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Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



Hats off to the dogs!

Some days magically unfold into unexpected adventures.

While purr-using Vancouver Washington's downtown Farmers Market for comfortable and cute crocheted hats, a dog owner walked up and placed a hat (not like mine) onto their dog's head!

Joyfully stunned, I looked around, and saw other dogs meandering through the weekend market purr-oudly wearing colorful hats; some with pom-poms, flowers, dragon look-a-likes, chicken combs, lady bugs, minions or made to order creations in every color under the sun! It was fun, festive and the canines obvious adored wearing the lightweight hats just as much as their owners! (I love mine too, but the dogs looked cuter in theirs!)

Four years ago, Jessica and her mother accidentally went into the hat business! Jessica crocheted a comfy warm hat for her niece and their friends asked for one for their children. Soon the mother and daughter were in business together. They listed their creations on Etsy and began vending at the Outdoor Market that has an adjoining park, which hosts an Easter egg hunt, classic car shows, Comiccon, recycled arts fair, marathons and lots of dog walkers.

Patte taught her daughters to crochet when they were five years old, and now she is teaching her granddaughter, Bethany.

"Jessica quickly surpassed my skills," admits Patte. "She is now an elementary teacher and I work retail, so crocheting, to us, is a wonderful de-stresser from our busy lives."

The mother-daughter team had no intentions of crafting dog hats, instead focusing on hats and styles irresistible to women and children. But many creative dog parents at the Farmer's Market asked if the pair could make a hat for their pet.

"It was not one dog owner wanting a hat," said Jessica, "but several, every weekend! Because I can create a hat in 30 minutes, their dogs were soon wearing them and advertising for us! The cute crocheted chapeau-adorned dogs were show-stoppers, making our dog hats a huge success! Now they are our best seller! Many owners have purchased several different styles of hats and when they adopt a new dog, they bring it in for their first hat! Customers tell us that their dogs get excited when they see the hats, because it means, 'Hat on...walk following!'"

The ladies sell 20 dog hats on any given market day.

"It's fun to watch the excited customers," said Patte, "trying different hats on their dogs. It always creates a crowd at our

booth."

Dogs in hats are "cute magnets"! People enjoy watching the dogs model their new gear as they proudly show off their new paw-chase.

Patte and Jessica's bestsellers are sport team colored hats such as the Seahawks and Ducks. And with the new Angry Bird movie, bird hats are increasing in sales. The ladies have repeat customers and sales soar at Halloween for dog, cat, ferret and rabbit hats!

"We had a special order for a tiny Toy Chihuahua named Mini," said Patte, "for a Minnie Mouse hat. She was one of our smallest customers and our biggest was a Great Dane. It is adorable when someone buys a hat for their child and a matching one for their dog."

You cannot look at a dog in a hat, strutting proudly through a throng of people, without smiling. The dogs create human traffic jams!

"Once one dog wears a hat," said Jessica, "the flood gates open for sales! It is crazy! Other dog owners arrive asking for one for their dog, and because our booth is near a hotel, our K-9 creations are all around the world!"

Photos of people and pet hats:

<https://www.facebook.com/BeCraftyx3/?fref=nf>

Who would have thought that a family tradition of crocheting would change the family's lives and dog fashion?! According to the American Pet Products Association, Americans own 83.3 million dogs and 95.6 million cats! These pets are pampered to the tune of billion\$ of dollar\$ a year. It looks like Patte, teaching her children and grandchildren to crochet, will benefit the family for generations and years to come and keep pet parents smiling! Oh! What about Fred the interesting blind K-9 customer in the photo? His article will be soon!

TIPS

"I am a great believer in probiotics," said Debbie, a Pet Tips n Tales reader in Jacksonville, Florida. "both for humans and my dog and cats. They help with digestion, and therefore, bowel movements! Particularly while taking antibiotic meds., which often kill off the good microbes for digestion in the gut."

- Tired? And tired of closing the bedroom door to be awakened from a deep sleep by a previously snoozing pet scratching/loudly vocalizing to be let into or out of the room?



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Sisters Alicia, three years old, and Bethany, five years old, with their Aunt Jessica and one of their satisfied customers, Fred, an elderly rescued and blind dog. Fred is the proud owner of two of Jessica's

Install a pet door into the bedroom door/wall so you can rest.

Alert - Made in China Pet Food. A major supplier of pet food ingredients and treats is making "a significant change". China is now manufacturing complete pet foods and will be exporting soon. Pet food consumers around the world pay close attention to your pet food labels for 'Made in China' and your pet's symptoms and desire to eat a food. Pets are wiser than us!

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FESTIVAL

Continued from page 4A

Facebook site was hacked, so that it wasn't even her using the N-word after all. She took down the site the day after. The trial Internet storm has wiped away the Poetry Stage and the Festival of Eugene 2016 like a ghost tornado that has wiped out a ghost town.

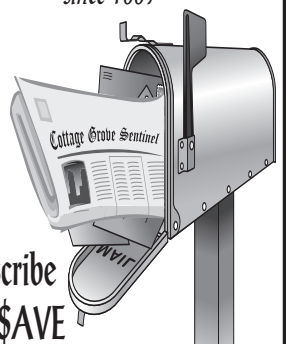
The Net is a web where everyone is a ghost whose opinion is equal to a small packet of electrons subject to Heisenberg quasi-reality.. Its opinion polls are a fickle school of fish that changes its direction in a finger snap. Yet trial by Flash Mob of electrons can have in our real world without recourse to the depths given by a consideration of consequences, a wisdom come from experience or the social deliberation of an actual trial where facts are presented and remain in the record tomorrow to be seen for oneself.

If that woman said the N-word in front of me I would let her know I thought she's a jerk. Then I would expect better from her as I let her do her job.

Leo Rivers
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