

IaSPDGA Qtrly Newsletter –April ‘10

Mark Your Calendars! June 26 & 27th

Weekend to Give Back & Special One Day Seminar

The IaSPDGA & the Animal Rescue League of Iowa are teaming up!

Saturday June 26th - Day of Beautification for the shelter dogs. Come volunteer your time with us to help make the shelter dogs look and feel their best. **RSVP to Tedra Edwards (319) 372-5360** to join in on Saturday. Please don't let the daily grind get in the way of this most self gratifying & rewarding opportunity.

Sunday June 27th – Annual One Day Seminar hosted by the Animal Rescue League of Iowa. **Come see their awesome new facility! WOW!** Tom Colvin, the director; Mick, the trainer; the veterinarian; and the groomer, all will speak over the course of the day. We'll even throw in a little grooming demo for fun. We also have vendors and raffles. The Edge Pro will definitely be there so don't forget your shears and blades to be sharpened. Don't miss this one! Check out www.arl-iowa.org. Also, so we can feed you and prepare, please **RSVP to Tedra Edwards (319) 372-5360** **Members- \$10 Non-members \$20** **Proceeds will be split between the organizations. PLEASE INVITE OTHER PET PROFESSIONALS TO COME WITH YOU! THIS IS FOR VETS, VET TECHS AND ASSISTANTS, KENNEL WORKERS, SHELTER WORKERS, AND GROOMERS! WE WILL ALSO BE TALKING ABOUT CURRENT LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS US ALL!**

IaSPDGA 2010 Board Members

President:	Tedra Edwards	Board Members:	Michele Briggs
Vice President:	Sharon Coleman		Carrie Henderson
Secretary:	Gaye Pierson		Anne Kirk
Treasurer:	Corine Barnes		Stacy Stoneking

In response to the survey question from the last Qtrly. Newsletter: "Have you held any one-time or ongoing events at your shop for your customers that were either just meant to show your appreciation for them or benefitted you both in some way?"

Association member Rhonda Janka emailed me to tell me what she has done at her shop The Dog House. She donates gift certificates for free grooms to PTO functions, to fund raisers for the Humane Society and to silent auctions to benefit people suffering from hardships, etc. She also gives away a free first groom to anyone who has adopted a dog from the Humane Society or shelter and in return they give out her business cards and magnets to all new dog owners. By doing these things she feels that she is giving back without having to donate her time, which is much more difficult for her. Also, as Christmas gifts for her customers this year she found

little dog bone ornaments at JoAnn Fabrics and personalized each one with the name of each customer's dog on it.

Survey Question

I'm wondering how many of you take on the daunting task of grooming the large breed dogs such as Newfoundlands, Great Pyreneese, St. Bernards, Bernese Mountain Dogs, etc. and if so, what is your process for grooming these breeds? And I want specifics!

The reason I ask is that I currently have a Newfoundland which I have groomed for several years now and it's always a challenge. I usually start with the bath because she's always extremely dirty but I do sometimes clean out hair between her legs and belly area first thing with a 10 blade and maybe skim some hair off using that same 10 on the long butt and leg hair. It takes forever to get her dry! I do brushing as she starts to get mostly dry. When that's all finished I will cut some hair off of some part of her body but never the entire body at once. I usually do a cocker style cut one time using a 5F blade and then the next time I will cut hair off her legs. That may sound crazy to some but the owner doesn't care what I do as long as it's not so difficult for me that I won't groom her anymore! I let her hair grow out in the winter and I never shave her but I try to make the grooming of her as easy as possible for me so I can get her clean and brushed out every time. She's old but she sits there so good for me for 2 ½ hours and I don't want it to take any longer for her sake and mine. The owner isn't looking for a show groom, just enough to maintain her. Plus, no one at home brushes her so it's all up to me!

So email me at reynoldsvicki69@yahoo.com and let me know what your process is when grooming your big, hairy dogs!

Funny Story

I know people have a hard time acknowledging their own weight problems and some tend to be in denial about it at times but I didn't realize it extended to their pets as well! I had an older couple come in recently with their Papillon/Shelty mix who is obviously overweight. I always groan when I lift her! The woman told me that the vet said she should lose about 5 lbs. to be at a healthy weight but she said, with disgust, that she refuses to "starve her" in order to do that. Then she proceeded to tell me that her dog is just "big boned and has a lot of muscle and hair"! I tried to think of some generic comment to say to that because I totally disagreed but I couldn't think of anything, so I just kept my mouth shut and changed the subject! Any good stories from your shop? Let me know and I'll share them with everyone! We can at least get a good laugh out of them!

Groomer Needed

Experienced groomer wanted for well established grooming salon in Pleasant Hill, Iowa. Please contact Sandy or Bob at 515-266-4533 for more information.

2010 Convention

Mark your calendars for the 2010 Groomfest in Iowa which is planned for the weekend of October 16-17. This year it will take place at the Walnut Center at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. It is the same weekend as the Pet Expo but as much as we try we just can't seem to avoid that. We are hoping to have Lisa Leady attend as a speaker/demonstrator and would like to know what you want her to talk about. What breeds of dog would you like to see groomed? What topics would you like to hear more about? Let me know at reynoldsvicki69@yahoo.com or call me at 319-643-2703 and just leave a message for me. It's not easy to come up with new ideas for every convention so we want to hear from all of you!

We also plan to have the NDGAA host a seminar on the Oct. 15th about how to prepare for certification and what you need to know. This will include some grooming demonstrations so it's very informative in all respects.

My suggestion: I would love to have some more seminars about basic business practices and how to improve the running of my grooming business. I was no business major in school and never took any business classes so I just figure things out for myself. It would be great to get comparisons with other business owners on how they run their shops.

"If there is a heaven, it's certain our animals are to be there. Their lives become so interwoven with our own, it would take more than an archangel to disentangle them."

Pam Brown, b. 1928

Finance

Just want to share some facts with you about retirement savings from Money Magazine senior writer Janice Revell in an article titled "No 401 (K) do-over for you" found at money.cnn.com.

"We're a nation of undersavers. The median 401(k) contribution rate is a low 6% of pay, according to research by Vanguard. A third of workers who have access to a plan don't contribute at all."

"When it comes to investing, the story is just as troublesome. More than 70% of 401(k) participants never rebalance their portfolios, says Hewitt Associates."

"According to the McKinsey Global Institute, two-thirds of boomers between the ages of 54 and 63 have not saved enough for retirement. To make up for the gap, they could sharply cut back on spending, slicing GDP growth by more than \$5 trillion over the next three decades."

"And staying on the job longer is no silver bullet: Some 40% of workers are forced to retire early due to poor health or downsizing."

"It may be tempting to imagine that none of this applies to you, especially if you've been diligently salting away money. Don't kid yourself. Unless the savings shortfall is fixed, you'll pay for it one way or another."

I would like to think that we will all be able to retire between the ages of 55 and 65 but these statistics are not very hopeful. If you would like more information about retirement and saving money then go to www.money.cnn.com/. Not only will they give you guidelines on how to save

and where to save but you can plug in your age, current income and money in savings at this point and they will give you an estimate of how much you need to save in order to retire with the same level of comfort you currently live in. Unfortunately, retirement savings does not take care of itself. We need to do the work now in order to alleviate the worry of who will take care of us later.

In reading this next article, please extend your prayers to Vicki Reynolds and her family. She has worked hard on these newsletters and we appreciate all of her hard work while she has been going through a trying time. We love you Vicki!

I don't mean to be depressing. In fact, I try to be inspiring most of the time! But in this issue I have to start out with what I've been dealing with since last summer. My mother was diagnosed with a return of cancer (from almost 30 years ago) and although she tried chemotherapy this past fall it didn't work to shrink the main tumor and there is no other treatment option. Therefore, she is dying, but we don't know when that will happen exactly. So, my sisters and I have been trying to spend as much time with her and my dad as possible. She is only 67, which may seem old to some of you but she's always been very active and has always worked at keeping herself healthy so it seems premature for us to lose her so "young". Anyway, it's been an interesting process for us to deal with and I wanted to share that with you so hopefully you can maybe learn a little from my experience if you haven't already dealt with the death of someone close to you.

When we first got the news we all tried to be hopeful and positive thinking that the chemo would help at least a little and we could have her around for 5 or 10 more years. Then when we realized that wasn't going to happen we had to adjust our thinking and deal with the reality that she might not be around in 6 months. We all had different ways of dealing with that but for me I just made a conscious decision that I was going to be happy as long as she was still with us and not worry too much about the future because I knew that I would have plenty of time to be sad when she was gone. For some reason it just seemed to make complete sense to me that all we have is the present, we don't have any control over the future and none of us knows how much life we really have left no matter what our ages. My mother has been living with this tumor for many, many years and it was only discovered last summer when she began to have ongoing pain that sent her to a doctor. We didn't know at this time last year that we would be losing her this year. But I will say that none of us has any regrets because we spent our time with her having fun and enjoying each other in a positive way and always being supportive and encouraging of each other.

My mother retired at the age of 62 but had been working only part time for years leading up to that. She said that one time a coworker said to her that she was "lucky" she was able to just work part time. She was annoyed by that comment and told her coworker that "it's all in your priorities". My mother didn't believe she had to have a brand new house or a drive a fancy car or wear expensive clothes. She would rather spend her time with her friends and family doing fun things and she would always say "you can't take it with you". So she lived her life a little more simply than some believing it was the experiences in life that were most important. Now that she's sick and not able to get out much she has friends and family visiting her and calling her every day. I don't feel bad for not getting back home to see her every week

because I know she has so many people keeping her company and helping out with things. She also doesn't feel like she has missed out on anything in life and she has no regrets. I can only hope to have as many loving friends and family around when I need them the most and to be able to look back and know I lived well.

Wouldn't it be such a failure on our parts not to have lived our lives the best way we could have while we had the opportunity? We all put things off and we get a little lazy sometimes but we can't spend our lives thinking that somehow we will have more time or money later for a fuller, happier life or to make things right. I love the work I do but I don't want to work 10 hour days, 6 or 7 days each week, or keep putting off vacations because I might disappoint my customers by not being in the shop! I worry much more about disappointing my husband and family by not spending quality time with them! I hear too many people say that they are so busy they don't have time to think. I think that means it's time to prioritize our lives and let some things go so we can enjoy our days and relax a little instead of feeling stressed constantly. If you feel like you don't have the time to visit an old friend or family member then schedule it in because their time in this world is limited and so is yours! If we're living our lives as if there will always be a tomorrow then we have to change our way of thinking soon or we'll miss out!

So when you're contemplating your life and the things you want to change or accomplish maybe it would be a good idea to get those things done in the near future! We have life right now and we are in total control of how we run our lives so we need to make it good this week! There is no reason why we shouldn't be happy. Give the important things top priority. It doesn't matter if we don't become rich or have the biggest grooming shop around (unless that's what makes you happy!) as long as we enjoy most of our days and do the things that mean the most to us.

Iowa State Professional Dog Groomers Association
Membership Application

Date of Application _____
Name _____
Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Shop Name _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Email Address _____
Previously an IaSPDGA Member? ___ # of yrs. experience ___
Applicant Signature _____

Membership dues are \$35.00 per year. Any dues paid in the *current* year, by Dec. 31st, will be applied to a membership for the *following* calendar year. Make checks payable to IaSPDGA and mail to IaSPDGA, P.O. Box 528, Des Moines, IA 50302-0528.

