87 P806

MAKING A BUSINESS SERVING ANIMA



STACY DOBAU HEALTHY HOUNDS OF IDAHO

Walk the dog

Take Stacy Doran, who started Healthy Hounds of Idaho a year ago. She's a dog-loving 31-year-old who worked as a paralegal for Albertsons for some years, but decided that just wasn't

going to cut it.
"I have to say that walking a dog in the sun is so satisfying," Doran says.
"And I missed working with animals in the worst way.

Healthy Hounds is a multi-faceted dog care outfit, offering dog walking, convalescent care, doggy weight loss and general health care, as well as dogsitting.

In starting the business," Doran says, "I just didn't feel like there was another service like this around Boise. We're in the dog business. We care for the dogs, while letting them run and play and have fun." On top of this, Doran

says, they'll give your dog a

massage as a luxurious warm-up or cool-down, or as method for treating an

injury.
"The dog massage," Doran says, "is not totally uncommon. It's something that field dogs or working dogs or show dogs will often get. Usually the first time around, the dogs are wondering just what the heck you're doing to them, but after that, they start asking for and really wanting it."

For a full rundown of her Healthy Hounds services, including testimonials and the lowdown on the Canine Cab, check out healthyhoundsofidaho.com

Getting down to business

For a different, slightly more pungent type of doggy service in the Treasure Valley, you might want to check out Doody Calls, a weekly pooper scooper business started up this

past year by Annette Reed. "What I do is set up a time to come once a week to your home," Reed says.
"I clean up the business, double-bag it, and leave it where you've asked me to. And, I always give your dog a treat."

Reed continues on the matter of the genesis of this rather non-traditional vocation: "Back in Texas, I had a friend who runs a similar business. I love to be outside, and I love dogs. I mean, he started his scooper service nine years ago, and everyone just loves it. I figured I could do it, too."

Reed says it's going well thus far, and that her clients are oh so happy with her taking over the less-thanpleasant task. Who wouldn't be? Check out what she can do with your doggy's doody, and how little it will cost you, at myweb.cableone.net/ doodycalls.

Cats get the good life

Cats don't have it so bad in Boise either, and The Cat Doctor sees to that. As The Cat Doctor puts it, they offer "Cat Care by Cat People." This a strictly no-dog full-service veterinary and cat hotel outfit. And they

"So often dogs at the vet make a cat so anxious, so afraid," says Kath'ren Bay, an administrator at The Cat Doctor. "A dog's not always going to care if a cat's around, but if dogs are present then cats will start viewing going to the vet as going to some sort of monster house."

The Cat Doctor has been taking care of the medical and emotional needs of Boise cats since 1997. They're up at 9151 Ustick right now, but are building a brand new, million-dollar facility that should be open in a few short months. And

CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE