

# Q+A

Laura Amiton

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

Owner of Healthy Pets Northwest (the Alberta Street location)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN PORTLAND? WHAT DO I LOVE/HATE ABOUT IT?

I was born and raised in Portland. I did leave for three years to get my second bachelors... and then moved back.

I love how Portland seems to draw creative people to it — like a magnet. I love how open-minded we are and how crazy happy we can be.

What truly does bother me about Portland at this time is how unclean the streets are. For a moderate-sized city, not a large one, and one that claims to be so environmental, I am appalled and downright outraged at how much trash is strewn about all over the place. This is a newer problem. Portland has lost some of its pride. My first impression of our city, should I be a tourist would most certainly be littered, well, with litter.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT OR PASSION THAT NO ONE WOULD GUESS?

I am already living my passion. I love my store and my customers, both two and four-legged. A very close second would be being a women's basketball coach.

WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO IN THE GAY COMMUNITY OR HISTORICALLY?


As a teenager in the 80's, I idolized (and still do) groups like The Eurythmics, most notably, Annie Lennox. Music is such a conduit and Annie, being so open-minded herself and so androgynous — I was just mesmerized. There was someone who stood for being different and it just resonated with me on so many levels.

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED GAY BASHING?

The most noticeable was when I was fired from my first job out of college. I know it was because they found out I was gay. The reason I was told never lined up and I was pretty angry for a long time and I let it play with my self esteem for far too long. §

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Let's sit down over coffee and chat about your goals!

*Brad Wulf*

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