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Groomer

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**TREATING SKIN
INFECTIONS
IN THE SALON**

**BREAD & BUTTER
GROOMING:
THE COCK-A-POO**

PHOTOS BY ANIMAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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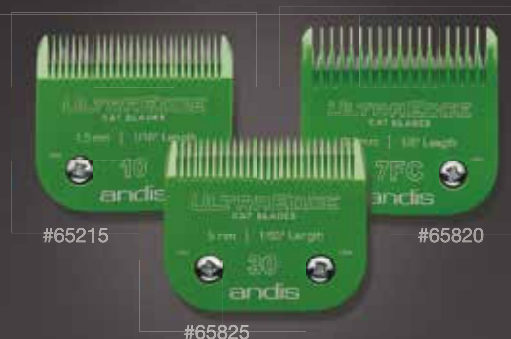


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CHASING PRAISE

by Gary Wilkes

PAGES 24

ALSO INSIDE

What Makes Me, Me	6	Conner: Saying Thank You	56
DiMarino: Kick it up a Notch	16	Disaster Preparedness, Part 3	60
WPA Acquires Atlanta Pet Fair	30	New Products	70
Brandon Boyer: One Resilient Groomer	32	Calendar of Events	72
Wonders: Dog Swap?	40	Classifieds	73
Omboy: Guess What... Beagle Butt!	50	Reader Feedback	74
PetQuest Show Preview	54		



THE COCK-A-POO

by Kathy Rose **PAGE 64**



TREATING SKIN INFECTIONS

by Michelle Knowles **PAGE 10**

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ON THE COVER: Angela Kumpe with her award winning creative entry. Photos by Animal Photography.



WHAT MAKES ME, *Me*

✧ by Suesan Watson ✧

Living at home with six siblings, you grow up very quickly, and you learn how to do things on your own at an even quicker rate. Otherwise, you would never accomplish anything. When I groomed my first dog at the age of 13, I didn't wait to be taught or supervised; I just did it. I had watched my mother and grandmother do it so many times. I just felt confident I could, and I did! I did such a nice job that when my mother returned home, she was sure that I must have had someone help me even though there

was no one home at the time.

During the summer of that year, I worked in the grooming shop. My grandmother had only learned how to groom Poodles, so she couldn't teach me any other breeds. That didn't stop me from looking at pictures in books or watching people at dog shows grooming all different kinds of dogs.

When I was 14, I learned how to hand-strip when I got a Wire Fox Terrier from a handler who was showing one of our Borzoi at the time. I didn't even know you could groom a dog by pulling its hair out. Then I got

a Smooth Fox Terrier. Who knew you could reshape your whole dog by carding out coat? Wow!

If anyone would have told me back then that grooming would be my life, I would have said, "No way." I loved the dogs, but I was only doing it until I graduated high school—then I would get a real job and maybe even go to college. Being one of seven children, there was no money for me to continue with schooling after high school. We were expected to help out at home. We bred, raised, and showed Borzoi. We had a few Poodles, two Afgans, a Scottish

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Deerhound, two Newfoundlands, and a few cats. We also had a small boarding kennel and grooming shop. We all had our jobs to do, but those of us who learned grooming or showed in interest in grooming were expected to work in the family business. After all, that is what paid for everything we got.

Since I did love grooming and showing dogs, I felt if this is what I was going to be doing for a while, I was going to do it to the best of my ability. I am a firm believer that a job is what YOU make it. You can show up to work every day dreading it, hating the people you work with, actually hating what you do, or you can look for the good in what you do and who you work with. You need to decide which way to go with it. Sometimes we don't have a choice in changing jobs. Maybe it's because of financial reasons, or it's close to home, or it has great benefits,

but we can control how we deal with what we have.

There was a time I thought I would give up dog grooming. I think I was burnt out. I just didn't feel like I was doing anything new. It was the same old thing—same dogs, same cuts, and same clients. At the time, I was working with my sister, Lisa Leady. I told her that maybe it was time for me to look for something different. In the mail was a program book for the All American Grooming Show. Lisa said, "I got the thing for us. We will enter the grooming show." "What do we know about a grooming show?" I said. Lisa said, "What's there to know? We know how to groom. We will each enter one dog, and we will see." And so we did. It totally opened my eyes. I saw things, learned things, and brought new ideas and styles back to the

shop, which put excitement and life back into everyday grooming. I have not stopped since that show in 1998.

I wanted to do the best that I could do and put my whole self into it, and I did. I had to make sacrifices along the way. I gave up time with my husband and children. However, because I was willing to do whatever it took, I now have the opportunity to give back to an industry that has supported me practically my entire life. ☺



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TREATING SKIN INFECTIONS

IN THE SALON ENVIRONMENT

✧ by Michelle Knowles ✧

Many of us have seen “bad skin” come through our shop at one time or another and have been frustrated by the lack of improvement. I interviewed seven veterinarians and asked them about the most common skin issues they see. The unanimous answer was secondary bacterial infections resulting from scratching. They also stated that 95% of all visits for allergies were merely extremely dry skin.

Many veterinarians are also frustrated with skin cases and commonly

prescribe steroids and/or a shampoo product that maintains the issue rather than “fixing” it. Our profession has come a long way in gaining credibility and knowledge about basic skin care, but there are those hard-to-fix cases that leave us stumped. Many clients have lost hope and bring in a prescribed shampoo for their pet to be bathed in, knowing that the pet will not be worse but not better either.

In order to understand how we can better help the pet with compromised skin, we must first understand

how that skin functions in the first place. Once we understand how healthy skin functions, then we can modify our products and techniques in order to balance damaged skin.

All pets can be divided into three groups: short, medium, and long coat. These groups are categorized by genetics and not how long the hair is trimmed at the time. Short coats need more oil, medium coats need more minerals, and long coats need more collagen. All three types need all of those things—just in different proportions. Good skin care

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really is the key to a healthy coat, as hair is simply an extension of the skin.

The hair (or coat) of cats and dogs protects and isolates their body, helping to keep the pet's corporeal temperature. A healthy coat prevents the body from wasting warmth and protects the pet against mosquitoes. The coat also acts as a protection against ultraviolet rays, heat, cold, humidity, and all external agents. Essentially, a healthy coat, according to the breed, keeps the pet healthy.

Coat protects skin. Many essential metabolic activities take place at skin level. The cutaneous immune system (or skin) is one of the most important immune defenses against microorganisms, allergens, and parasites. The skin glands produce a protective layer, which plays a fundamental role as a physical and chemical barrier for substances and is useful for the skin

defenses. It is called the superficial hydrolipidic layer, and it is made out of lipids (or oils) resulting from the decomposition of the horny layer, capable of a better antibacterial activity than lipids produced by skin glands.

A good skin "regimen" starts with a detoxifying step followed by a cleansing step and finally a hydrating step. The only thing that ever changes is the cleanser, depending on what type of issue you are treating. The next thing to establish is what exactly is wrong with the skin you are working on. Is there infection? Is it bacterial? Is it fungal? Are there parasites? Many times the prescribed shampoo product will give you a clue if the client won't share vet records. The idea here is not only to eradicate the offending infection but also to help the skin normalize and start processing in a healthy way on its own. When you have no idea what

the issue might be, use a cleanser for bacteria and fungus together. This prevents the overgrowth of one over the other.

I went to the dermatology classes at the North American Veterinary Conference a couple of years ago, and the title of the class was "New Techniques in Treating Dermatological Disorders." The new technique was the fact that we should not be using dish liquid on our pets to degrease them. This year at the same conference, there was much talk about "Leaky Barrier Syndrome." This syndrome simply refers to dry skin and that we should always use conditioners after bathing pets, even when treating damaged skin. Little by little, veterinarians are realizing the value of our knowledge as groomers and are proving it with "new" research every day.

Another issue to remember while working on compromised skin is to



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PROTECT YOURSELF! Many of us don't realize how easily bacterial and fungal infections can spread, not only to other pets in our care but also to our coworkers, spouses, and children. Make sure to keep a box of gloves on hand and maybe a box of gowns and face masks for the occasional scabby pet. Researching a good germicidal cleanser for your tables, tubs, and kennels would help keep transmission to a minimum. Bleach is no longer the cleaner of choice in this day and age of antibiotic overuse. A good rule of thumb: wash and scrub everything (tools, kennels, tubs, floors, and entrance) in your shop weekly to keep everything clean. If you have worked on a scabby or rashy pet, scrub everything that the pet touched or came into contact with the same day of the visit.

If the pet has an infection of the

skin or ear, it is always best to leave the pet dirty and unwashed so the veterinarian's job of diagnosing the issue is easier. NEVER POUR ANYTHING INTO AN INFECTED EAR. The tympanic membrane could be ruptured, and "flushing" the ear could result in leaving debris inside the middle ear and condemning the pet to hearing loss and possible ear-closing surgery.

Prescription shampoos need to be diluted according to the directions, and five to ten minutes of contact time is required in order for the chemistry of the product to be at maximum efficiency. After rinsing shampoo, a quality conditioner should be applied to replace the natural oils of the skin. With a few changes in technique and protocol, anyone who is willing can ease the discomfort of a pet with skin issues and bring a much-needed service to their salon. ✂

Michelle Knowles, Master Groomer and a certified Pet Medical Aesthetician, has apprenticed, volunteered, worked, owned, and managed in salons, kennels, zoos, and veterinary hospitals across the country. A professional pet stylist with 25+ years of experience, Michelle is Spa Director of The Tender Paw Day Spa in Animal Health Services Surgical and Diagnostic Center in Cave Creek, AZ. She has an ISB certification in skin and coat care, extensive experience with fear and trauma recovery, elderly pets, and a focus on managing allergic/dermatological disorders. In 2011, Michelle became the first American instructor for the Iv San Bernard Pet Aesthetician certification program and is a valuable participant in developing the much anticipated ISB American Grooming School. Michelle is also the U.S. product consultant for Iv San Bernard pet products.

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As professionals, we are constantly striving to bring the best to our clients. At least we should be trying, as sometimes it's a fine line that separates us from our competition. Customers may not be able to put their finger on why their dog comes out of your salon looking and feeling better than the salon down the block, but it just does and that's the reason they keep coming back. Happy customers are important and I have found that one thing that will make a client change groomers is when something is "not quite right". Once again, they may not know exactly why they were unhappy but they may tell you that the dog is not coming as clean as before or it just didn't feel the same. I have

always used this as a barometer of a salon that is in trouble. One of the first things these floundering salons seem to cut back on when times are lean is the quality of the shampoos and conditioners they are using. I believe this affects the finished product and, believe me, the customers notice.

Shampoos are the number one expendable product in our salons; meaning it is something that we constantly have to keep on buying over and over again, unlike a pair of shears or clippers. I do not believe there is a "one size fits all" shampoo and an efficient bathing room should be stocked with product to compliment every coat type to enhance what we intend to do with it. Most salons have their favorite general purpose, cleansing

shampoo and this can be considered the meat and potatoes of the bathing area while the medicated and texture altering ones are the gravy. What about desert? It gives the meal (or the job) that finishing touch. I'm talking about some of those color-enhancing products that give your work that final "WOW" factor. Notice I did not say "color changing" or "dyeing." I said, "color enhancing." Creative styling and color application is fun but it isn't in everybody's agenda. I want to take what I've already got and make it one step better. I want my blacks blacker, my whites whiter and give an added dimension to all the other colors. You may ask how this can be accomplished without the addition of chemicals or bleaches. The answer

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is in your shampoo bottles and your knowledge of its proper application.

There are many excellent quality color enhancing shampoos and conditioners available to us, but many groomers are not crazy about the results they get with them. We're going to quickly explore how proper application can, and will, change your mind. The average pet stylist usually looks for shampoos that brighten a white dog. Period! They forget about the black Pomeranian whose coat has a dull, tired appearance or that washed out looking brown Cocker or apricot Poodle. It's true that white coats are easier to get whiter than black coats blacker, but there are things you can do, to once again, show the client that you are "super groomer." Proper use of your products will give the client reason to come back as they will have a difficult time getting the same results

from other salons... that is, unless the competing salon is a reader of this column or an attendee at my Bather/Brusher seminars.

First, let's look at the individual hair. Hair readily absorbs the first thing it comes in contact with. We know this from the processes a hairdresser uses on our own hair. Let's think of this in terms of a skunk dog. The oily, putrid liquid from this lovely little beast has blasted the dog and it absorbs into the hair shaft. You know this as every time the dog comes into the salon and you wet him down, you get a whiff of skunk as it rehydrates in the hair shaft. Typically, the average groomer wets the dog down before applying any shampoo. The hair shaft becomes saturated with water, leaving little room for much else. There's nothing wrong with this if your only concern is the cleansing of the outer

cuticle of the hair. But if you're desire is to have that strand of hair sparkle with a vividness it didn't have when you started, why not take advantage of these absorbing qualities by having the first thing that hits the coat contain some kind of color enhancer? A nice, even application of a diluted solution of black color enhancing shampoo to a dry coat will not change that Pom's coat color, but it will give it a dimension it lacked when the owner last saw it. Many of the "darkening" shampoos contain the bonus of added anti-oxidants. It is usually oxidation that causes the "dulling" of the hair shaft; similar to what happens to the paint finish on a car. And, seeing as the undercoat of many of these pets can be quite porous, it absorbs the color a bit more intensely, thus giving a nice, healthy looking depth to the coat. Brown and red coats can be treated



Karen Bartuca



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Karen Bartuca - Owner & groomer
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If you alternate your blue shampoo with your purple shampoo each month, you will avoid these build-ups on your regular clients, leaving the pet's coat "the whitest in town!"

the same way, by applying the diluted shampoo solution directly to the dry coat. We can, however, take this fun little technique one step further.

While the surfactants in our shampoos are made to cleanse the hair shaft of oil and the dirt that sticks to it, the surfactants in conditioners are made to help carry the conditioning ingredients of the product deep into the hair shaft and replace what we

stripped out with the shampoo. Why not add some color to the conditioner and have it taken in as well? Try mixing one part diluted conditioner to three parts diluted color enhancing shampoo and apply directly to the dry coat. Leave on for 5 to 10 minutes. Rinse and repeat with the same solution. This will condition as well as soften some coats, so just know that and adjust the type of conditioner you

use. This technique will leave you with a subtle change the owner will enjoy. For a more intense enhancement, use and apply concentrates in the same formula, one part conditioner concentrate to three parts color shampoo concentrate and put in just enough water to help it travel on the dog. There are also color enhanced conditioners available and that can help finish the job for you.

Whitening products can be used in the same way but, with a bit of more care. You want to avoid ending up with a blue dog! Keep in mind that many whitening shampoos work with optical brighteners that absorb into the hair shaft and help reflect the light, letting us see either a blue or purple cast to the coat. Purple-whitening shampoos counteract yellow staining, but may leave a grayish cast to the coat after repeated use. On

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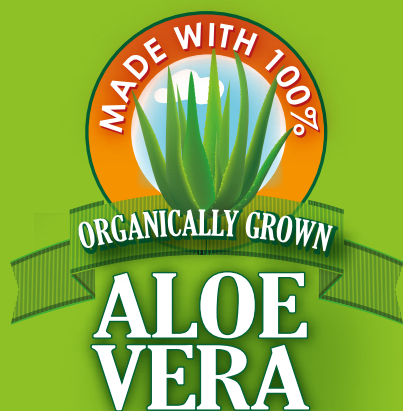


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BLOW PENS



the other hand, bluing products help remove this gray cast, but can leave a yellowish build-up after awhile. These residual build-ups are normal, so wouldn't it seem a smart move to keep BOTH of these shampoos on hand? If you alternate your blue shampoo with your purple shampoo each month, you will avoid these build-ups on your regular clients, leaving the pet's coat "the whitest in town!"

Creative use of these whitening products can help you gently lift stains from certain areas. Urine or kennel stains can tarnish the appearance of a white dog. Think about a white, male Standard Poodle. Some of these dogs are so short in body that they are constantly urinating on the back of their front legs. While it's difficult to stop this from happening, you can turn the dog out of your salon looking like a million bucks with this easy-peasy rec-

ipe. Take a solution of one part lemon juice mixed with two parts concentrated whitening shampoo, preferably a purple shampoo. Add enough water to loosen it up and make application easier. Apply to the stained areas of a coat only and leave it on for 5-10 minutes. Rinse those areas thoroughly and then shampoo as usual with the regular mixture of diluted shampoo. The lemon juice has a very mild bleaching action and the stained areas of the coat will be visibly whiter. This helps gently lift the stain without overly damaging the coat. But you should also condition after this procedure, as the lemon juice can make the coat in those areas more porous and the stain will set in quicker next time. Work on eliminating the source of staining with the owner by having them brush through some corn starch when the dog pees himself and that will help keep the stain from set-

ting. It also gives the owner an instant gratification of a white, non-pissy coat and gets them to swing a brush at their dog every now and then.

Disclaimer!!! - I DO NOT recommend this, or any bleaching or color lifting technique, for use around the customer pets' eyes or faces. I never want to chance eye irritation on a customer's dog. I know they often ask us to whiten the faces of their dogs, but I still refuse and will not teach that it in this column. Safety first! Beauty second!

When the owners pick up their dogs they will notice "something different", but as I mentioned, they may not be able to put a finger on it. They just know the dog looks better coming out of your place than anywhere else. What do I have to say about that? Mission accomplished! ☺

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How I Drive Success

The right vehicle gives your business (g)room to grow.

K9dergarten is a doggie daycare center whose “big idea” is to set a new standard in quality and transparency. In its 16,000-square-foot Jersey City, New Jersey, facility, they offer cage-free daycare and boarding, grooming, training, an upscale boutique, dog-walking and transportation.

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“No other van allowed an interior configuration and access that would accommodate two people and enough crates to make it cost-effective.”
-Marc Donmoyer, K9dergarten managing partner

of wheelbases, roof heights and customizing potential offer groomers the ultimate business vehicle. K9dergarten can stack three tiers of crates, allowing them to transport up to 15 dogs at a time, safely and comfortably.

“We were looking to build a business around the idea that here was a modern, safer, smarter, cooler way to approach dog care, and we needed a vehicle to broadcast that brand image wherever it went,” Caulfield says. “Sprinter hits that nail on the head. We even have a QR code on the back that gives potential customers with smartphones an easy way to find out more about us.” Whether you’re hauling pets, people or equipment, the Sprinter offers a hard-working solution for your business.

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CHASING PRAISE

If you look in veterinary literature, you will find reports of Bull Terriers who destructively bite their own tails. These dogs are so persistent that they often do enough damage to require removal of the tail. The odd thing about this disorder is that removing the tail may not stop the behavior. Some dogs continue to bite at the place where a tail should be. In veterinary circles, this behavior is considered neurological in origin. In common terms, this type of behavior is usually labeled “nutso.”

A couple of years ago I received a call from a veterinarian faced with the task of treating a tail-chewing Bull Terrier. Recent advances in drug therapy have created a tendency to prescribe medicine to battle these types of problems, but in this case, nothing had worked. The owner was getting a little testy about spending over \$1,000 on tests and medication with no visible results. My first reaction was to take a “suspenders and belt” approach to the diagnosis. As much as this case matched the others I had read about,

I still asked what is often the most important question regarding this type of behavior: “Does the dog chew his tail when no one is looking?” The answer was what I expected—no one had thought to check on that.

The reason this question is so important is that animals often repeat a behavior merely because the performance ends with praise, affection, and treats. For instance, if a dog accidentally chases its tail and receives laughter and affection from his owner, tail chasing may become a regular part of the

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“Oh, no, he hasn’t done that since I first got him. The first time I saw it, it made me sort of embarrassed. He was a cool-looking dog, but I didn’t want to own a dog who sat there chewing on himself. That first time I saw him do it, I yelled at him and tossed a cup of water in his face. He hasn’t done it since.”

dog’s behavioral repertoire. Though the dog is probably not too thrilled with spinning, he is very fascinated with the affection that spinning brings. A behavior that is created by this type of reinforcement is almost never displayed when the dog is by himself. If you observe this dog secretly, you will probably never see the dog spin in circles. Spinning is maintained by human praise and affection rather than by some brain dysfunction. This is ironically not aberrant behavior—it’s

the foundation for all animal training. If a dog couldn’t learn to repeat a behavior in response to external reward, then dog training would be impossible. That it can go awry is the issue.

SURPRISE ENDING

To test the tail-chewing Bull Terrier, I requested that the dog be confined to a kennel for a day. Periodically, the dog was to be observed from hiding. If the dog spun, even in the absence of people, there was a good indication

that the behavior was due to a neurological defect. If the dog didn’t spin or spun less than normal, we would know that there was a behavioral component that was at least partially maintained by the owner’s attention. (The same thing can now be done with an inexpensive Internet video camera with a memory card.)

A couple of weeks passed with no word on the observation test. I called the veterinarian and discovered that the owner had gotten fed up with the expenses and gave the dog away. I called the original owner and got his permission to call the new owner. Here’s how the conversation unfolded: “Hi, this is Gary Wilkes. I am a behaviorist working with Dr. Smith, the vet that was treating your dog. I am wondering if you are having the same degree of problem behavior since you got Buddy.”

“What problem is that?” the new



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owner asked.

"The tail chewing, of course. Does the dog still spin wildly and bite at its tail?" I asked.

"Oh, no, he hasn't done that since I first got him. The first time I saw it, it made me sort of embarrassed. He was a cool-looking dog, but I didn't want to own a dog who sat there chewing on himself. That first time I saw him do it, I yelled at him and tossed a cup of water in his face. He hasn't done it since."

If this sounds too simple, it's not. Because the rise of veterinary behaviorism leads to blood tests, neurological exams, and "anxiety medication," few people consider simple behavioral solutions to what seem like bizarre behaviors. The rise in "all positive" training has compounded the problem even further. Positive reinforcement cannot stop behaviors, by definition. If that is your only tool, you can't stop anything. This would be like having "scissor-less" grooming and trying to sculpt a Kerry Blue. That isn't likely to work. The reality is that neither anti-anxiety medication nor "all positive" training represent the sum of humane,

ethical, and effective tools for behavior modification.

Consider that the anti-anxiety meds didn't stop the Bull Terrier from attacking his tail. Teaching an alternate behavior would have failed, too. That is because teaching a new behavior cannot block an existing behavior. Learning French doesn't make you forget English. The thing that stopped the Bull Terrier was a splash of cold water. It didn't take an advanced degree in behavior to solve this problem. On the contrary, someone with an advanced degree would be likely to offer a one-trick pony non-solution.

One of the advantages of being a groomer is the opportunity to see thousands of dogs. While you may not have seen everything, you have undoubtedly seen things that the average client hasn't. Sometimes the correct answer is, "I've seen that before. It's not a big deal." For more bizarre things, adding to your diagnostic skills can save your client a great deal of needless cost and worry and may save the animal's life. Here are several thoughts about how to evaluate odd behavior:

1) Always check to see if the behavior occurs in the absence of people. This may tell you if the behavior is simply a reinforced behavior gone wrong or a genuine neurological problem.

2) Try simple distractions to interrupt the behavior—hand clapping, picking up a leash, or offering a treat. If you can stop a behavior by picking up a leash, it means that it's controllable by things other than drugs.

3) Before suggesting expensive, invasive medical testing and often ineffective drug therapies, ask yourself if the behavior is really harmful. A dog that spins more than other dogs isn't likely to die from the behavior. Maybe it's just a harmless idiosyncrasy.

4) Attach a different consequence to the behavior. The idea is to create a new association on top of the old behavior and see what happens. If the dog spins, start leaving the room or putting the dog outside. If there is no change, then it may be a sign of a true brain abnormality. That suggests that a veterinary exam specifically about the behavior may be in order. ☺



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WORLD PET ASSOCIATION ACQUIRES ATLANTA PET FAIR

Monrovia, CA — On Thursday, March 6, 2014 it was announced that the World Pet Association (WPA) acquired the Atlanta Pet Fair.

The Atlanta Pet Fair is the largest event in the Southeast for the professional pet stylist offering a trade show and the largest grooming competition in the world.

"It is our hope that we can continue the legacy started by Ann Stafford and produce a show to encourage the grooming industry," said Doug Poindexter, President of the World Pet Association.

WPA will begin producing the show in 2015, located at the Atlanta Airport Hilton.

For more information, please contact Jessica Guzman.

ABOUT THE WORLD PET ASSOCIATION:

The World Pet Association (WPA) is the oldest industry organization promoting responsible growth and development of the companion pet and related products and services. WPA works to inform and educate the general public in order to ensure safe and healthy lifestyles for our

animal friends. WPA is the host of America's Family Pet Expo, the world's largest consumer pet and pet products expo, held annually in Costa Mesa, California and Aquatic Experience, everything aquatic under one roof for consumers and trade, located in Chicago, Illinois. The organization also produces SuperZoo, an annual pet industry trade show that showcases a comprehensive collection of exhibits and offers a variety of informative educational seminars. SuperZoo 2014 will be held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada July 22-24.



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BRANDON BOYER

ONE RESILIENT GROOMER

✧ by Kathy Hosler ✧

Presidents Day is a holiday for a lot of people, but not for mobile groomer Brandon Boyer. For the last ten years Brandon has owned and operated Splish N Splash Mobile Pet Grooming in the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania area.

February 17, 2014 began just like any other day. Brandon hopped in his truck and he and his mobile grooming trailer headed for his first appointment. He groomed the dog without incident and then went on to his next appointment. What happened at that next appointment

changed Brandon's life...

"I got the long-coated lab mix into my trailer and up on the grooming table," said Brandon. "I was getting ready to assess the dog to see what I needed to do to him when I received a phone call. Within one to three seconds of getting that phone call, I saw a huge orange ball of fire and heard the explosion – and then I was on fire!"

Incredibly, even though Brandon was on fire, his first concern was to save the dog he was working on.

"I remember being bent over and pulling my flaming sweatshirt off,"

recalls Brandon. "I immediately came up and looked for the dog. I saw his silhouette. I had to disconnect him from the support system on the table. I picked him up, put my shoulder to the door and sort-of busted through it. The door was somewhat opened by the explosion, but it was a mangled mess. Once I got outside, I fell forward and landed face down in the snow."

And even while Brandon was lying in the snow, his burned, smoking fingers never let go of the dog's safety loop.

"While I was inside the blazing

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trailer,” said Brandon emotionally. “I really thought that it was going to be the end of me. But once I got out, I realized that I was going to be okay. I knew that I was in bad shape, I could feel that my face, head, and hands were

burned pretty badly.”

Lucky for Brandon, the dog’s owner was looking out her window and saw the explosion as it happened. She called 911 before Brandon even got out of the trailer.

Her words were, “From what I saw, there’s no way anybody could have survived that blast!”

Help arrived very quickly. A few houses down, a neighbor who was a firefighter, heard the explosion and came running. Paramedics and first responders were there within minutes. Brandon was assessed at the scene.

He had extensive secondary burns, and when they looked up his nose and saw that the hair was all burned in it – it was decided that Brandon needed to be flown to a burn center in Washington, D.C.

The hospital that he was flown to was the one that all the burn patients from the Pentagon went to after the 9-11 attack.

One of the biggest concerns was that Brandon’s lungs and airways were also burned; but when he was examined and scoped at the burn hospital, it

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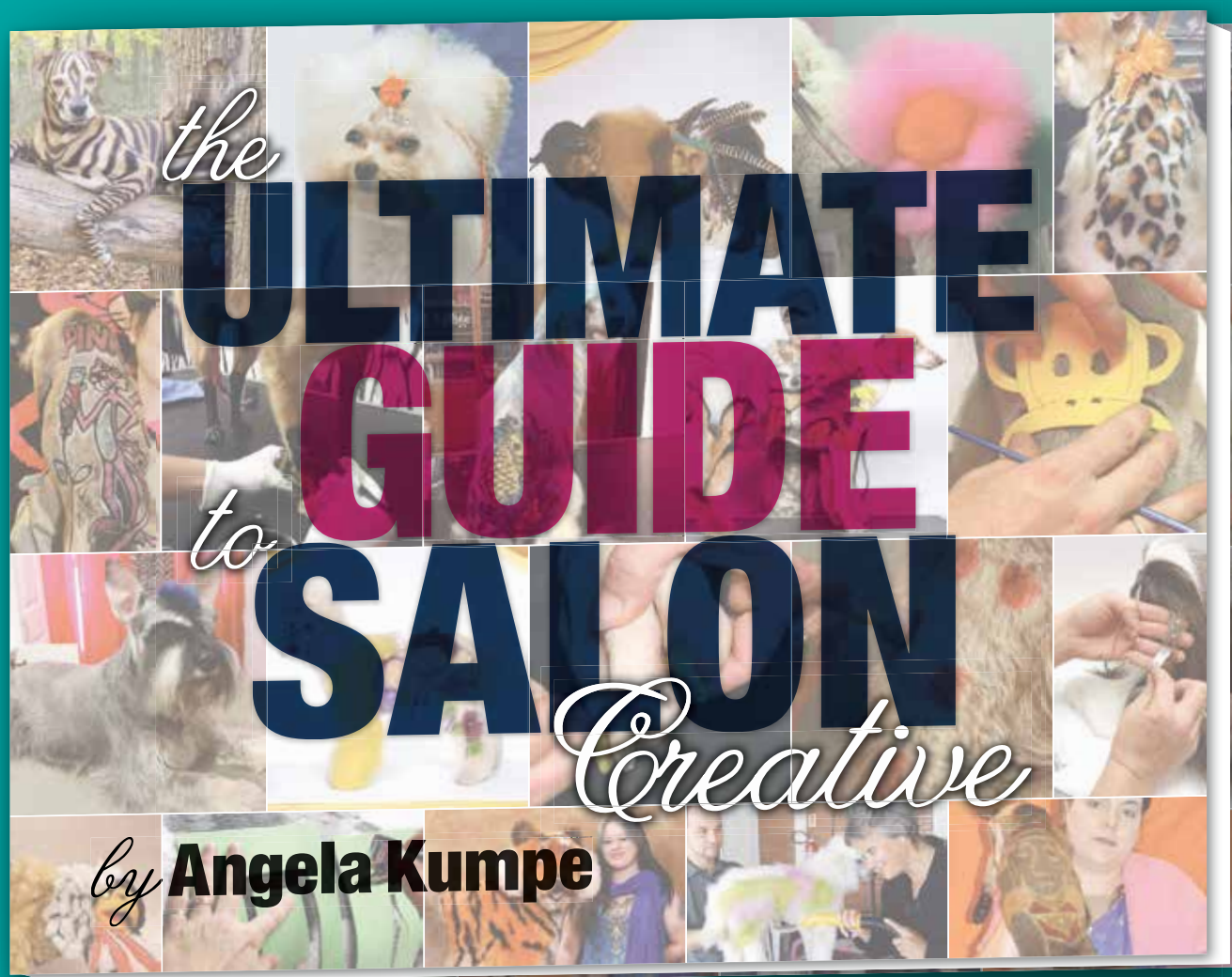
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was found that they were undamaged.

Brandon shares what his experience was like....

"The first two or three days were extremely painful," says Brandon. "On the third day I had surgery. They basically removed all the burned skin and flesh and gave me pigskin grafts. They had layers of pigskin that they placed across my face and stitched it to me. It acted like a band aid to allow my body to repair and heal faster."

A few days later, Brandon was allowed to go home. As he healed, the pigskin began to break down and slough off.

"It was the worst smell ever!" said Brandon emphatically. "It was 28 degrees that Sunday when I got home and we had to open windows in the house. The odor was horrendous! But the grafts protected my healing face and helped prevent scarring. What was left of the pigskin was removed at my follow-up appointment."



What could have caused that horrific explosion and the flash fire in Brandon's grooming trailer?

"After talking with the fire marshal, it was determined that a propane heater was the cause of the accident," says Brandon. "There was absolutely nothing wrong with my grooming trailer...the cause was definitely traced to the portable heater."

"I had a backup portable propane heater in my trailer. It was not on at

the time. I was not using it, but it must have developed a leak between my first and second stop," said Brandon.

Brandon had no idea that anything was wrong just before the explosion. He never smelled the propane gas. "I've had sinus surgery," said Brandon, "and my sense of smell is not the best."

We asked Brandon to tell us about some of the help and support he received since the accident.

"It's amazing" says an emotional Brandon. "You become very humbled to the point that you are on your knees with gratitude for the support system that you didn't even know that you had. When you go through something like this and you have people that you don't know and haven't met do extraordinary things for you - it's unbelievable!"

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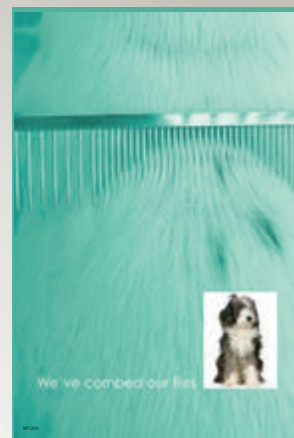
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“Members from California to Florida and up through New England sent flowers, drove long distances to visit me in the hospital, and raised a lot of money to help me while I recover.

“In the grooming community, Debbie Rowe, of Frank Rowe & Son, was one of the first to contact us – to

ask what we needed and what they could do to help us,” Brandon continues. “The GEAF (Groomers Emergency Assistance Fund) helped with a monetary donation.

“All of my products were lost in the explosion. Wahl and EZ Groom and some other companies sent me dona-

tions of products. I couldn’t believe that these larger companies would hear about what happened to me and then help me out.”

On March 9, a Groom-a-thon was held to help Brandon. Local groomers and others (some made a three-hour drive to participate) donated their time, talents, and their grooming vans and trailers to groom many of Brandon’s client’s dogs. And, many of the clients donated above their grooming fees to help Brandon while he recovers. Over \$3000 was raised that day.

Brandon shares that sometimes social media gets a bad name, but not in his case. He and his wife, Amy, have been able to post updates and keep all of his friends and family informed about his progress. And, Brandon has received countless messages of support and encouragement from the online community.



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Brandon hopes to be back to work much sooner than the doctors had estimated. He has strict guidelines that he will have to follow. Brandon will have to wear gloves and face protection at all times while he is grooming.

He has to keep SPF skin protection cream on his skin for the next year, to protect the skin on his hands, face, and head because over exposure can alter the pigment color of his new skin.

But no matter what it takes, Brandon and his Splish N Splash Mobile Pet Grooming will soon be on the road again. He's been 'through the fire' and survived.

Brandon Boyer... He's one tough groomer! ☺

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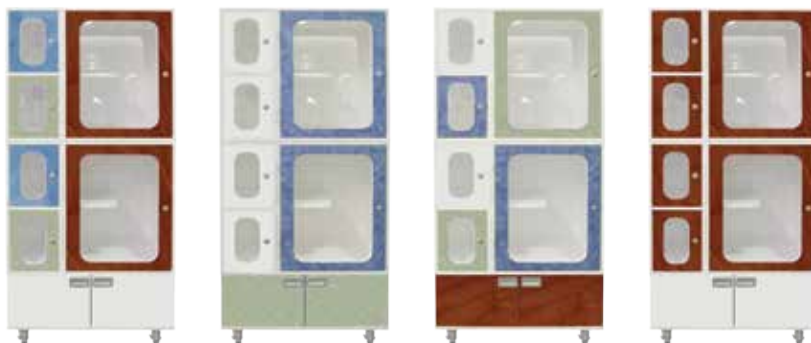
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DOG SWAP?

by Bonnie Wonders-Trent

If you've been grooming for more than a few years (or decades) you know how there are times when you forget a client's name or dog. Even though you keep records of your clients either via computer and/or paper, there are times when you still get befuddled. At least I'll admit that I do. My brain can only handle so many Muffies, Fluffies, Buffies and Duffies. Not to mention that anything that has white hair has to have a name ending in "Y."

I have come to the conclusion that it is apparently mandatory for any Yorkie in Western PA to be named Buddy.

Evidently, all miniature poodles are named Missy if they are girls and the brown ones are of course dubbed Coco.

And could the Chihuahuas go by anything other than Killer. Male Springer Spaniels, Brittany Spaniels and "Doodle" mixes of any kind are all christened Max. With so many dogs having the same name and being of the same breed, it's no wonder that I have so many senior moments. I feel as though I should be sitting in a corner somewhere doing that thing where you flip your finger over your lips and make that "blub, blub" sound or whatever you call it. So therein lays the start of a

part of my confusion. The other part is solely the blame of my clients, especially in this case.

Paul and Margie have a Shih Tzu named Casey. He's probably 15 pounds or so and black and white. Like many of the older folks in this area, they don't like to get the dog's hair cut too much in the colder months. In the Spring they start having him cut into a #2 puppy cut and keep him that way till Fall. Now, in our neck of the woods, Shih Tzu are an extremely popular breed. Actually the last time I looked at how many of them I do on a fairly regular basis, it was something

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I fashioned a really nice puppy cut on him. His hair seemed to be getting thicker as he was aging, I noticed. It really held the cut well. I sprayed him with cologne and placed him back into his cage. Paul was right about one thing. Casey had definitely porked up over winter!

like 172. Heck, one of my very good customers has 21 of them! Yup... not show dogs, just pets. And yes, all in the house. Just sayin'...

ANYHOW, Casey's a really good little guy but I do know that he doesn't ride well in a car. He's one of those dogs that if riding loose, climbs from the front to the back seat and drools

all over the place, often barfing in the car. Apparently putting him in a plastic carrier does the trick and he's good to go then.

Margie called to make an appointment and when I set one up for her, it was at the same time as a commitment that she had already made for herself somewhere. "Paul will have to

bring him in," she told me. "It's time to cut him down now since it's finally getting warm," she told me. "Do you want him the same as I did last year?" I asked her. "Sure do," she said. "Cut under his eyes real good and get those bangs under control," she added. "No problem," I assured her.

On the day of Casey's appointment, Paul arrived about 20 minutes early for it, as always. He brought Casey in, securely locked in his carrier. "How are ya?" I asked Paul as he set the carrier down near the hallway to the grooming room. "Well, either I'm getting too old or Casey's getting too fat," he answered with a grin. "All this huffing and puffing I'm doing, I feel like the big bad wolf," he added as he winked at me.

"I know I'm a little early, but when I went to get Casey's cage off the porch he was already in it. I guess he was



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INSIDE THE GROOMING INDUSTRY BIBLE

CESKY TERRIER

Coat Characteristics:
Minimal Shedding

AKC Breed Group:
Terrier

This terrier is never clipped. It is always clipped. The coat should be soft, silky, slightly wavy and glossy, not overly thick.



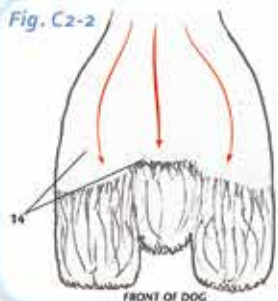
Grooming Instructions

1. Ear Cleaning: First lightly dust the inside of the ears with ear powder, pulling out any dead hair from the ear canal with your fingers or a Hairmostat® hair puller. Then, clean the inside of the ears using cotton balls lightly dampened with an ear cleaner.
2. Wipe the corner of the eye and under the eye with a cotton ball moistened with saline solution to remove eye debris.
3. Clip the hair from between the pads of the feet with a #15 blade. Use the clipper to remove any hair hanging off the edge of the pads.
4. Cut or grind the nails, removing only that part of the nail that grows out beyond the quick. Be careful not to cut into the quick.
5. Clip the hair away from the anal area, about one-half inch on either side of the anus, with a #10 blade. Never put the blade in direct contact with the anus.
6. Clip the hair from the stomach area, from the groin to the navel, using a #10 blade.
7. Brush the coat quickly with a slicker brush or dematting tool to loosen any tight mats.
8. If the dog is on a regular, frequent grooming schedule, the body pattern will be put on after the bath. If there is excessive coat, remove it by pre-setting the body pattern before you bathe the dog.
9. Bathe thoroughly using shampoo appropriate for the individual coat, then rinse. Repeat bath and rinse. Apply conditioner and rinse thoroughly.
10. Partially dry with high-velocity dryer to remove excess water and loosen mats. If desired, cage dry until slightly damp, or for better results continue with high-velocity dryer until 95 percent dry. Then fluff dry until 100 percent dry and straight.
11. Comb through the coat after brushing to be sure no small tangles remain.
12. Using a #1 or #10 snap-on comb, clip from the rear of the skull down the neck and back to form a saddle that ends in a "V" shape on the top of the base of the tail.
13. Using a #9 or #10 blade, clip down the sides of the neck, over the shoulders and blend off forming a "U" shape on the side of the leg below where the front leg joins the body. See Fig. C2-1.

Equipment Required

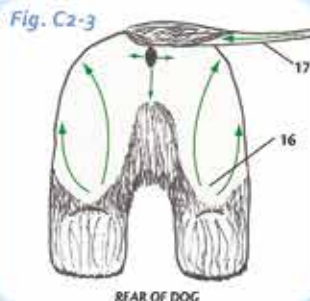
- Cotton Balls
- Ear Powder
- Hairmostat® Hair Puller
- Ear Cleaner
- Saline Solution
- Nail Grinder or Nail Trimmer (pedicure plate-type)
- Electric Clipper
- #15 Blade
- #10 Blade
- #9F, #7F, #8F, #9 Blade
- #1 or #10 Snap-On Comb
- Slicker Brush
- Dematting Tool
- Metal Comb
- Scissors
- Thinning Shears
- Curved Scissors
- Conditioner
- Flea/Tick Conditioner Spray

Fig. C2-2



FRONT OF DOG

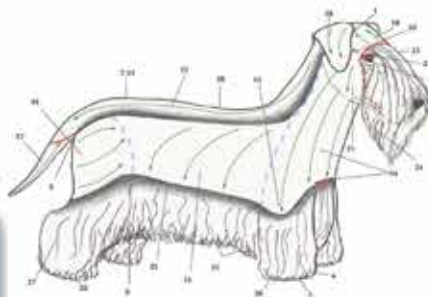
Fig. C2-3



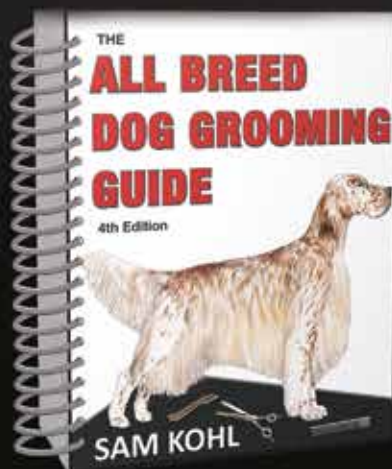
REAR OF DOG

Understanding the Lines:

Direction of stroke used for clipping pattern.
The arrow on the left indicates a distinct pattern with other hair hanging over it.
The arrow on the right indicates a distinct pattern (as with no blending).



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anxious to get here, so I just picked him up and away we went!" he said. "At least I didn't have to chase him around the house to get him in it," he laughed. "I usually have a devil of a time getting him into this thing," he said as he pointed at the cage. "Where do you want him?" he asked.

"Just let him where he is," I told Paul. "I have to finish another dog and then I'll start on him," I added.

"The wife has a list of errands for me so can I have a couple hours?" he asked. "Sure, you take your time," I replied. "You be good for her," Paul said as he tapped the backside of the dog's cage.

With that, Paul went out the door and I went back to finishing the Maltese that was waiting patiently.

Soon I was ready for the Shihtzu and went into the hall for his cage. Rather than carry the cage into the grooming room, I just reached down

and opened the door. Out came Casey, happy as a clam. His hair was probably at least six inches long and he really did have a long topknot. I knew Margie wasn't really fond of having him with a topknot tied up, but apparently since it had grown so much she had pulled it up out of his eyes. I put him onto the grooming table and decided to do a quick rough cut to get rid of some of that hair before I did his bath. Since I usually do the top of his head with a #1 comb, I whacked a good chunk of that topknot off with my shears first.

Roughing him in finished, I proceeded to bathe and dry him. He was rather hyper for the drying though and I didn't recall him ever giving me such a hard time with that. As you know, many times as dogs get older they start to resent things that never bothered them before. Oh well, it wasn't that bad, really, and I was soon done with the drying.

I fashioned a really nice puppy cut on him. His hair seemed to be getting thicker as he was aging, I noticed. It really held the cut well. I sprayed him with cologne and placed him back into his cage. Paul was right about one thing. Casey had definitely porked up over winter!

Nearly two hours had passed and Paul hadn't returned yet to pick up the dog. Right about then, the phone rang. It was Margie. "Bonnie?" she said. "Yes, Hi Margie," I replied. "Casey's all ready, but Paul isn't back yet," I told her before she could say anything else. "He said that he had to run some errands for you," I added.

"Well, that's not the problem,"

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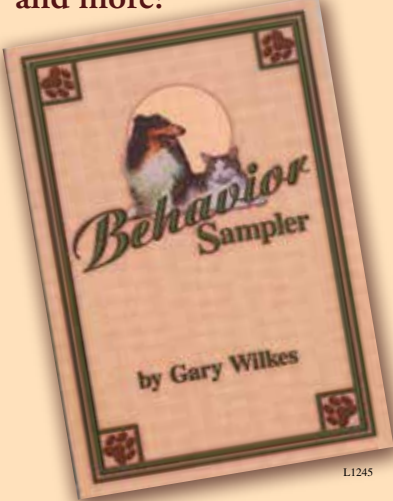
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Margie said. "You can't have Casey there, because he's here," she told me flat out. "What's going on?" she asked in total bewilderment. "No, Paul brought him in about 20 minutes early, and I groomed him. He's waiting in his cage right here," I told her with certainty. "Why do you think he's with you?" I asked feeling slightly sick in my stomach. I was afraid that something was drastically wrong with Margie now. "I don't think he's here, I know he's here. In fact he's sitting here in the kitchen looking right at me."

Whoa... now I was getting that dizzy kind of surreal feeling I sometimes get when I realize I'm in trouble... big trouble.

"Hold on a second," I told Margie. I went into the hall and picked up Casey's cage. I opened the door and pulled the dog out. Casey looked at me wagging his tail, happy as could be. I reached back and picked up the phone

again. "OK. I have him right here on the table. His hair is cut and he is fine," I told her. "Well, that's all well and good, but I tell you my dog is sitting right here," she said vehemently.

"But I have your cage here with his name written on it. It's your cage," I told her. "I don't know what's going on! You might have my cage, but you definitely don't have my dog!" she said rather loudly. "OK, now this is freaking me out," I told her. "Likewise," was Margie's only response at that point.

"Well, I don't have a clue as to what's going on. I'll have Paul call you as soon as he gets in here," was all I knew to say. "Yes, please do," Margie said. I hung up the phone and stood there kind of blankly looking at the dog on the table. As far as I remembered, the dog certainly looked like Casey. Longer hair than I was used to seeing on him and, OK, maybe a little bigger. Holy cow, I had no idea

which of us was in the most trouble, but I had a feeling it was going to be Paul. I thought really hard and gave out other dogs as I waited impatiently for Paul to get back. I did recall him saying that he had picked Casey's cage up on the porch with him already in it. What could the odds possibly be that Casey had a twin somewhere who had crawled into the empty cage on their porch? So slim, I thought that there had to be another explanation. It just was way too coincidental.

Finally, after several more calls from Margie and almost three hours in passing, Paul showed up. I practically scared him to death when I yanked the front door open before he had a chance to get his hand on the door-knob. "Something's really wrong!" I exclaimed as I turned to get Casey's cage from the hallway. "Did something happen to the dog?" Paul asked with eyes open wide. "Not really... yes...

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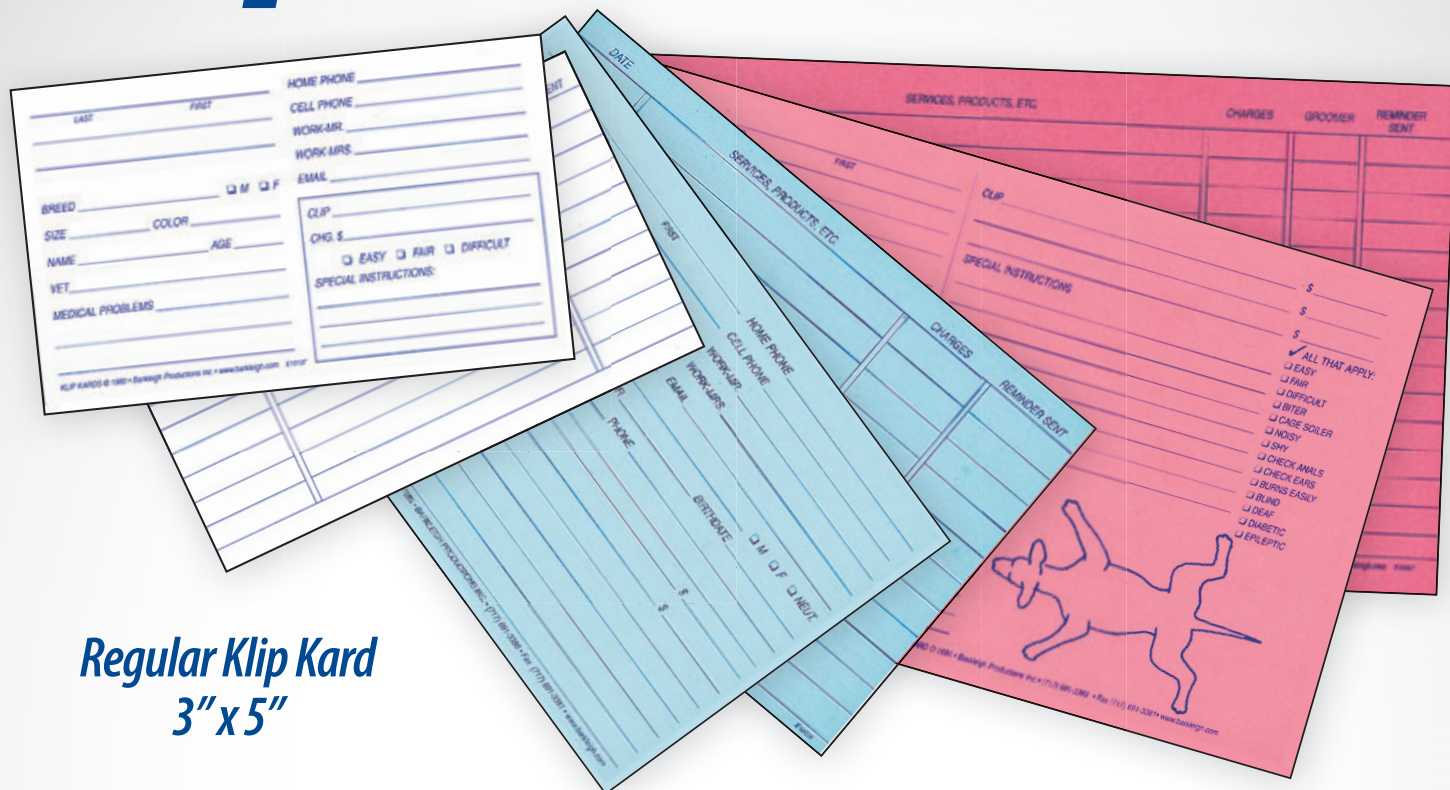
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no... I don't know!" I stammered as I pulled the dog from the cage. "Is this Casey?" I asked as I practically shoved the ShihTzu into the man's face. Paul took a step back. "What? Heck yes, it's him. Why would you ask somethin' like that?" he asked looking totally shocked. "What's wrong boy?" Paul asked the dog as he reached out to take him from me. "Whoa... wait... Casey's got a white leg. This dog doesn't," Paul said taken aback. "You got him mixed up with another dog," he said.

"That was a good one though, you almost had me fooled," Paul remarked shaking his head as he let out a laugh. "Oh, it's not me that had you fooled. You need to call Margie right away. She said Casey's at home with her. I have no idea whos dog this is, but it's the one that you brought here in that cage. Now Paul's eyes were really open wide. "How in the heck could I have got the wrong dog?" he asked me. I handed him the phone and he called

his wife. Their conversation was pretty much a repeat of the one that I had earlier with Margie. After Paul hung up he leaned on the counter shaking his head. "I don't have any idea where this dog came from," he said. "I got a bad feeling about this though," he said. "Could it have been that one of your neighbor's dogs crawled into the cage while it was on your porch and you just assumed that it was Casey?" I asked. Paul looked thoughtful for a minute and started shaking his head. "That's so farfetched, but I guess it could have happened like that... it MUST have happened like that," he responded thoughtfully. "What do I do now?" he asked me. Apparently, I must have looked like I had a good answer. "I guess you take this one home and see if somebody's turned you in for dog napping," I offered. "REAL funny," he responded. "I'll vouch for you if you wind up in the pokey," I offered. With that, he picked up the carrier and its

occupant and left for home. Poor Paul. He did look kind of scared.

The next morning when I arrived back to work, I had a message from Margie. Evidently, I am akin to the amazing Kreskin. After many phone calls made amongst their neighbors, Margie & Paul learned that Casey #2 actually belonged to someone in their development several streets away. As for me, being the amazing mystery sleuth that I am must have pretty much nailed it on the head. The imposter dog had gone off on a tour of the neighborhood and decided to nap in Casey's comfy, fur lined cage. Without taking a good look, Paul had assumed that it was Casey and trucked him in for his haircut.

All ended up fine and Paul and Margie now have new friends in the neighborhood. Me, I'm thinking of a line of mug shots for dogs... just in case. ☺

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GUESS WHAT... BEAGLE BUTT!

by Dawn Omboy
www.queenofcolor.com

Some days you just feel like playing because as groomers, you all know we get to play with dogs all day. Did you ever just want to take your trimmer and outline the natural markings on a dog just to see what silly design you could make of it? For instance, I have a Parti Poodle named Petie that I groom every two weeks. I just love Petie and all his little Parti Poodle quirks. Petie has a natural fish on his body right over his back and the fish tail is Petie's own tail. Oh how I would just love to take my Wahl Bravura and just outline that

fish then glue an eye on it, add some glitter to the tail and watch that fish appear to shimmer and swim as the tail wags. Ah but I best not as I don't think Petie's Mom would appreciate it. However, Marzipan the Beagle who belongs to 16 year old Wesley Frank is quite another story. Marzipan was staying with us for a few days while Wes was on spring break and since his mom is my sister Monique, I knew I could get away with anything when it comes to something fun and creative on Marzi. So here she sits on my table after her bath and I am removing the

dead undercoat she is blowing. **(Fig.1 & 2)** When I started looking at her natural markings and thinking hmmmmm, the last I had Marzi on my table I used pink PetPaint to color in her thong. This time I used my Bravura, the blade is adjustable. I had it set to the closest cutting setting and with the edge of the blade I carefully cut in the bottom of the white marking from the outside working in towards the top of her tail **(Fig.3)**. Next, I repeated this on the opposite side and all of the sudden I could see eyebrows and a big nose **(Fig.4)** the nose of course

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG. 7



FIG. 8



FIG. 9

being her tail that was half brown. That lead me to cutting in eye sockets with patches of hair left in the center for the eyeballs (**Fig.5**) in the really tight areas I used the little tattoo trimmer from Wahl. Now for the nose I simply outlined where the dark hair met the light (**Fig.6**) by touching the blade straight down into the coat. Cutting into a flat coat can be a little tricky since there is no fluff to forgive your mistakes so be careful to keep your

lines straight and precise. With that done I touched the blade straight into the coat further down to create the illusion of a mouth. This beagle butt was hilarious! To make it really pop, I used some Bling it On glue to secure gold tone stones to the center of the eyeball tufts of hair and then using black India ink I airbrushed all the cut in areas and a bit around stones too for better visual effect. (**Fig.7**) By the time I finished, this dog had us laughing so

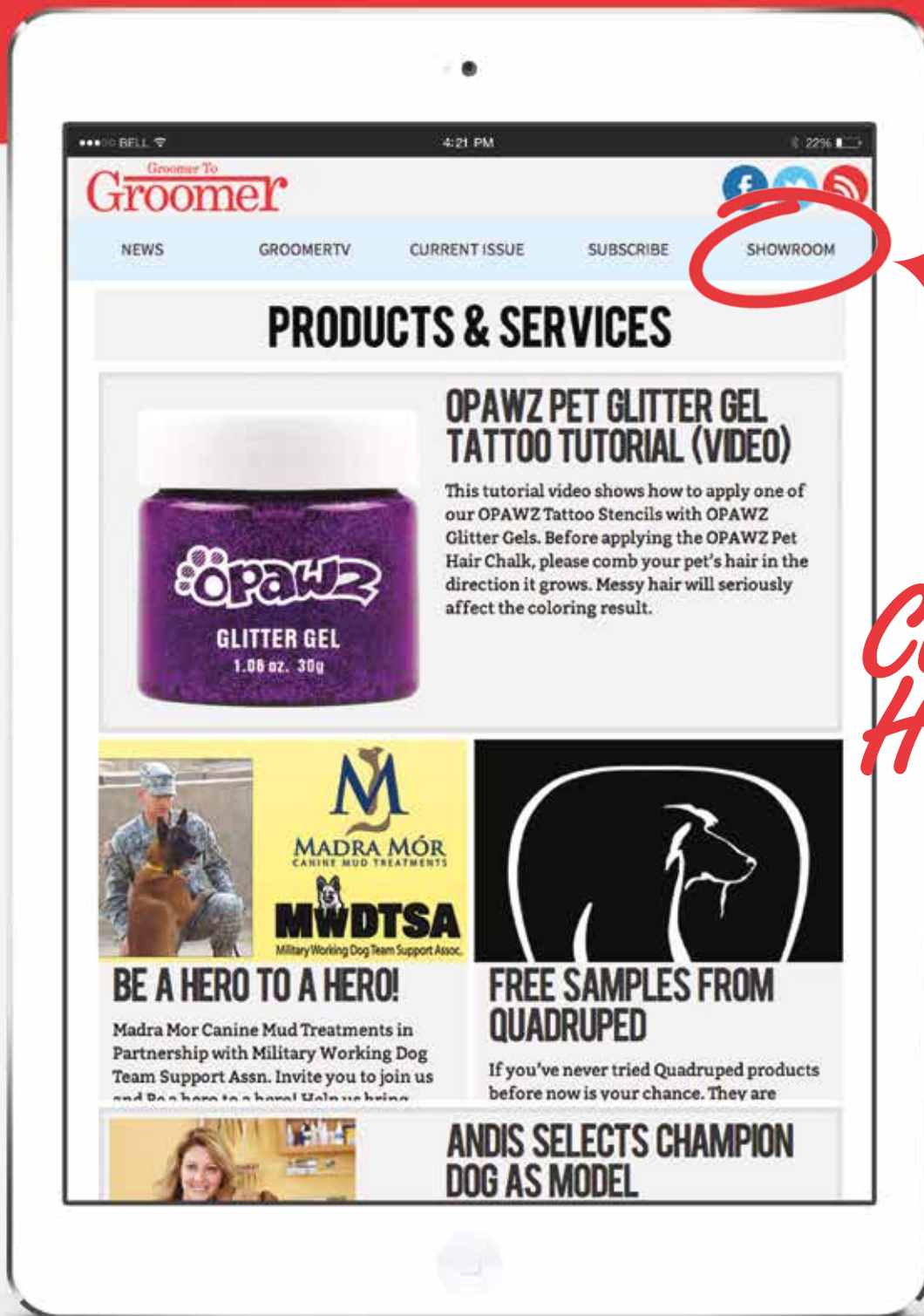
hard she was smiling at us coming and going and it was really fun to watch her hiney change expression when she sat down! (**Fig.9 & 10**) I got to tell you this is the best job in the world, never a dull moment in the wonderful world of grooming. I can't wait to see Wesley's reaction to the Beagle butt looking like a real wise... owl. ☺

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The show, taking place June 12-15 in Wilmington Ohio will feature a Rescue Roundup competition, an all-star line-up of speakers, a wide variety of vendors (including several offering “cash & carry”), Groom Team sanctioned contest, a creative grooming competition, and unlimited opportunities to socialize and recharge with your peers.

Since its debut at Groom & Kennel Expo in February, the IPG Salon Certification Course has been very popular. This important program will be presented on Thursday from noon

to 4pm. In addition to the great education provided in the class, it is the perfect opportunity for salon owners to demonstrate to their community that you take your education seriously. Based on recent news stories and proposed legislation that is becoming increasingly important.

Other seminar highlights include Lisa Leady doing her popular Passionate Groomer seminar, Groom Team USA superstar Lindsey Dicken grooming a bichon, Angela Kumpe on creative styling Groomer Has It judge and Dogs 101 host Joey Villani on business and Groomer Has It season 1 runner up Jonathan David conducting a poodle scissoring seminar. And, of course, when Jay Scruggs is not hosting GroomerTV, he will be conducting a few seminars.

Besides the Asian Freestyle demo, other anticipated topics include brusher bather, pet health, business, marketing, customer and employee relations and much more. For those choosing not to take classes, there are always free demos taking place in vendor booths.

Friday and Saturday will feature four Groom Team sanctioned classes. Everyone from first timers to Groom Team USA gold member winners will share the stage – in different divisions, of course. With more room to spread out than most shows and a laid back feel, PetQuest offers groomers an ideal opportunity to take the plunge and jump in the ring for the first time.

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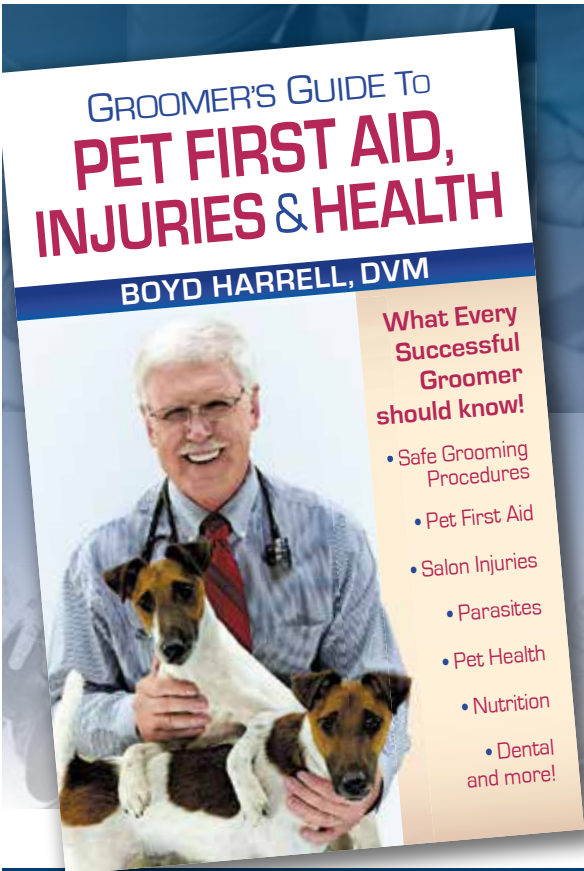
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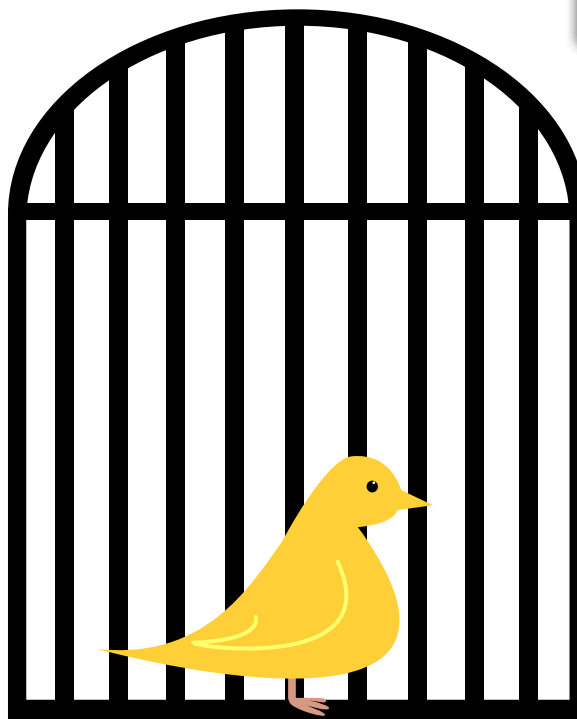
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Saying

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Johnny Ray Gearhart had some rough times in his early years. “My father put me on the street when I was 12 ... I was an addict. Then I started to attend a 12 Step program. I still go to this day. Someone put me in their house, set some rules on me, taught me a new way to live. He had me look for a job, and he wanted me to take an HIV test. Two weeks later it came back positive. My T cell count was so high they told me I was ‘too far gone’ to treat. I got so sick. I’d stand up at meetings and say, ‘I’m dying.’ Someone at a meeting got me in with a program that was testing a new drug for HIV. My counts went up, I got better, and they gave me a year to live.

That was 20 years ago!

“During this time I was so sick that I spent a lot of time just in bed. I had a little Love Bird to keep me company. Someone got me a second one to be its mate. Turns out I had two girls. I put an ad in the paper to sell one, and I got lots of interest. So I had an idea. I sold some and bought some more and sold more. I started picking up used bird cages, and selling birds. I wasn’t supposed to do that where I was, and the cops told me I had to stop. I started taking my birds to a local swap meet. Within two years I had 12 spots at that meet!

“Then I opened a place in North Hollywood, called The Bird House. That

went well, and I moved to a bigger space. Local people wanted to know if I sold dog items. The store next to me went out of business, so I took over that space and changed my business to Bird House Dog House. We sold dog food and supplies. I wanted to offer grooming, but I didn’t know how to groom. So I went to school and learned how. Now I own two stores, one in Studio City, run by my partner, Tim Kahler.”

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Model: Saddle Babby 🐾 Stylist: Kathleen Sepulveda 🐾 Photographer: Heart Dog Studios

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They have to go to meetings. They have to have drug tests." For 20 years people trying to change their lives have been offered a chance. "I can usually see in someone's attitude. Some make it. Some don't. Some do for a while then relapse. That's not uncommon. I have a pretty good bull- sensor. I ask that they do what is required of them. I tell

them, 'If you don't want to work here it's that simple.' I try to set them up for success. If they are not willing, it tells me they are not ready. I know I can't save everybody, I can only help the ones that let me." He has given hundreds of people a chance to learn the skills he shares. Imagine it... hundreds of people.

He does not only try to rescue people, though. During all these years Johnny Ray has rescued his fair share of animals, as well. "I've always done rescue, out of pocket. Any kind of animal at all, not just dogs. Finally, I started a 501C called Dog House Rescue." (There are plans in the works to take this to a whole new level, but that story will have to wait for another article!)

The common theme in Johnny Ray's life seems to be, 'to serve.' "We are very community oriented. We like to help other people. I believe I get to keep what I have by helping others. Of course I need to make money to live, but my goal is to give back, as well. Here is an example. There is this guy that has been in and out of a nursing home. He has kidney failure and heart failure. He had a messy house, full of animals. We got it clean, got surgery for one of his dogs that had eaten a bird toy and had a blockage. We nursed it back to health. It was a walking skeleton before the surgery. We have volunteers to do this, we call them 'Team Clean.' When that guy is well enough, he comes home and things are taken care of. His animals have been taken care of." At some point that man won't be able to come home, but Johnny Ray and Team Clean will no doubt help those animals find homes.

As Johnny Ray's story poured out, I had to ask him. What drives him to do all that he does? He paused, and said, "That's a really good question. I honestly believe it keeps me alive. Here is an example. I'd been feeling



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sick, chronic ear infections, throat problems, and sinus trouble. I went to several different doctors. Turns out I have blood cancer. But here I am, after 20 years of being of service to others. I'm being treated. I figure, I am doing the right things, but God is in charge. Things will come together the way they are supposed to be."

His latest mission is to help the street dogs in Tijuana, Mexico. The goal is to collect 150 street dogs, spay/neuter them, groom them, treat them for parasites and have the sickest ones placed in foster homes for more advanced treatment. "I've been attacked by some people on Facebook. They asked why I wanted to help dogs there, and not the dogs here in the U.S.? I had to try to explain, the dogs don't know what country they live in. They

just need help. There are thousands of sick, starving dogs there." A woman from New York heard of the efforts to help the Mexican dogs and contacted Johnny Ray. "She vacations in Mexico, and she knows what the situation is like there. She feeds the street dogs when she goes there, and feels despair about them. She contributed very generously to help. So we named the project Love Mary Lea. But here is the good news. When I got her contribution I had this odd feeling. I felt poor. I didn't understand that, when I had just been given this amazing gift. So I sat a while, in the dark. For two hours I just sat there, alone with my thoughts. Then I realized, I have done so much in the past, with so little. And I had been given much so I could do more. And I realized, sometimes you just have to

say thank you. So I did. I said 'Thank you, God.' And from the bird room, in the dark, I heard my male Cockatoo say, "I love you, Johnny."

To contribute to the Tijuana project, check out Operation Love Mary Lea on Facebook, or check out Johnny Ray Gearharts Facebook page. ☺



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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

≡ PART 3 ≡

✧ by Mary Oquendo ✧

What is your recourse in the event of a disaster?
There are many resources that may offer assistance.

PERSONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Adding \$20 a week to an emergency fund amounts to \$1,040 a year. In ten years, that is over \$10,000. Seems like a lot of money to put away, doesn't it? A study done at <http://money.msn.com/now/what-americans-spend-on-lunch> shows that the average person spends about \$936 a year on eating out at lunch. That figure does not include breakfast on the road, coffee or snack runs, and soda. Brown bagging your lunch is not only healthier for you, but is an easy way to start an emergency fund. I challenge everyone

for one week to keep track on money spent on eating out.

BUSINESS AND HOMEOWNER INSURANCE

I recommend talking to your insurance agent on what your policy covers. Or more importantly, what does your policy not cover. After the fact is not the time to discover you are not covered. Several years ago, I assumed my vehicle had full glass coverage. Then a side window blew up. I submitted an insurance claim that was denied. From that point on, I read my

policy and called my agent at renewal time. It is important to have business information updated. If your business structure has changed and you have not notified your carrier, you may not be covered for anything even though you paid your premium. For example, if you started out as a sole proprietor and then changed to a Limited Liability Company (LLC).

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Once an area has been declared an emergency, FEMA steps in to respond

and coordinate the recovery process. They will have local offices for home and business owners to file for financial assistance and low cost loans to rebuild. Their website is www.fema.gov. This website is filled with pertinent information from pre-planning to help after a disaster whether it is a natural, man-made, or an act of terrorism. The local and state governments through their Emergency Management Offices will work in conjunction with FEMA.

RED CROSS

The Red Cross is a little different from most organizations as it is chartered by the United States Congress to "carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same."

The Red Cross provides immediate sheltering, food, and medical care for people affected by the disaster. They also are a means of communications between people inside a disaster zone and family members on the outside.

Every year, the Red Cross responds to over 70,000 disasters worldwide and relies on donations. For more information, visit www.redcross.org.

STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAMS (SART)

While it is the Red Cross's responsibility to care for people during a disaster, it is the job of SART to care for any affected animals. SART will set up



[The Groomers' Emergency Assistance Fund] was created on July 4, 2013, with the purpose of having a centralized "location" to be of assistance to groomers in the USA that are facing hardships due to unforeseen, catastrophic circumstance.

An advertisement for Sensei Shear Systems. The background is a vibrant red with a subtle circular pattern. At the top, the brand name "SENSEI" is written in large, white, bold letters, with "SHEAR SYSTEMS" in smaller white letters below it. To the right of the English text is the Japanese characters "先生" (Sensei) in a stylized red font. Below the text, three pairs of professional grooming scissors are displayed: a long-handled straight razor, a comb, and a pair of standard grooming scissors. In the bottom right corner, there is a cartoon illustration of a grey and white dog wearing a red gi and a black headband with a red "S" emblem. At the bottom of the ad, a black banner contains the text "SENSEI TRIO SETS" in white, followed by "SAVE UP TO \$189.90!" in yellow. Below this, the website "www.senseidog.com" is listed in white.

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emergency sheltering and provide food and veterinary care. SART is made up of volunteers and depends on donations as well. Your local Emergency Management Office will have information on your local SART.

GROOMERS' EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND (GEAF)

Ileana Nogueras started the GEAF. "Since Hurricane Sandy hit the US Eastern shore in 2012, I've been thinking about a better way to help groomers hit by this sort of tragedy. Then came the flooding in the Northeast and the tornadoes in Oklahoma. I knew then it was time to put my thoughts into action. That's when the Groomers' Emergency Assistance Fund was born."

GEAF was created on July 4, 2013, with the purpose of having a centralized "location" to be of assistance to

groomers in the USA that are facing hardships due to unforeseen, catastrophic circumstance.

The GEAF is a 501c3 charity and is governed by seven board members. The current board members are Ileana Nogueras, Daryl Conner, Judi Cantu Thacker, Ellen Erhlich, Dawn Omboy, Jennifer Walker, and Mary Oquendo. To learn more or to donate, visit their website at <http://www.geaf2013.org> and Facebook page at Groomers Emergency Assistance Fund.

GROOMERS FOR GROOMERS

Groomers For Groomers is headed up by Misty Gieczys, along with Betty Day, Lisa Leadly, and Sandy Hartness. They started out as the Oklahoma Twister Relief For Groomers to help the groomers who lost so much in the twisters. They auctioned off over 200 items raising over \$16,000.

"We want groomers to know we are there for them. Many of us have been paying it forward because the grooming community was there with words of encouragement, love and donations when we needed it. With a community behind you, your never truly alone and that's what we want people to feel."

They are in the process of applying for their 501c3 status. For more information or to make a donation, visit their Facebook page at Groomers For Groomers Fund.

While I hope you never have to use any of these resources, it is comforting to know that they are there for us. <3

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Rescue Remedy and a chicken sandwich, we were back. Josh was regaining his strength, but we had set out of the competition and lost valuable time. I wasn't sure if I could complete him with the time I had left. Kathy Rose announced "scissors down" just as I added a couple feathers for a headpiece. After all that coat growth, I just didn't have time to finish what I had planned. We still managed to get third place and the coveted People's Choice Award. Lori again got first place, and the "Lion King" managed to remain undefeated.

I decided to go ahead and take the design to one more show: Atlanta Pet Fair. I just had to complete this design that I had worked so hard to perfect. Just a couple weeks before Atlanta, my mother passed away; I was devastated. I had no intentions of going anywhere, especially so soon after her death. My mother was my soul, my greatest fan, my seamstress, and my inspiration. In the days before Atlanta, my entire family pushed me to go on and do what my mom would have wanted me to do. "She would want you to go, Angela!" is what my dad was telling me. I agreed to go but wasn't sure if I would compete. I just wasn't up to it. The night before we left, I told my dad, "I will work on my dog, and if I can do it, I will. For my mom!"

It was time to get the dogs ready, and I am sure everyone thought I had lost my mind. I just kept talking to my mom while I was working on Josh, just like she was standing there. When I was done, I was so excited. It was beautiful, and win or lose, I was happy. I pulled it together and completed the design; my mom would have been so proud. We won first place and People's Choice.



Top: Preparing for Atlanta Pet Fair just after Pasadena
- Angela thought about a more tribal eagle at first.

Middle and bottom: At Atlanta Pet Fair, where "Cherokee Heritage" took First Place



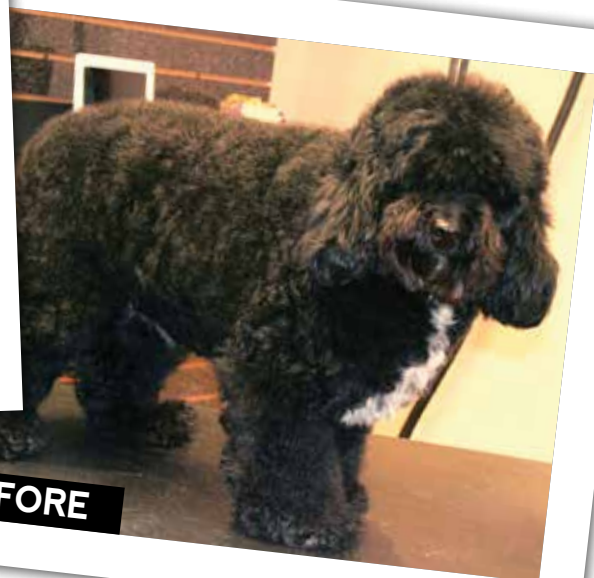
Angela Kampe, winner of the 2010 Groom & Kennel Expo People's Choice Award, with "Cherokee Heritage"

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AFTER

BREAD & BUTTER GROOMING:
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 PET TRIMS FOR THE SALON

by Kathy Rose

**BEFORE**

THE COCK-A-POO

A good portion of our “Bread & Butter” client list consists of some form of “designer” dog. The Cock-A-Poo is arguably one of the first to grace our doors as purebred mutts.

As professionals we learn to adapt and create designer trims for the designer mutts. For this segment we will do a simple and quick “puppy” Trim with the body a couple of lengths shorter than the legs and a rounded headpiece.

In my salon we use a clipper vacuum system. A vacuum system eliminates the multiple back brush-

ing required when using snap on combs. This saves time and helps you to achieve a more uniform trim. With that said, there is a learning curve while using a clipper vacuum system. A general rule of thumb: use one blade length longer while working on curly or double coats. When working on fine or open coats, use at least one length longer and depending on how open or fine the coat is, sometimes two blade lengths longer. I always advise starting your trim with the vent open. This is especially important with sparsely coated dogs.

I used a “0” comb on the body and

a “C” for the legs.

As always, meticulous preparation including thorough shampoo and fluff dry blow out are paramount. A great time saver in prep time will include the use of drying sprays lightly spritzed prior to high velocity drying. Follow up with fluff drying. Dry against the coat growth direction.

Fig. 1 Begin clipping on the sides of the neck following the coat growth direction. Leave a small triangle of coat from across the back skull culminating in a point just over the withers.

Fig. 2 Clip down the back, over the rump and tail, then down the

rear portion of the upper thigh. Fall off about two inches before reaching the hock.

Fig. 3 Clip the upper thigh inside and outside, falling off before reaching the front part of the rear leg.

Fig. 4 Clip the undercarriage against the coat growth direction all the way up through the front legs and slightly up on the fore chest.

Fig. 5 Move to the front of the dog. Beginning at the jawline, clip the fore chest.

Fig. 6 Clip down the sides and front of the shoulders. Clip over the point of shoulder, falling off before clipping into the leg coat on the upper arm. This will help to place the leg well under the dog and help to define the shoulder angulation.

Change to a longer snap on comb. I recommend two lengths longer than the comb that was used on the body. Clip the triangle of coat left at the withers as well as the remainder of the



FIG. 1



FIG. 4



FIG. 2



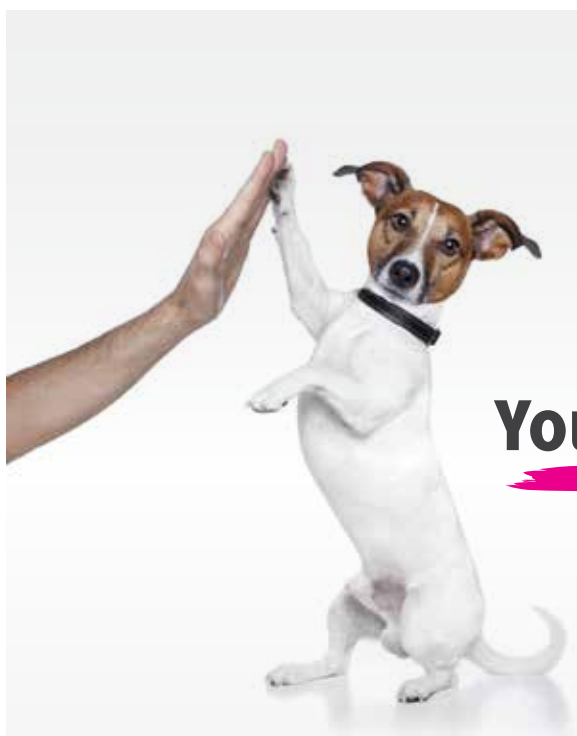
FIG. 5



FIG. 3



FIG. 6



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FIG. 7



FIG. 8

coat on all legs.

Tighten and shape the coat on the upper thighs using super blenders.

Fig. 7 Tidy the underline and topline with super blenders.

Fig. 8 With super blenders or straight shears tidy the stray hairs on the rear legs forming cylindrical parallel lines.

Fig. 9 Shape the tail into a triangle and blend into the croup using thinning shears or super blenders.

Fig. 10 Create a square foot by trimming straight across the front of the foot then trim the sides. Finish up by rounding the corners. This will help you to avoid creating a hairfoot or pointed foot.

Fig. 11 Blend the coat from the shoulders up to the neck accentuating angulation and elongating the neck.

Fig. 12 Blend the upper arm into the fore chest accentuating

shoulder angulation and defining the point of shoulder.

Fig. 13 Slightly lift the front leg and trim the stray hairs on the inside and outside lower portion of the leg.

To tighten up the straight line from the elbow to the table, trim a straight line downward.

Place fine thinning shears at the eye corners then trim the excessive coat under the eyes.

Comb the coat forward and trim in a semi-circle fashion across the fore face.

Use a comb to lift the cheek coat out then blend rounded cheeks and muzzle.

Fig. 14 Comb the ear coat up and outward and spray with a body building spray or hairspray.

Scissor the ear coat into the topknot and blend the back skull into the neck.

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FIG. 9



FIG. 12



FIG. 10



FIG. 13



FIG. 11



FIG. 14

try shaving the ears with a #5. If shaving the ear, begin shaving where the ear “breaks”, not close to the skull. You can also customize with a longer tail or pom-pom tail.

We have a plethora of cute little mutts that make up our “Bread & Butter” client list. There is not a right or wrong haircut. The most important thing to remember is communication with your client. Take the time at your initial consultation to determine the client’s wishes and the pet’s needs. Use your expertise to make recommendations that will suit all of you! ☺



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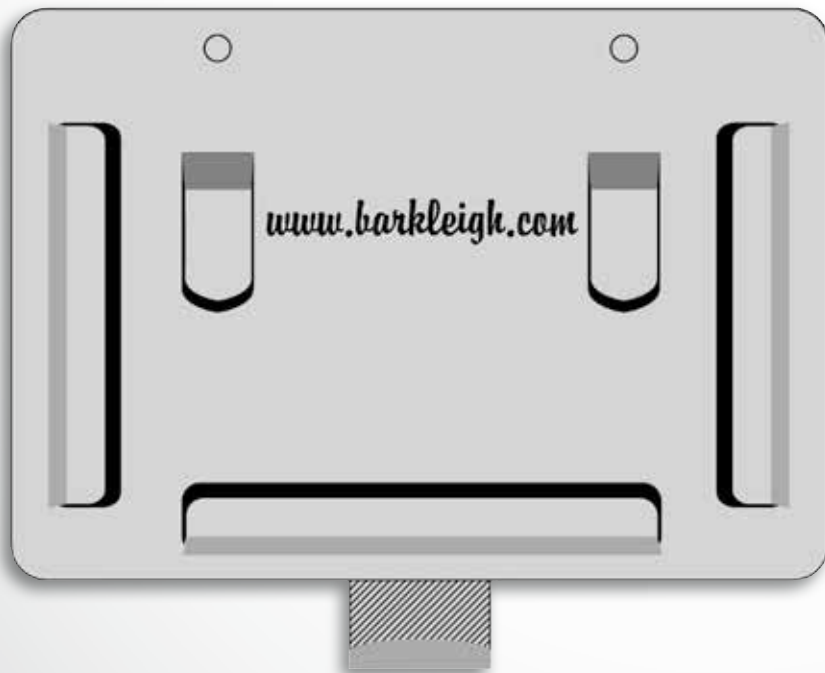


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4/23/2015 — 4/26/2015
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READER FEEDBACK

A selection of
comments taken from
our Facebook page and
the comments section of
GroomertoGroomer.com

On "Passion Play"

by Lisa Leady:

“ I love this story because I was told the same thing that I would never be able to run my own shop I have a shop on a resort area where everything is seasonal and you can't make it if you can't get through the winter. I open my shop in September, I made it through the first winter and doing real well.

— Penny L Jost

“ Thank you! This could not have come at a better time for me as I just had a baby 4 1/2 months ago and have been feeling some extreme burn out. I needed this to remind me to take a moment to be with my Standard Poo and just *enjoy* the hair cut every once in a while. I truly appreciate you sharing this and I am definitely saving this to keep reminding me why I do what I do! You're such an inspiration and value to our industry.

— Kimberly

“ Thank you so much! I am mid 50s and have glaucoma. I've had one eye removed, and have no depth perception. Last summer I went to a school and learned the basics of Pet Grooming. I have a part time job, but it is frustrating to push through the challenges; especially when there are those that don't want me working on their dogs. You are an inspiration! Thank you so much for the encouragement! I hope to attend a groom show some day!

— Roy

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**On The Northwest
Grooming Show 2014:**

“ This was my first year attending seminars and I loved it! I’ve had a great time this week trying my new shears and all the things I learned. I was thrilled to see Geib there this year! I’m excited to see how it grows next year- I

think the more we shop and support vendors, the more of them will think it’s worthwhile to make the trek to Tacoma.

— **Kaitlin Dickerson**

“ I had a wonderful time!! The classes were great and I learned a lot! I had a blast competing

in the Sporting Class and hope to do it again next year! Want to do the rescue rodeo, too! More vendors would make more people come to shop!! Thanks again for a great show! It gets better every year!

— **Heather Blomquist**

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Learning to Brush Your Pet



Photo by Sheri Haglund

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Lisa Leady, winner of the Barkleigh Honors Award for Speaker of the Year, will conduct a series of four one-hour breed demos. She says, "My goal is for everyone to leave the seminar with a renewed passion for grooming, the dogs, their customers, coworkers, and this great industry."

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