

# The Advocate

of Eldersburg & Sykesville

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## Eldersburg mom starts mobile pet grooming business



Diana Harrigan got inspiration to dog groom from her dog Puka. / ERICA KRITT PHOTO

Erica Krit 13.SEP.06

ELDERSBURG — Diana Harrigan is going to the dogs. The mother of three now owns Di's Doggie Do's.

"I've been a stay-at-home mom for nearly 10 years, and I've had a desire to do something that would let me accommodate my kids' schedules," Harrigan said.

Harrigan also owns two dogs — Danny, a 12-year-old chocolate lab, and Puka, a 3-year-old show dog.

"The show dog was my personal introduction to the grooming of pets," she said.

Di's Doggie Do's is a dog grooming business that comes to the client.

"Everyone's time is so busy now," Harrigan said. "Taking a dog to a grooming shop, you have to drop the dog off at a certain time, the

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**This week's poll**  
What issue is the most important in determining which candidates to support?

- Taxes
- Development
- Education
- Public Safety
- Economy
- Healthcare
- Energy

vote



Keywords:

Issue date:

dog stays all day and then you have to go back and pick the dog up.”

Harrigan has designed her business so the customer doesn't have to leave his or her home.

“My convenience is that I come to you. You don't have to take a trip anywhere. I work on one dog from start to finish, and then the dog goes back in the house,” Harrigan explained.

This convenience also works for Harrigan, who has a child who shows ponies, a child who does Irish dance and another who takes karate.

To dog groom and be convenient, Harrigan invested in a trailer.

Connected to her truck is a trailer that has all the amenities of a doggie spa. Harrigan describes the trailer as self contained.

There is an area for washing the dogs; a table for the dogs to lie on, shampoo and cleaning products, a vacuum for easy clean-up and even a sound system.

“I think it's a service that didn't have a whole lot of people addressing it,” Harrigan said.

Harrigan offers traditional services in a non-traditional environment.

The services include bathing, trimming nails, cleaning ears, a trim, as well as taking care of anal glands, if needed, Harrigan said.

Di's Doggie Do's started in April, but it took a while to get everything started.

Harrigan went to school at the Baltimore School for Dog Grooming.

“That was a 10-week very intensive course, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,” Harrigan said. “While I was in school, my husband and I were doing information gathering on what the best vehicle would be for our family, how would we be able to get it around and doing the research on what I needed to put in my vehicle to make it a full-service salon.”

At school, Harrigan learned the proper techniques to grooming. She warns against using scissors on dogs.

“People should not use scissors on their pets when trying to clip their

dogs,” she said. “There is definitely a technique to it.”

Since starting the business, Harrigan has seen a lot of success.

“I’ve meet some fabulous people with fabulous pets, which is a huge benefit to me,” she said.

Her family also likes the business.

“My daughter loves it,” Harrigan said. “She came out with me for a day and was exhausted by the end of it.”


Her husband also likes to drive the truck around and park it at Wal-Mart for everyone to see.

To get in touch with Di’s Doggie Do’s, call 443-831-1538.

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- Advocate Staff Writer

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