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### **A day in the life of a dog... Pampered Pooches**

#### **With Door-to-door service, Dog-gone Purr'dy Cuts, limits any trauma an animal might feel about a visit to the groomer's**

By Diane Mercado  
Herald Community Editor

For some dogs, just being a dog can be a dog of a life.

But for others like Skeeter, a 13-year old chow mix, and Pepper, a 4-year-old toy poodle, their life is anything but a dog's life.

To Ima Haggard and her husband, Charles, their dogs are more like their children, she said.

"My dogs are my babies," Ima said. "I'm very particular about who I let near them."

Both Haggards work long hours, she as a night waitress, he as a truck driver. They work different shifts, so time for them comes at a premium. As a matter of convenience the couple started having their dogs groomed by Dog-gone "Purr"-dy Cuts, a new mobile pet grooming service operating in the Lee and surrounding counties.

"I used to take Skeeter and Pepper to the groomer," Ima said. "But my husband wanted to try the mobile services because of our hours."

Operated by Jamie and Joe Taylor of Sanford, Dog-gone "Purr"-dy Cuts comes to the pet's home, eliminating a trip to the groomer, Jamie said.

The couple converted a recreational vehicle and added two grooming tables, two full-size sinks and offer any service offered by a typical store-front grooming service.

Everyone in the neighborhood knows when they arrive, as they pull up in a big purple, self-contained RV.

Even though there are no state regulations requiring groomers to be schooled, the Taylors spent three months attending grooming classes in Greensboro. In addition to the convenience, Jamie says, many dogs are traumatized by a trip in a car, while others get carsick.

"We were taught on aggressive dogs," Joe said. "But we do it with a soft touch and a kind word. We were trained to groom animals keeping their comfort in mind."

“Dogs are different than people who sit still in a salon. Dogs move constantly and we have to be able to work with sharp tools carefully.”

For Ima Haggard, having her dogs groomed at home means she has more time to do the things she needs to do around the house. “If I take them to the groomer, I have to drop them off then go back home,” she said. “Then I have to stop whatever I’m doing when it’s time to go pick them up.”

She also likes the way the Taylors treat her pets.

“Skeeter, especially is very particular with people, but he took to them right away,” she said. “He has that aggressive chow attitude and with other groomers he’s had to be muzzled. I guess he thought he could trust them because they didn’t have to use one.”

Besides convenience and personal attention, the Taylors said they believe their service also helps older pet owners because it may be difficult for them to get around themselves, let alone having to carry their animals all over town.

“For some of the older owners a trip to the groomers can be a hardship on the owner, and it can also be a hardship on the pet,” Joe said.

“We can go to the home and give the pet a complete groom job.”

As for the Haggards, they are well pleased with their newfound groomers.

“When they took Skeeter the first time he did so well I thought it was really amazing, which means a whole lot to me,” Ima said. “They are always prompt and on schedule and they always cut and do the dogs just the way I want them done.”

After a recent session, both dogs and their owner were pleased.

“Pepper gets pretty little bows in her hair, and he gets a cowboy scarf,” Ima said.

“When he comes out of the van and he has a scarf looking like a little cowboy, I think all he needs is a hat and guns.”

For Jamie and Joe starting the grooming business was their escape from years in the construction business. He was a drywall and painting contractor, but after an injury to his back he was unable to keep up with physical demands of the job.

“We did our research,” Joe said. “There wasn’t another mobile groomer in the area and it seemed like a likely business for us because we love animals.”

“The way we felt about our animals we were looking for something we could enjoy and also make a living at,” Jamie said. Though they continue to do odd jobs to supplement

the grooming business until it is firmly established, they are also certified pet sitters and offer that service in addition to the grooming.

For information, call 499-1277.