

Dog washing services hit a stride in Astoria

By Abbey McDonald
Coast River Business Journal

For six years, The Dog Wash Waggin' was the only mobile dog grooming service in Astoria. In the past year, the city gained two more.

For owner Anna Mathews, the competition was welcome. They swap tips for how to approach unique coats and share clients.

"Right before I found out they were going to be starting, I was booked solid. I had calls I couldn't get back to and it was really overwhelming," Mathews said. "There's a lot of groomers in town, and they're

Dog Wash Waggin' in 2015, after a 14-year-long grooming career. Before she died in April 2020, she trained her daughter to take over the business.

"Everybody loved her, and we had a lot of customers," Mathews said. "I think I learned from the best."

Mathews loves getting to know her clients, and will groom around four dogs a day. The business' Facebook page is full of spiffy, freshly groomed dogs and adoring commenters.

"I love dogs. They just make every day fun," Mathews said.

Wag and Wander Mobile Grooming Studio

Seven months ago, Crystal Moody, the second mobile groomer, renovated a camper to start Wag and Wander Mobile Grooming Studio.

"I think I groomed almost every dog on this street when it first opened," she said.

As she talked, she soothed "Sis," a neighbor's terrier mix puppy who was seeing her for the second time. While working, she sings and talks to the dogs, which helps calm them. It's a much better environment for both dog and groomer, she said.

When Sis whined, Moody offered her a treat, which the puppy was unimpressed by. "You liked the other ones last time, huh," she said to the puppy. "I'm sorry I don't have anymore."

A few years ago, Moody quit the grooming industry after nearly two decades of work because of the overwhelming workload and limited time

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Getting your dog washed

The Dog Wash Waggin'
thedogwashwaggin.business.site or 503-440-6225

Wag and Wander Mobile Grooming Studio

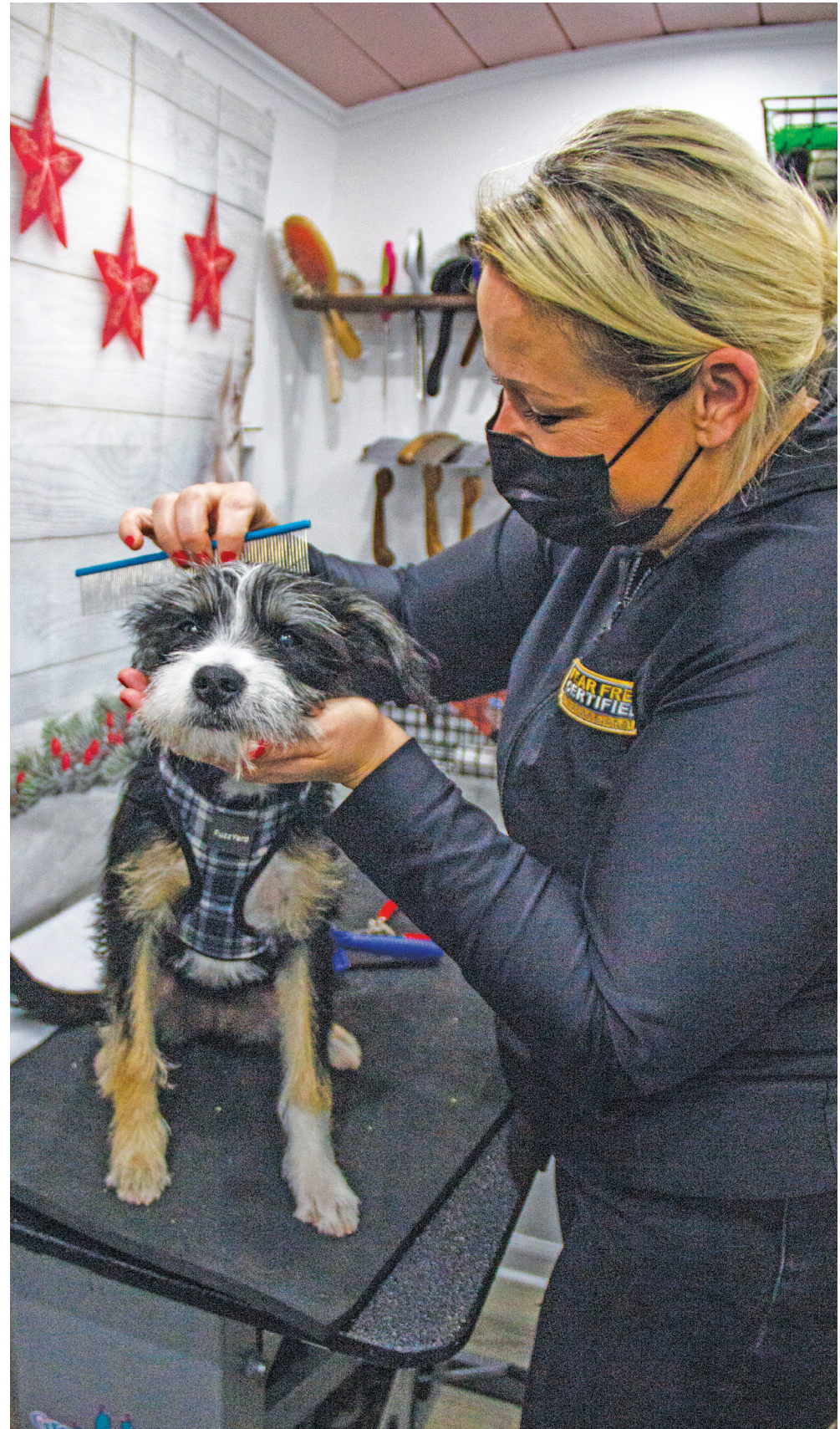
wagandwanderstudio.com

Mighty Mutts Mobile Grooming
bit.ly/3oKQTGh or 503-440-7240

busy too, but it's a totally different service."

The three mobile groomers, two with vans and one with a trailer, are fitted with the tools to wash, dry, cut and primp dogs' coats. Their house calls make grooming accessible for customers with busy schedules or disabilities.

Mathews' mom, Karen Lincoln, launched the



PHOTOS BY ABBEY McDONALD

LEFT: Crystal Moody, owner of Wag and Wander Mobile Grooming Studio, dries 'Sis' the terrier mix's hair from inside her renovated van. **RIGHT:** Moody combs 'Sis'.