



Welcome to Boredom Busters Pet Care Services

Winter 2011 Newsletter
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www.brentwooddogwalker.co.uk

News from the team

Thanks everyone for bearing with us while Jackie and Graham take over the lunch-time walks. If there are any hiccups, please let us know as soon as possible so I can smooth things out for you – I was able to get to know you and your dogs one at a time, while Jackie and Graham have to get to know 9 dogs and their owners needs all at once. They have both had training with me, which I will keep up as ongoing for the near future, but they can only gain experience over time.



Hopefully you should soon get to know our small team as well as you know me. Any feedback is always welcome!



Daycare and boarding

We saw a huge rise in demand for boarding and especially daycare the second half of 2011. We're really happy with this, but space in my home is limited, so please let us know if you need boarding or daycare as soon as possible. We now have 16 dogs who walk with us weekly, and if you all want the same week I can't possibly say yes to everyone!

Boarding & daycare fees

Fees will be going up on 1st April 2012 for current clients (1st Jan 2012 for new clients). They have been at the same level for three years, despite increases in the licence fee and insurance every year. The facilities have improved (we have more games, toys, activities and climbing frames than some child minders have!), our knowledge and experience has improved, we've developed more games, I am no longer out of the house for the lunchtime dog walk and of course, now there are two of us working in the business, keeping your dogs walked, fed, entertained, loved and cared for. We are still looking for premises, somewhere with enough land for our garden games and a toilet area, but dogs will still be walked in our local parks and open spaces.



Boarding fees will be £30 per day (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve), with our regular dog walking/daycare clients keeping their **20% discount**. Dogs under 6 months please add £5 per day, and check the website after Christmas for other extras available.

If you book and pay for your spring holiday in full, before 1st March 2012, I will discount to 2011 prices (30th June is the last day for the discounted fee). Free pick up and delivery is available, under 5 miles from my home (which is all of Brentwood, Shenfield and Hutton and most of the surrounding villages), within the hours of 7.30am and 7pm, fitting in with the dog walking schedule. Dogs can be dropped off/picked up between 6am and 10pm. Where else can you find flexibility like that!?



Daycare fees will be increasing to £20 for up to 6 hours, and £25 for up to 10 hours. 6 hours is enough for most dogs, as they will catch up on sleep while waiting for you to come home, but the second price bracket gives you flexibility. Transport is free, except at weekends when it will be charged at £0.50 per mile the dog is in the car, waived for my regular dog walking clients if we hold your keys. I try to be flexible and allow you to choose the hours your dog comes to stay, so let me know what you would like and I will try to fit in with your plans. There may be a small surcharge for two dogs, puppies etc, these fees will be on my website next year. These are still competitive prices, my research shows some places are charging £35 per day! If you already have a weekly rate which includes daycare I will send a new quote with the next newsletter (March 2012).

Christmas & Annual Leave

I will be working all over Christmas, so if you don't need your walks or daycare, especially between Christmas and New Year's Eve, please let us know as early as possible, otherwise you might find me knocking on your door. If there is interest I could do a 'social walk' (no charge) on Boxing Day, just you and your dogs enjoying a walk with me and mine. If interested let me know so I can arrange something.

As some of you know, I do keep walking whatever the weather, including snow. However, if we have deep snow again I will have to cancel our breakfast walk – it's just not safe to be driving at rush hour. I will try my best to rearrange a time we can get out to walk your dogs that suits you.

My next week off will be 19th March to 25th March 2012, with possibly a week off just before half-term in May (to be confirmed nearer the time). Jackie and Graham will be covering lunchtime walks, so you won't notice I am gone. For our morning walks and home visits, please let me know if you need them and I'll make sure someone can cover, although it might not be at the same time as usual. I won't be able to offer daycare that week, but we can cover with extra walks or home visits instead if required.

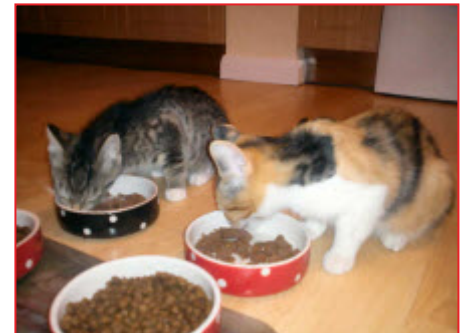
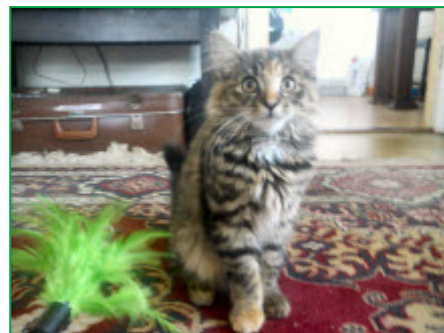
Enclosed with this newsletter is a Winter Warmer Special for your information too.



Cats

We also had an increase in the number of cats we cared for this year – I would not have been able to manage without Tanya's help this summer.

We are looking for more cat lovers with transport to help us out for next year. Cat sitting tends to be busiest at Easter, June – October and over Christmas, but there is



work through most of the year. This is a proper job, not cash in hand! Applications welcomed from people with own transport and they must live in Brentwood (you don't want a long journey for just one cat sit at quiet times).

Admin - photos, website, newsletter

Don't forget to keep an eye on my new dog training website for my new blog, and articles on dogs and cats. Hopefully, over the winter I will be able to keep them updated more often – if not, it's because I'm having too much fun with your pets! My Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BoredomBustersPetCareServices) is where all the photos are being uploaded, as the Gallery on my main site is still not working. You don't have to be a member to view them, although if you'd like to comment or post your own photos you will need to join. Or you could email me your photos and comments and I will post them! If you're on Twitter, you'll find me @boredombusters.

Our next newsletter will have the added bonus of being available electronically! So, if you have already given me your email address (when you registered or if you've sent me an email) next month it will be sent via email. If we don't have your details, or you'd prefer, we will leave a paper copy as usual. If you aren't sure if we have your current email address, there should be a 'subscribe to the newsletter' button appearing on our website before the next newsletter is due in March which you can use to leave your details. Email addresses will **only** be used for the newsletter.



We are hoping to get Trevor Cooper (regarded as a specialist in the law relating to dogs) to come to Brentwood to do a talk on Dog Law for pet owners. Trevor is a very entertaining speaker, and has taught me a great deal, which I am happy to pass on, but being able to meet Trevor and ask questions can be invaluable. We need at least 25 people interested in attending before I can set a date and organise a venue, so please let me know if you would like to attend, it will be priced around £20, depending on venue hire.

If there is anything you'd like to see in this newsletter that isn't already here, let me know and I'll try to oblige!

Linda