with all the bells and whistles.



Contact Jill at 204-647-0506 or visit her on Facebook at Hangin Bar J to book your pets grooming and spa treatment.

## Fun and Games

This summer we added a fenced area with agility and training equipment to offer the opportunity for owners to safely train their pets in a secure location. We offered some puppy play dates with local puppies to socialize and work on overcoming fearful situations. Please visit our Facebook page to see updates on future playdates for 2018.

A new sport that is rapidly taking off in the cities is Skijoring. Combining a pair of cross country skis, dog pull harness and two willing participants (dog and owner) Skijoring offers some fun and exercise in the winter. This fall we will be introducing our own dog to skijoring, one day at a time. Starting off at Vermillion Park in a pull harness but without skis. We invite you to join us. If you would like to participate visit our Facebook Page for updates and message us if you are interested in joining us.



## Meet the Trainer

Need extra help with dog training? Janelle Van Alstyn provides flexible, positive and fun sessions to individuals who need a bit of extra help with their dog. Owners start with a foundation of basic obedience and then work on how to understand and solve common behaviour problems such as bolting out doors, jumping on people or barking out windows. More involved training is available for individuals who have fearful or aggressive dogs. Contact Janelle via email at [jenanimals@outlook.com](mailto:jenanimals@outlook.com) or on Facebook at Jenanimals Dog Training.

This is the education portion of our News Letter. As the years go our pets are going from the farm dog or cat eating scraps and sleeping in the outside dog house to the pet on high quality dog food, monthly spa treatments, going to puppy day cares and having Christmas presents under the tree. Our pets are now being recognized as one of the family and that makes pet professionals very happy.

## Skipping This Grooming Task Can Cause Your Dog Pain

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Clipping your dog's nails is more than a cosmetic chore. Pet Professionals warn that unhealthy nails can cause pain and, in rare instances, trigger irreversible damage to the dog.



A dog's nail consists of the living pink quick and the hard outer material called the shell. The quick supplies blood to the nail and runs through the core of it. Nerves in the quick cause bleeding and discomfort when cut. Regular nail trimming will cause the quick to recede from the end. Short quicks are the preferred length for the dog's well-being and easy maintenance.

Long nails can turn a normal paw into a splayed foot and reduce traction, and they can cause deformed feet and injure the tendons over an extended period. As the long nail hits the ground, the pressure puts force on the foot and leg structure.

All dogs have different rates of nail growth, and how they exercise may help determine if they actually need a trim or not. Many dogs exercise on softer surfaces like grass fields, dirt paths or even indoors. Those surfaces don't provide a great deal of friction for nails to file down as they play. Dogs that get a lot of exercise on hard surfaces such as concrete sidewalks or rough asphalt roads may get enough filing that their nails wear down naturally, but they may still need them trimmed on occasion.

You may notice that their nails are getting too long when they jump on you or up on a favourite resting spot, or when their excessively long nails are scratching the floor. Long nails can cut skin and rip furniture.

Different breeds of dogs have different nail growth patterns. Some have higher knuckles and some are more flat to the ground. That can determine how often or when they need their nails trimmed.

### **Walking and Running**

When a dog's nails are too long, it can hamper their ability to walk and run correctly. To put it in human terms, imagine your own toenails growing so long that they curl under your toes or constantly rub against the ground, or make your shoes painful to wear by jamming back against the base of your nails from pressure against the tips. It would definitely make the actual process of ambulation more difficult for you. Sure, you would adapt, but you prevent the problems to begin with by keeping your nails trimmed. You can do the same thing for your dog.

## Comfort and Health

Untrimmed nails can curl under and become very painful for a dog. Adapting their walking and running to deal with the discomfort of overly long nails can make their legs or feet sore. Excessively long nails can also catch on things and cause the nail to break to a painful level or even rip off, causing a different kind of injury. In extreme cases, constantly adapting to the discomfort of long nails can cause stress on the dog's joints and can lead to joint pain or even arthritis.

Walking in a way that adjusts to relieve some of the pain from overly long nails might also cause your dog's natural gait and movement to be out of alignment. This can cause other pain or injuries as they try to find a solution for their discomfort.

## How and What to Trim

Check the length of your dog's nails periodically. If you notice odd limping or a lot of licking of their feet, they may be telling you they are hurting. It could be something as simple as trimming their nails.

Because the dog's nails may be different colours, it is sometimes difficult to tell where the quick is on their nails. You do not want to cut below the quick and cause an injury or bleeding. Clear or light colored nails are easy to distinguish the cutting point. Use a bright light if you are having difficulty. Dark nails are particularly difficult to gauge where the nail ends and the quick dividing lines are. If you have doubts, take your dog to a vet or grooming professional and have them do the trimming.

Many dogs do not like having their nails touched. In extreme cases, the vet will know how to calm them enough so they can get the job done. They also have the appropriate tools.

You may find that one tool works better than others with your dog. There are clippers designed to cut through thick dog nails. Human clippers usually won't work on a dog's nails. There are also files that grind the nail down quickly which may be less stressful for your dog.

All nails, including the dew claw, need to be trimmed. The dew claw can grow and curl back in causing pain, even though it isn't used the same way as the rest of the nails.

Groomers prefer the method of grinding a dog's nails because it slowly sands down the nail and cauterizes the end. Also, with grinders it's not as easy to get into the quick. When you grind close to the quick, the dog will let you know it so you can stop. With the cutters, you can instantly cut the quick and it's too late. Ouch!

Articles taken from

<http://www.akc.org/content/dog-care/articles/nail-neglect-can-lead-to-health-problems-for-your-dog/>

[www.canidae.com/blog/2015/01/why-do-dogs-need-their-nails-trimmed/](http://www.canidae.com/blog/2015/01/why-do-dogs-need-their-nails-trimmed/)

For more information visit our website [www.stoneyplainskennel.ca](http://www.stoneyplainskennel.ca)



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