



Critters

Our Pets

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



Scooter may be big but he's still a baby

By KYRA ALEXANDER
Staff writer

In the canine circle of life, most puppies are born, loved, brought up, and in some point of their lives either get spayed or neutered, or they mate and have puppies and the circle of life continues. For one dog this was not the case.

Buford and Jane Summitt of Grover have been adopting and taking care of dogs for most of their married life. They have 20 canines right now. The Summitts are committed to loving and taking care of each one, from the basics of daily feedings (which can take up to two hours to do) to being sure that each dog has all the required vaccinations and veterinarian visits.

It can take a lot of time to care for so many, but they love their four-legged children.

A man at Jane's work had an aunt who was going into a rest home and was trying to find a good home for her dog. Jane thought about how life would be for the dog if it was put in a pound and couldn't bear the thought of it.

Jane adopted "Abigail", part dachshund and part chihuahua.

Soon, Abigail became one of the family. She became the

substitute "mom" to other puppies that were later adopted. Abigail would take care of each puppy that came into the household, earning the nickname "the baby sitter".

She doesn't complain, but she does talk - a surprising attribute that sets her apart from most dogs. Before Jane gave her a treat one day, she heard Abigail say, "I want one".

With much practice this became a habit. She says it every time food enters the picture. It still sounds rather "doggie", with shades of "Scooby Doo", but it is definitely the words "I want one".

One day while Jane's daughter, Leslie Summitt was at her mom's, Leslie noticed Abigail showing signs of pregnancy. In telling her mother her opinion, Jane did not concur. Abigail continued to get bigger every week until finally, one day her water broke. Jane took Abigail to their regular veterinarian. After close inspection, the vet gave Jane some surprising news. It was evident that the daddy to short little Abigail's pup-to-be was "Big Rusty", part lab and part spitz, standing about two feet high.

Due to the father being such a large dog, the vet told Jane she had to make a choice. She could either wait until



KYRA ALEXANDER/HERALD
One-year-old Scooter, left, is pictured here with his mother Abigail (actual size). He was about three-fourths her size when he was born.

Abigail was starting to deliver and take her to the hospital in Gastonia, or Abigail would have to have a C-section. The baby was just going to be too big for her to deliver on her own.

Jane decided to let the vet do the C-section and left Abigail there over night. The vet called later and confirmed that there was only one puppy and that he did not think that it would live. The puppy needed milk in the next 24 hours, milk she had a hard time providing.

"I had to help Abigail feed

the puppy every time he ate," Jane explained.

The puppy, soon to be named Scooter, was three-fourths the size of his mother at the time of his birth. With much tender love and care, Scooter lived. Now almost a year old, Scooter is three times the size of his mother. Even though he is so much bigger, Abigail still treats him like her baby by washing his face and ears every day.

Scooter may look like his daddy, but has the vocal talents of his mother. Now they both say "I want one".

PET OF THE MONTH



Here is a picture of our 5 year old dog, Sam, in this January's snow. He loved it! He is (we think) part collie and part golden retriever and the sweetest, gentlest dog ever! He belongs to Curt, Joy and Laura Hollifield and to Steven, Christen and Eli Blanton, all of Kings Mountain. He is special because he came from the animal rescue at Pet Smart to our families at 3 months old. He has the most humble nature and we love him!

Would you like to see your pet as our Pet of the Month?

Just send us a picture of you and your pet. Tell us why your pet is special or how you & your pet found each other, etc.

Each month we will choose one pet and its person to be featured on our Critters page.

All entries will be included in a drawing at the end of the year for a prize for your pet.

It's easy: Stop by our office, mail it to 700 E. Gold St., Kings Mountain NC 28086 or Email your photo and information to us at pets.kmherald@gmail.com. Please include your name and phone number so we may contact you.

Our pets are family too

My family and I are true animal lovers. We have always felt that our pets were our family too, so we strive to take the very best care of them. The first thing you can do for your pet is offer it plenty of love. Your pets depend on you for all things, and their love for you is unconditional.

This means taking care of them like we take care of ourselves: plenty of fresh water, healthy foods, and supplements.

We suggest Nordic Naturals supplements, and one of the best supplements you can give your pet is Omega 3. We use Nordic Naturals high quality products for our own family pets, and for

ourselves!

Another thing your pet needs is exercise as well as plenty of time for rest. These things will help to keep your pet as healthy as possible. Remember, a healthy pet is a happy pet.

My personal experience has been that my pets bring me peace I cannot find anywhere else. They truly know the meaning of love and friendship for life. We currently have a black lab named Maggie in our family. She will soon be

18 years old and she has been a true blessing for us.

So - for all the love and joy our pets give to us; return it with a healthy environment and lifestyle for them. Stop by and see how we can help your pet live a long and healthy life. We hope to see you soon.

Marsha Epley
L. Incredible Edibles, Inc.

Love your pooch from the inside out!
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"

704.481.1835
1103 S. Lafayette St., Shelby

Isn't He Worth Doing Everything You Can For Him?

We stock leashes, leads, collars, harnesses, chew toys & flea treatments & More!

HOMETOWN HARDWARE
for all your hardware needs!
110 S. Railroad Ave.
704-739-4731
Hours: M-Sat 8a.m.-5:30p.m.

Total Pet "Holistic" Heath Care

- Pet Wellness Programs
- Dietary Recommendations
- Dentistry
- Homeopathics
- Acupuncture
- Chiropractic

Dr. Roger L. DeHaan
D.V.M., M.T.S., C.V.C.

704-734-0061
M-F • 10-5 by appt.
105 Police Club Dr.
Kings Mountain
www.aholisticvet.com

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

Get the Look Inside & Out!
We're more than just groomers...

Meet our pets of the month:
Holly & Jake Grigg

DOGTAILS GROOMING
Angela Shatzer, owner

Full service Pet Grooming or just a bath!

704.473.4727
145 Jim Patterson Rd., Kings Mountain
www.dogtailsgrooming.bravehost.com

Roll Over
A Dog & Cat Store
Where pets are welcomed!

221-5 S. Lafayette St
Shelby

704-406-9251
Become a Fan on Facebook
rolloverpets.com

Get the Look!

Pawsitively the Best Care in Grooming
for dogs... and cats too! "20 years of Professional Grooming Experience."
National Dog Grooming Association Certification

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

Now Available! The Latest in Pet Grooming Accessories

786 Bell Rd., Kings Mountain

Lindsay Bell Talbert

Whisker's Nails & Puppy Dog Tails

Spa & Pet Retreat

Cleveland County's original Pet Spa

- Shaggy Sheraton
- Kitty City
- Motel Mutt

Grooming for all Breeds ~ Cats too!

Introducing the NEW "Play Misty for Me" sprinkler system!

- Full line of Spa Services
- Heated Towels & Shampoo
- Professionally Trained Staff w/ yearly certification
- Pet CPR Certified
- Aqua Massage Bathing
- Luxury Boarding
- NCCA Certified

Keeping pooch cool while he plays!

Vet on Call 24/7 "For dogs & cats, this is where it's at!"

For Appointments or Reservations Call

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

Proudly Servicing Kasey KM PD K-9 Officer