



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Soapy Dogs!

"I owned my first store when I was 17-years-old," said industrious entrepreneur Darren, "and since 1983 I've developed and manufactured cosmetics and pet products."

I supplied the products to other stores, and one of my best clients, 'Woofles and Meowz', is located in one of Vancouver, BC's busiest tourist areas, on Granville Island.

When the owner mentioned that his store was for sale, I made 'no bones' about buying it — and bought it three days later. No one would complain if I brought my dog to work, so buying it was a 'no brainer'. I could earn money, spend time with my dog and make other pet lovers and their dogs happy.

Customers were happy to see my dog — especially tourists, because many hadn't seen their pets in awhile and they were missing happy-tail-wagging-welcomes.

The store also introduced me to a business and life partner! One day a friend arrived, with his friend, Cameron, and on the seventh anniversary of our first date, Cameron and I were married."

After owning the pet shop for six years, they sold it because Darren was 'itching' to promote his own soap creations. So he and Cameron opened the "Soap Gallery," which is also located on Granville Island.

"I enjoy the freedom of creating specialty items," said Darren, "like our realistic Sprinkle Chocolate Donuts, Pineapple-Kiwi Cheesecake and Cherry Coconut Cake soaps".

Not kidding! Darren artistically designs life size soaps that look more 'real' than gourmet cakes and food! His delicious looking creations nourish the skin and are pleasing to the eye, err, appetite, but don't eat



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"
Cameron and Darren hold their Toy Yorkie soapy-sales staff and international tourist attractions, Pippi and Riley.

them! If you do, it is like washing your mouth out with soap... and you'll froth with foam like a rabid dog!

"We discovered that selling soap products," said Darren, "is easier than selling pet products! Not everyone has a pet, but everyone uses soap! Our natural-gentle formulas are different than 'normal' store soaps because they are pH balanced for human skin and pets' more alkaline skin. For pets, we add essential/fragrance oils as flea and tick inhibitors, then pour them into adorable multi-colored paw-print soap bars!"

"We have soap making demonstrations/classes and our soaps have been sold to tourists from almost every country," said Cameron. "You might say that our products are 'cleaning up' the world!"

Yes! As a tourist, I bought gifts for the family and cats' baths for soft skin and clean fur!

"We enjoy having our pets at work," adds Cameron, "and enjoy it too! They are 'little' social creatures. Most working people have to leave their beloved pets home alone, all day, but ours are constant company. As good as our products are, many people walk in the store not to see us but to visit with our dogs!"

Yes! So true! Their two itty-bitty-Tea-cup Yorkies, Pippi, seven-years-old, and Riley, five-years-old, are customer magnets that instantly attracted me at their West Vancouver farmer's market location! I noticed the windup-furry-toy looking dogs, all four pounds of them, THEN the soaps, and purr-chased several colorful-handmade Canadian people and pet products.

"Cameron and I are advocates of pet rescue organizations," said Darren. "Each dog breed has certain traits and our two wee rescues are perfect. They charm us and our customers.

Don't buy animals from pet stores which contributes to the horrific puppy and kitten mill situations. Instead adopt deserving pets from rescue shelters.

It is a mistake to assume that older rescued pets are damaged; not trainable or must be allowed to act out or keep a learned bad behavior. Renaming them releases them from their past life experiences, so that they can gracefully move into their new life with you. As a dog trainer, I learned that dogs quickly relearn a new name — especially when food and treats are involved.

Pippi and Riley are pure joy and 'usually' obedient pets that

keep us laughing and guessing. They are not allowed to sleep on the bed but 'every' morning I wake up to a four-pound furry creature tranquilly resting on his back - on my pillow. Riley casually rolls his black button eyes in my direction, and has an adorable quizzical look that seem to ask, "What?! Is there a problem?"

We treat our dogs the way we want to be treated - with the utmost of respect. They feel safe, secure, happy, and are well adjusted members of our family. They are trained with positive influences, not carried around all the time, not allowed to act out of fear or indecision, and fed a healthy diet. It took almost no time to have our two little rescues become smart, funny, and well socialized. Pippi and Riley' gift is their charm. They will never be guard dogs, but we wish they could be trained to make our morning coffee!"

TIPS

"When a cat plays with an organic wool catnip toy, it keeps its teeth clean!" teaches creator Darren.

*** Yes! Bought some catnip balls gifts for our spoiled kitties, who held down the fort at home! (Thankfully they left their live baby possum pets outside while we are on holiday!)

If you can't be a Vancouver tourist, purr-chase natural soaps from vendors in your area.

Tell us your FUR-tastic pet tale or helpful pet tips.
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South Lane Mental Health gets grant for parenting classes

South Lane Mental Health was recently chosen as one of several first-time recipients of a Children's Trust Fund of Oregon grant. The \$10,000-per-year, two-year award will help underwrite several 10-week sessions of parenting classes offered for free to Cottage Grove area families. Secure Kids, Successful Futures features Circle of Security, an internationally recognized program that helps parents and caregivers understand and meet their child's needs in a healthy loving way.

Classes will be held Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. starting Oct. 6 at the Cottage Grove Lane Community College campus in conjunction with A Primary Connection and South Lane School District. Free dinner and childcare are available. The first 10-week session will be for Spanish speakers with another series of classes for English speakers to start in January. Those interested in pre-registering for either can call A Primary Connection at (541) 942-4967. Class sizes are limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Circle of Security was designed for parents of young children; however, expectant parents and those with older children who are interested in improved family relationships

are welcome to attend the class.

The Children's Trust Fund fulfills its mission of strengthening families by making strategic investments in community-based programs. The Fund is supported by thousands of Oregonians who donate through the "Prevent Child Abuse" charitable tax check-off, workplace giving campaigns, and other private contributions from foundations, businesses and individuals.

For more information about the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon, including a full list of 2015-2017 funded partners, call (503) 222-7102 or visit www.ctfo.org.

South Lane Mental Health, established in 1988, provides counseling, crisis response, and case and medication management for 1,700 Cottage Grove area adults and children each year. A Primary Connection is South Lane School District's family resource center. Since 1990, A Primary Connection has emphasized family support, child development and child and domestic abuse prevention along with crisis intervention and referral services. For more information, call (541) 942-4967 or visit <http://www.parentpartnership.org/primary-connections-resource-center/>.

PeaceHealth administers sports physicals

Last week, PeaceHealth Medical Group in Cottage Grove and Creswell partnered with the local schools to provide Sports Physicals to students. Sports Physicals are required in order to participate in extracurricular sports in grades six through 12 and some youth sports leagues. Each student is required to pay \$20 for the physical, but the money collected by PeaceHealth is then donated back to the schools to assist with sporting programs. A total of \$2800 was given back to the both Cottage Grove and Creswell school districts.

PeaceHealth Medical Group contributed medical supplies and the time and expertise of nine providers and 25 support staff, both clinical and non-clinical, during the three-day event. This year, 140 students were seen. A total of 79 students were seen in Cottage Grove, and 61 were seen at the Creswell Clinic. During the Sports Physical Day students receive a "Sports Pre-Participation Examination." This examination includes height, weight, blood pressure, and pulse check, eye chart exam and examination by a physician. Also included is a health history questionnaire that asks about the student's history of injury, illness and conditions, such as asthma, to help ensure that they are being properly cared for and any or all conditions a student may have are being properly addressed.

If a provider encountered a

medical issue with a student this information would be documented on their sports physical form and the parents and/or guardians would be notified by an employee from PeaceHealth Medical Group, so that the student issues could be addressed by their Primary Care Physician. This helps ensure that the student can participate in the sporting activity of their choice.

PeaceHealth calls this pre-participation physical exam an important part of safe sports participation. They point out that the exam can help screen athletes for potential illness or conditions that may limit or restrict their ability to participate in a school sport. It helps ensure that students who play sports are physically capable of meeting the demands of the sport in which they choose to participate and don't have any conditions that may be aggravated by intense exercise. Sports physicals are required prior to the student starting any type of practice related to their chosen sport.

The goal of the sports physical is to help keep sports safe and accessible to every student who wants to play.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Park Jam this Saturday

The first annual Park Jam Concert is scheduled this Saturday, Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at Bohemia Park Amphithe-

ater. It will be hosted by KSOW-1p Radio 106.7 FM to broaden awareness of its low power FM information and entertainment station and to celebrate its ninth year of broadcasting. There is no cost to attend.

The Jam will feature local musicians covering a broad pallet of musical genre's covering folk, singer songwriters, locally sourced contemporary rock and roll, country, African Dance, Reggae and even some Jazzy Americana. Featured music includes Da Solution, Fefafe, One Dollar Check, Kenny Fuller with Ritchie Stiles and Dave Clark, the James Sisters, the Resurrectionator's, the Restless Soul's, Bretagne Werner and friends, Bob and Tanya Fletcher,

children's activities and more.

Bible study course

Alpha Bible Study Course begins Thursday, September 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 334 Washington Ave. Pastor Lura Kidner-Miesen leads the 12-week course that explores the meaning of life. The weekly class is on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. from Sept. 3 to Nov. 19. The study includes a teaching video and small group discussion. Light refreshments provided. For additional information call 541-942-3033.



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