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Life & Style Section

Pamper your Pet

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High Point – Jody Bitzenhofer hopes you'll call Scooby-Dos the next time your dog begins to look a little, well, shaggy.

Bitzenhofer, of High Point, has playfully turned the popular "Scooby-Do" children's cartoon – and her passion for animals, particularly of the canine variety – into a part-time business, Scooby-dos Mobile Pet Grooming.

For a fee, Bitzenhofer will come to your home or business – in a van which, not coincidentally, bears a striking resemblance to "Scooby-Doo's" easily recognizable "Mystery Machine" – and groom your dog (or cat) right there inside her van.

"It's completely self-contained," she explains. "It has its own power source, fresh water supply, air conditioning, heat, hot and cold water. I have everything I need to do what I have to do to groom your pet."

Bitzenhofer decided to enter the mobile pet-grooming business after about 10 years in food service management.

"I took about six months thinking about, "What's my passion?" she recalls. "I love animals – I always have – so I enrolled in a professional tech grooming school."

After graduating from that program – the Nanhall Grooming School in Greensboro – Bitzenhofer launched Scooby-Dos.

The advantages of a mobile pet-grooming service – as opposed to taking your pet to the groomer – are many, according to Bitzenhofer.

"Number one is the convenience it provides to the client," she says. "People have busy lives, and this way they don't have to take the time to drop off and pick up their pets."

Perhaps even more importantly, she says, allowing your pet to remain in familiar surroundings reduces stress on the pet.

It's a relaxed stress-free environment for the pet," Bitzenhofer explains. "Your pet is never in a cage and isn't exposed to other animals, or fleas and ticks. There are no barking dogs and no phones ringing. It's virtually stress-free, and your dog gets one-on-

one attention. People especially like knowing their dog is not gonna be in a cage for hours and hours on end.”

Grooming sessions are by appointment, and prices start as low as \$50. Prices are determined by breed, size and temperament of pet, as well as length, thickness and condition of the pet’s coat.

A full groom includes bath, blow-dry, brush /comb out, breed-specific haircut, brushing of teeth, trimming of nails, cleaning / plucking of ears, expression of anal glands and other services.

Scooby-Dos also offers additional services such as de-matting, pet waste removal, skunk order removal, spa products and shampoos, hot oil treatments for itchy, dry skin, and overnight pet-sitting.

Bitzenhofer says her new business venture, which she officially launched in May, has been gaining momentum.

“I just wanted to provide a convenient and valuable service to my clients,” she says. “However, more importantly, I wanted to provide a calm and relaxing environment for my animal friends where they will receive one-on-one loving attention without the distractions and risk associated with crowded grooming shops.”