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Conveniently clean

The Dog Shop Boutique and Bathhouse is the perfect solution to keep dirty dogs sparkling

by Patrick Hirtle



Our region's often mucky winter weather makes it difficult for Lisa Wright to stay on top of her sheepdog Laika's grooming needs. But Ms Wright says that with the facilities and services available at The Dog Shop Boutique and Bathhouse, keeping a big dog such as Laika pristine is easier than you might think. Patrick Hirtle photo

Maitland resident Lisa Wright admits it's often tough to keep up with keeping her dog, Laika, clean.

As a sheepdog, Ms Wright noted, Laika loves to play, and the combination of the often mucky winter weather here in the Maritimes and a long-haired, energetic pooch can leave Laika looking a little grimy.

"She's a bit of a clown," Ms Wright laughed, "[so] it takes a lot of work to upkeep her fur."

So in order to help keep Laika clean and well-groomed, and therefore happy and healthy, Ms Wright began going to Sara Fleischer for her grooming needs.

At the time, Ms Fleischer was operating her own grooming business out of her home, but she has since opened an amazing canine spa and supply store, known as The Dog Shop Boutique and Bathhouse, in Mahone Bay.

One of the most attractive aspects of the new locale, Ms Wright noted, is the U-bathe, where owners can come in and thoroughly wash and clean their own dogs with the supplies that Ms Fleischer keeps stocked.

"Laika gets dirty really, really easy and it really shows," Ms Wright explained. As a result, she takes Laika to The Dog Shop every one to two months, depending on the season.

At The Dog Shop, Ms Wright noted, Ms Fleischer and her staff "clean up after you, which is nice because once you let the dog out of the tub, they go nuts."

So, going to The Dog Shop is a great way to avoid having a soaking wet house at home.

And thanks to the grooming resources at The Dog Shop, getting Laika from wet to dry is a lot easier too.

"With this type of dog, you need to dry it right through or they get mats," she noted.

"If I was to dry her at home, with just a regular hair dryer, it would take two to three hours," Ms Wright said. "Sara has this super, industrial hair dryer and it takes like a quarter of the time. Plus, she has all the supplies there."

While the very affordable U-bathe is designed for clients who don't mind getting a little wet and doing the dirty work to get their dogs clean on their own, Ms Wright also was quick to point out that Ms Fleischer is always there to offer words of wisdom or assistance when it's needed.

"It's good to have someone like that there when you're washing the dog," Ms Wright said.

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Weekly Poll

Do you support the Manley report released last week which calls for the continuation of the Canadian mission to Afghanistan with no deadline for withdrawal?

"Sara gives me tips, she's really hands-on and she's there for you, so that's nice."

In order to make grooming easier in a professional setting, Ms Wright noted that responsible owners can make the task easier for both the groomer and the pet in question by regularly brushing long-haired dogs, such as Laika, at home.

"I pretty much have to brush her every day - it's constant upkeep having a dog with long fur, although Laika is shaved off during the summer months ... so I get a bit of time off!" she said with a laugh.

"When I do bring her in for Sara to do, I'm not bringing in a heavily matted dog."

Owners can also make the bathing experience easier on themselves by making sure that they have gotten their pup to expel some energy by going for a brisk walk or playing in a nearby park before visiting the groomer.

posted on 01/29/08



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