



The Straight Hoop

Written & Edited by Luc & Jennifer Bergeron

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[Kamp K9 Web Site](#)



The Latest Scoop

The Knot Is Tied!

Luc and Jennifer were married on September 20 (also Jen's birthday), in a beautiful outdoor ceremony on the most picture-perfect of Maine Autumn days. It was attended by many loving family members and friends, and the reception followed immediately afterward. The happy



event took place at Lost Valley Ski in Auburn, Maine, which did a great job, and was DJ'd by Brian Zutter (while Luc's musician friends had a chance to relax and enjoy a wedding as guests rather than as working stiffs). There were so many well-wishes from all of you for our wedding that we wanted to be sure we shared pictures (taken by Margaret Forsley, who also happens to be a customer of ours) with all of you, so click on this link to take a look! www.mykampk9.com/wedding

2009 Holiday Season & Hours

It's time to start talking about Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year boarding. The phone calls have begun for Thanksgiving reservations, so if you're thinking about travel plans, and think you might need our services over the next couple of holidays, we urge you to get your planning done as soon as you can, and let us know.

We'll be closed for day care on Thanksgiving, and available for boarding appointment times at our Sunday/Holiday time slots (see below). On Christmas Eve, we will be closing at 4pm. We'll be closed Christmas Day, so boarding drop-offs will need to be made by Christmas Eve. On New Year's Eve, we'll be closing at 5pm.

Credit/Debit Cards Now Accepted at Kamp K9!

We can almost hear the resounding cries of "I don't believe it!" Yes, it's true. Kamp K9 now accepts VISA/MasterCard credit and debit cards, as well as Discover and American Express, for payment. It took a long time to consider this move, and some intensive investigating, but the time is finally right, and we're in a position to offer it as a convenience to our customers.

Change to Sunday/Holiday Hours

There's a change to our boarding drop-off and pick-up morning time on Sundays and major holidays. The morning time is being changed from 9:00 to 10:00, which should give everyone a little more sleep. The afternoon time will remain at 5:00.

These times are set on the hour, rather than a "time frame" or a "range." As has been explained previously, operating Kamp K9 is a 24-hour-a-day commitment, and at some point there needs to be some family time for yours truly. Keeping Sunday hours limited makes that possible. We really appreciate your understanding of this.

“Groomers can discover health issues you didn’t know your pet had.”



A Chihuahua puppy STILL doesn’t weigh much when soaking wet.



The signs of flea infestation are easily seen here.



This Golden Doodle hadn’t seen his own nose in ages!

Info Feature: Pet Grooming & Health

“Why in the world would someone, in this economy, spend money on having their pet groomed on a regular basis?” “My dog is short-haired and sheds. He doesn’t need grooming.” “Fur is designed to repel dirt and water naturally; I don’t need to do anything as far as grooming.” Those statements (very often followed by “What in god’s name is that *smell?*”) can actually do a disservice to your pet.

Why groom? If your efforts are done yourself on certain things (like brushing and nail trimming) it can help strengthen a bond between you and your pet. Your pet might loosen up about contact over time and could be calmer and more content in situations that might otherwise have stressed him/her out. That in turn could benefit anyone else who comes in contact with your pet.

Grooming can save you money down the road. Keeping your dog or cat groomed keeps their fur in good shape, so it can better perform its function of weatherproofing and insulating. That keeps your pet healthier and its immune system strong. A dirty coat actually loses its ability to block out water and wind, because as it gets dirty it gains weight, loses its ability to hold air in between the hair follicles, and hangs closer to the skin, allowing more of the elements through. Clean fur fluffs out and traps air, like home insulation is fluffy and full of air, and repels water. Keeping it clean also prevents painful knotting and infections that can result.

A groomer will also spot ear infections, lesions, and cysts on the body that might not be so obvious at a casual glance. A groomer will keep nails trimmed, so that the quick at the center of the nail won’t grow out too far, which would make future trimming difficult and painful, and nails that are kept too long interfere with walking, making it awkward and painful. (We should also mention that excess hair in between the foot pads can also interfere with walking, and can be painful to live with.)

We’ve also seen plenty of cases where there was a flea infestation going on, about which the owner had no idea. This isn’t too surprising; fleas are pretty good at hiding out of sight, even when there are dozens of them on a short-haired animal. You’d be amazed at how much blood an animal can lose to fleas, resulting in anemia, and flea saliva is an allergen to many pets, so not only do they have to contend with the itch of the biting, they have the compounded issue of an allergic reaction on top of it all.

A pet whose body and coat are in good shape simply feels better overall, and their mood will thus be improved. We’ve worked on dogs here who hadn’t been groomed in years, who were knotted beyond belief and possessing nails that had curled back into the foot pads, dogs at the point of constant pain, with owners wondering why their pet was in such a foul, miserable mood all the time, and such a demon. Off went the knots and nails...and the relief on the face and body language of the animal was obvious.

Pets are not “set it and forget it” commodities. They have no “self clean” button. Yes, they give us love and companionship, but we have more to do for them than simply feed them, walk them, and pick up after them. A healthy state of grooming means an overall healthy state, which results in fewer or lower vet bills, and a longer, happier life for your pet. It’s definitely worth it.

Random Thought

“Success means never letting the competition define you. Instead you have to define yourself based on a point of view you care deeply about.” - Tom Chappell



"A tummy rub has to happen before she'll consider getting out of bed in the morning."



Kamper Profile: Bailey Gagne

Energy, persistence, a herding drive, and a desire to snuggle are traits to be found in a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, and this month's featured Kamper, Bailey Gagne, is no exception.

There are two popular theories as to the origins of the name "Corgi." Some contend that it's a product of the two Welsh words "cor" (dwarf) and "ci" (dog; alternate spelling "gi"), while others maintain that the first origin word is "cur" (guard). Either seems to fit well; Corgis are indeed short and they do watch over herds. They were bred to be short in order to be able to dodge kicks from the cattle whose heels they nip in order to keep them in line. If a cow should turn in defiance and try to charge a Corgi, the Corgi will actually stand its ground and bite the nose of the cow to get it to turn around and rejoin the herd.

Our particular Corgi in question, Bailey, joined the home of Krystle and Christian Gagne as a baby in November of 2005. They had gone to Pawz 'n' Clawz in Windham looking for a window seat for their cat Pesto, but Bailey wouldn't let them go without asking to be played with for a bit. A trip back to the store two weeks later found Bailey still there, and she was taken home.

Bailey attended Good Dog U Puppy School and received a Canine Good Citizen certificate (though her mom now humorously wonders where all that training went). She's a little dog with a big appetite for life, and absolutely loves playing with her larger dog pals at Kamp. One of her favorite games at day camp is to play "steal the toy from the bigger dog to start a chase;" a favorite at home is "chase the kitty" in which she and Pesto dart up and down through the house like an Indy race.

She's capable of great relaxation, though, and prefers to sleep on her back with her head on a pillow alongside mom & dad, awaiting a tummy rub (which has to happen before she'll consider getting up in the morning). She'll deny it, but she has been seen on more than one occasion chewing bones in her sleep.

Bailey has been a Kamper since early 2006, and has proven time and again to be the life of the party.

In Other News

We told you in a previous "Straight Poop" about our being members of the Greater Boston Better Business Bureau. The BBB has a whole setup on their web site for people to check out a business' rating, as well as give or read any feedback.

We were pleasantly surprised, given the fact that we had no input in the matter other than giving our nuts-and-bolts business information, and didn't solicit any opinions, to find that several of you have written some wonderful things on there about us, helping us to achieve an "A" rating. (If we understand correctly, the only thing needed for an A+, it seems, is more time in business.)

Take a gander at <http://www.bbb.org/boston/business-reviews/pet-grooming/kamp-k9-inc-in-scarborough-me-100320/#bbbonlineclick>

It's just nice to be validated from time to time, you know? So thank you, from the bottom of our hearts!



Take Me Home

Welcome to the newest feature in *The Straight Poop*! We felt that it would be a good idea to feature pets who are in need of a loving forever home, particularly since we here at Kamp K9 often hear about animals displaced by the misfortunes of so many people and families in these times. If you know a pet who needs a new home, and who doesn't have the benefit of much publicity, let us know, and if we can help, we will by featuring them here.

Trouble & Melvin, at right, are two male cats who were adopted from the Maine Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (at Nevins Farm) in November of 2005. Trouble is the orange tiger Tabby, and Melvin's the b/w domestic short hair. Their owner has to move and needs to find them a new home where they can be kept together, as they are absolutely best friends. They recently turned 4, are very playful, and have been raised as indoor cats, and as such will have fewer health problems and a longer life expectancy. Both were neutered, and vaccination/health documentation can be provided, AND both have been microchipped.

Let us know if you (or someone you know) want to find out more!



Look at this snuggle-bug! Boomer, left, is a 4-yr-old Jack Russell Terrier/Basset Hound mix. He's medium-small in size, coming in at 27 lbs. He gets along very well with other dogs, and true to his Basset nature, loves people. He likes all toys, and Nylabones. He is housebroken and crate trained. Overall he's very healthy and in good shape, but he does take Phenobarbital to keep him from having seizures. He needs a fenced yard, and would be great with older children, or perhaps another dog, to play with. He is also leash trained. He has a home, but his owner has to let go of him, and stop fostering others, because of severe allergies.

Boomer is up-to-date with routine shots, and neutered.

For contact information and more pictures, go to his Petfinder.com web page at:

<http://www.petfinder.com/petnote/displaypet.cgi?petid=14962922>

Kamp K9's Mission:

To provide pets with a safe, fun, comfortable and active haven for boarding, day care, & grooming, with the comforts of home, and without the stress of confinement.

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*Where all your
pets are treated
like family!*

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On the Web at
www.mykamp9.com



Photo of the Month



Do we wish we were back in Aruba?

Do you really have to ask?

That's all for now.

Thanks again as always for your support!