



# Critters

## Our Pets

They fill our lives with unconditional love and wonder and whimsy and devotion. All they ask in return is... Nothing.



### Before you board your dog

By Kathy Varian Toomey  
Park Your Bark LLC

At some time you may need to leave your dog behind while you travel or have guests in your home. If you are considering boarding your dog, ask your friends and vets who they recommend. Call several local boarding kennels before you make your reservations and ask these questions.

#### Where will my dog stay?

It is important to know about the space your dog will occupy. Ask for a tour. Is the kennel heated and cooled? Does the dog have access to the outside and is the space big enough to accommodate the dog? If your dog will be kept in a crate most of the time consider finding a facility that has indoor outdoor runs with free access to a safe fenced area.

#### Will my dog be able to exercise?

How many times per day will your dog be exercised? If the kennel has indoor outdoor access to a secure fenced area your dog will be better able to come and go as it pleases. If your dog will be walked verify that enough people are actually on staff to walk all the dogs in their care multiple times a day. We feel a dog must be walked a minimum of 6 times per day if it is being crate boarded. A kennel that offers an enclosed safe and secure exercise area for free exercise is the best option for most dogs.

#### What will my dog eat?

What food does the kennel normally feed? Is it included in the price of boarding? Can you provide your own food? If you provide your own food do you need to pay extra? If your dog has a touchy stomach or has been eating the same food for a long period of time providing your own food is usually the best choice. Does the kennel give daily treats? If so, what and when?

#### Is the kennel licensed to board dogs by the State?

In North Carolina a Department of Agriculture license is required for all boarding facilities. You can go online and verify that the kennel is currently licensed, and you can read annual inspection reports for the kennel as well. Ask to see a copy of the license if you have not verified it online.

#### Will a person be in contact with my dog several times a day?

Does an employee check each and every dog several times a day and interact with the dogs at least 5 times each day? Dogs that are crated should be removed from their crates and checked. Dogs that are kept in runs should be handled and checked.

#### Will my dog be cared for 24 hours per day or do you lock the door and leave at night?

Is someone normally on site day and night? What is the last time daily that dogs are checked? If the doors are locked at 6 PM daily and no late night check is made your dog will be unattended in case of illness or injury for over 12 hours and possibly longer.

#### So you found a great boarding facility. Now what?

Reserve early. Most great boarding facilities fill up quickly on weekends and holidays.

When your drop your dog off bring proof of current vaccinations, medicines, special instructions and food if providing your own food. Do not bring items you absolutely need to get back. Toy can be lost, stolen by other dogs or damaged. Provide all your contact numbers and emergency contacts.

### Not just a hound dog, it's 'our' dog

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

In the words of Elvis Presley, "you ain't nothing but a hound dog," but in the words of this state you're our dog.

The Plott Hound was named North Carolina's State Dog in 1987. On Friday afternoon, Oct. 8, one very special Plott Hound, named "Lucky", came to visit West Elementary School. Libby Bagby, "Lucky's" two-legged mother, told the students how Plott Hounds became a state symbol and how "Lucky" came into her life. He led her to create the children's book, "Lucky's Plot".

In the story, "Lucky" - first named "Battle Cry" - goes off to hunt that black-eyed devil the raccoon. He ends up wounded near the side of a road where he meets his new family similar to what really happened when "Lucky" met the Bagbys.

Libby said that she was driving down a road in Low Gap, just outside of Mt. Airy, one Friday afternoon in 2002 when she noticed something on the side of the road. As she approached the curve near where he laid she saw that it was a dog.

"As I passed by it I noticed it raise its head and stare at me," she said.

When he looked at her, Libby said her first thought was "Oh no. Not me."

She was happy the poor animal wasn't dead, but didn't initially want to bring in another family member.



photos by EMILY WEAVER  
Rick Bagby shakes "Lucky's" hand after a successful presentation at West Elementary

"I already had five dogs at home. The last thing I needed was number six," she said.

Libby called her husband, Rick Bagby, to come and help her get the dog.

She knocked on doors of nearby homes to see who the dog belonged to but no one claimed him. The Bagbys literally had to stop traffic to get the dog loaded into a vehicle.

At the veterinarian hospital, doctors told them that the dog's two back legs were broken. He was very

dehydrated and had probably been like that for days. His lungs were filled with fluid. But they also learned that he was a Plott Hound - the state dog.

Libby said she was surprised to find out that North Carolina had a state dog, and so began her quest to learn more on the subject.

She learned that Plott Hounds are "one tough breed of dog. They've survived a lot," she said.

Perhaps it didn't come as too much of a shock, when this dehydrated Plott

Hound with two broken legs and two fluid-filled lungs - recovered to full health.

They named him "Lucky's Plott".

And the plot this Plott had in store for Libby changed her life.

She was a high school teacher for 30 years. The last 16 of those, she worked in the media center. But after "Lucky" came into her life, she devoted her time to learning more about the breed and sharing what she learned with others across the state.

"Of all of the hundreds of dogs bred around the world this was the only one bred in our state," she told the students at West.

It all started, she added, with a Tarheel-born family about 250 years ago.

According to her website luckysplott.com and the Plott family's oral history, the Plott Hound was named in honor of Jonathon Plott, a German immigrant, who at 16 came to America in search of a better life with his five dogs - three striped and two yellowish. "After arriving in Philadelphia on Sept. 12, 1750, Jonathon traveled to New Bern, NC, and then inland to Cabarrus County. He married, bought a farm and began raising his children and his hunting dogs."

His descendants carried on the breed. Legends and tales about the courage of these hunting dogs who can tree a bear, overpower a wild boar and "run as fast as race horses" traveled beyond state lines.

See HOUND on Page 7B

Get the Look!  
**DOGTAILS GROOMING**  
Full service Pet Grooming or just a bath!  
www.dogtailsgrooming.bravehost.com  
**704.473.4727**  
145 Jim Patterson Rd.  
Kings Mountain  
Angela Shatzer owner

**DIPPITY DAWG**  
Self Serve & Professional Pet Salon  
Dirty Dawgs done dirt cheap at our State of the Art Self Wash  
Owner: Patti Bridges  
11 yrs. grooming exp.  
**704.487.6805**  
615 Warren St., Shelby  
www.dippitydawgshelby.com  
Tue-Fri 10am-6:30pm  
Sat 10am-5pm

Get a great New 'Unique Look' with grooming by  
**UNIQUE PETS**  
Sitting Service  
Big or Small We care for them all!  
Kennel Care  
Doggy Day Care  
Call Today for our Special Pricing!  
**704.434.2020**  
Ted & Yvonne Burr • Licensed & Insured

Spoiling pets & their owners since 2000  
**WooDoggies**  
PET CARE  
BOARDING • GROOMING  
Ansley Martin  
1150 E. Marion St.  
Shelby  
(across from Harris Teeter)  
**704.482.8899**  
**704.472.2559**

Give your pet a healthy skin & coat  
also promotes healthy heart, joints, vision, and mental function!  
**NORDIC NATURALS**  
Pure and Great Tasting Omega Oils  
• Multi-vitamins  
• Nutritional Snacks  
• Shampoo  
• Natural Pet Collars  
Vitamins-Foods-Herbs for the Whole Family  
**L. Incredible Edibles, Inc.**  
"Your Hometown Natural Food Store"  
**704.481.1635**  
1103 S. Lafayette St., Shelby

**PARK YOUR BARK**  
Dog Boarding  
Doggy Daycare  
159 Sellars Rd.  
Kings Mountain, NC  
Doug Toomey  
Kathy Varian Toomey  
**704-734-1020**  
**704-730-8342**  
www.parkyourbarkllc.com

Pawsitively the Best Care in Grooming for dogs... and cats too!  
"19 years of Professional Grooming Experience."  
Pamper your Dog or Cat  
• Shampoos - veterinarian approved  
• Spa Baths  
• Free Teeth Brushing with every groom  
• Skin Baths for allergies and dry skin  
• Facial Scrubs & Paw Treatments  
• Toenail Trimming & File \$5  
• Flea & Tick Baths (FREE)  
• No Tranquilizers or Sedatives  
• Trained in the Latest Styles & Fashions for Pets  
**FREE Nail Painting & Bows!**  
**PAWSITIVE TOUCH GROOMING**  
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!  
"We accommodate your schedule"  
**704.473.4048**  
786 Bell Rd., Kings Mountain

**Whisker's Nails & Puppy Dog Tails**  
Spa & Pet Retreat  
Cleveland County's original Pet Spa  
• Shaggy Sheraton • Kitty City • Motel Muttt  
• Grooming for all Breeds ~ Cats too! • Full line of Spa Services  
• Aqua Massage Bathing • Heated Towels & Shampoo  
• Luxury Boarding • Professionally Trained Staff w/ yearly certification  
• Pet CPR Certified • NCDA Certified • Vet on Call 24/7  
So, after a hard day chasing the neighbor's cat, come enjoy a day at the spa and you will see why we say "For dogs & cats, this is where it's at!"  
For Appointments or Reservations Call  
Proudly Servicing Kasey KVM PD K-9 Officer  
**704.484.2828**  
336 Washburn Switch Rd., Shelby  
Concierge Hours: Tue-Sat 8:30-5:30 - Sun-Mon 8:30-10:00 am & 4-5:30 pm