

Dog people versus cat people

Linda Barr Batdorf
Contributing Writer

There are those people who love dogs and those who adore cats and some, like my Mom, who love any creature that's feathered or furry (Mom can cuddle a chicken for Pete's sake). While I think that cats have many fine qualities — like having combs on their tongues and their tidy habit of using a cat-bathroom — I am basically a dog person.

So how do those who are true cat people manage to affably co-exist with dog people vis-a-vis?

When I was in the 6th grade I was a cat person because my best friend, Penny Jean Wilson, was a cat person. OK, I was a weenie and sort of followed the crowd on this one, but I came to love my cat Chuck, even if he just looked kind of bored and yawned most of the time. He never acted happy to see me and would run away for months at a time after my sister Shirley accidentally sat on him one day. He was never quite the same after that.

Even though she sat on old Chuck, Shirley is a cat person.

She can walk down a busy city street and cats follow her like the pied cat piper. Shirl has a voice she uses for cats that sounds just like most cats look. Just imagine it.

Over the years, Shirley and I have developed an entire repertoire of pseudo-animal voices and songs for each of our pets, proving the theory that dog AND cat people can be seriously mentally ill.

You can imagine the turmoil created in our household as we grew up with one sister being a serious cat person and the other a dog person.

Her cats would shed, sleep and poop in the laundry basket, walk around looking bored and wake up with a start when she forgot to look in the easy chair and sat on them.

My little peek-a-pom, Tiki, was charming, well-mannered, brilliant and could not be broken of a disgusting habit of pooping over by our stereo. Only when any

living thing happened to look in the general direction of our home did he yap like a fiend with his dog-wife and several dog-children. This was a sound that could awaken the dead and probably did for several counties over.

One Sunday morning, Tiki and his charming dog-family had as usual, done their doggie duty all over the floor by our stereo. Shirley came in the room, disgusted and requested that I clean it up. Being a sorry, manipulative sophomore in high school I said sure, if she'd go out and get the Sunday paper. This seemed like an incredible deal to her and she made for the door.

Some dog people have a little mean streak in them.

As she walked down our driveway and to the paper box, I grabbed up the doggie-doo and flushed it down the you-know. I quickly washed my hands and dashed into the kitchen for some brownie dough that was in the fridge. After some artistic shaping of the brownie dough, I rushed back into the front room and acted as if I was just leaning over to pick up the dog deposit from the floor with a paper towel as Shirley made her way into the house, newspaper in hand.

"I've got the paper," she said, in her own cat-loving little



way.

"Here's the dooder," I replied, "now what do you want me to do with it?"

"I don't care what you do with it!" she said, "just get rid of it!" On that wonderful cue line, I ate it.

As a dog lover, that was the best practical joke I ever played

on anyone and I thought that Shirley was going to faint. It was great.

It was great until one of her cats — all on its own — put a live snake in my bed.

Dog people and cat people can peacefully co-exist in the same household, but they've got to keep their guard up.

An inside look at the groundskeepers at CCC

Megan Friedow
Staff Writer

Have you ever taken the time to stop and appreciate the scenery or wonder who deserves the credit for Clackamas Community College's well-groomed grounds?

Tom Powell and Mickey Bergeron, groundskeepers, are the two individuals responsible for the upkeep and maintenance on the CCC campus.

Powell initially came to CCC to further his education following his employment with a com-

mercial landscaping company. He has been on the CCC maintenance crew for five years.

Powell has had the opportunity to participate in the classroom teaching students the fundamentals of this particular field of study. He focused on pruning, vertical mulching and identifying suitable areas to perform labs.

Both Powell and Bergeron are working closely with the horticulture classes organizing and assisting with the material for the ongoing perennial garden.

Bergeron has been at CCC for two years following seven years at Mount Hood Community College and also at a commercial landscaping company. She has a two-year degree in Ornamental Horticulture.

Both Powell and Bergeron have 15 years background experience pertaining to this job.

They would both like to pursue teaching careers.

"I find the land at CCC to be much more interesting and the maintenance practices are more

horticulturally correct," said Bergeron.

Their job title goes beyond that of groundskeeper. They are involved in several aspects of installation, minor and major repair jobs, plumbing and basically anything that requires special attention on the CCC grounds.

Due to budget cuts, they are unable to work overtime on Saturdays as they had in the past, but still continue to work a five day week doing what they enjoy most.

"It is a great atmosphere to work in. Everyone is nice and we always receive a lot of compliments," Powell said.

Both Bergeron and Powell agreed it was a never-ending process. Each season leads into a new cycle of duties.

Fall and Spring seemed to be the busier seasons as leaves are falling and weeds are sprouting, yet they were not complaining. The winter months begin the process of draining and weathering pipes, along with shutting down the irrigation.

Their main goal, "is to keep the areas and surrounding grounds looking nice for as long as possible."

One of CCC's more prominent problems is the combined nuisance of seagulls and the wind dispersing the campus garbage around the parking lots.

Other than that, they didn't really have any complaints. They said it was difficult to find anything wrong or things to drastically change.

About cigarette butts, Powell

replied, "I wouldn't say it is a problem-just time consuming.

"We dedicate a lot of time on a regular basis to pick them up, so we try to prevent it from becoming troublesome," he added.

They said improvements depend on funding, but currently they are just concentrating on doing the best they can with what resources they have.

"I want the student body to continue to enjoy the campus," Bergeron said, as they both commented on the great appreciation expressed by the campus community.

"I don't feel responsible. It is a beautiful campus that takes care of itself. We are just here to help it along," agreed Powell.



Photo by Paul Ulmen

Groundskeepers Tom Powell and Mickey Bergeron work to keep the campus looking immaculate year round as well as assisting the horticulture classes with their perennial garden.

Campus will
be CLOSED
December
22-25

Happy
Holidays
from
The
Clackamas
Print