

„Zottel“ Groomer takes care of pets' bad hair day

Alexandra Amschler offers qualified pet grooming services in the Grafenwoehr Area



Alexandra Amschler - Photo: Susanne Williams

By Susanne Williams

GRAFENWOEHR. ALEXANDRA AMSCHLER IS A YOUNG DYNAMIC WOMAN FROM GRAFENWOEHR WHO ABSOLUTELY LOVES ANIMALS. SHE HAS THREE DOGS AND SHE IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AND WORKS TOGETHER WITH DIFFERENT ANIMAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATIONS AND ANIMAL SHELTERS. TASSO, THE ANIMAL EMERGENCY ASSOCIATION THAT TAKES CARE OF CHIPPING AND SEARCHING HOMES FOR LOST AND FOUND CATS AND DOGS IN OUR REGION (50 KM AROUND GRAFENWOEHR) IS PROBABLY THE MOST

FAMOUS ONE ALEXANDRA IS WORKING FOR ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. CHECK OUT WWW.NOTFELLE-BRAUCHEN-HILFE.DE.TL FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TASSO.

After she had a bad car accident in October 2007, Alexandra was unable to work in the job she had learned after school and so she had to find a new job. This was not hard for her to do since she had always wanted to have something to do with animals (not only in private). So she became a dog and cat groomer. That's how she made her dream come true. "I love my job and every morning I'm looking

forward to a new day full of work," says Alexandra.

Her job training took place in Altötting at Mrs. Kurzeja-Farnbacher's office who has worked in this wonderful job for more than 40 years now. She is famous from radio and TV and a lot of VIPs are her regular customers. In addition to the regular training, Alexandra was allowed to learn from Mrs. Kurzeja-Farnbacher for three more months and she was able to acquire more techniques. The diploma guarantees a well-founded training.

The idea of a mobile pet grooming service is great! Your pet is at home and does not have to suffer from the stress of riding in the car, or being in unknown surroundings. This also means less stress for you as the owner. The happier your pet is, the happier you are, right? "Zottel" means something like "shaggy" by the way and this is what Alexandra is working against. Her services include:

- Taking care of all dogs and cats, any races and sizes
- Qualified advice
- Comb, brush, cut
- Removing of felt
- Removing of lose hair
- Ear, claw and eye care

Depending on the animal's condition and behavior and the pet owner's desire, Alexandra's service can take between one and three hours.

Prices vary depending on how far you live away (within the city limits of Graf, in Gmünd and in Hütten Alexandra does not charge you any

extra money for gas): If you live up to 10 km away it costs 4 € extra and if you live up to 25 km away from Graf, you will pay 8,50 € extra. How much you have to pay for a hair cut depends on your dog's condition (it may cost 5 € extra if the fur is in a bad condition) and on the dog's size:

- Little dogs (up to 22 cm body size) like Yorkshire Terriers, Chihuahuas, or Dachshunds cost 18 €.

- For medium dogs (between 25 and 40 cm body size) like West highland Terriers, Maltese, and Poodles you have to pay 25 €.

- For large dogs (between 43 and 60 cm body size) like Border Collies, German Sheppards, and Golden Retrievers Alexandra charges you 33 €.

- You owe Alexandra 38 € for very large dogs (from 62 cm body size up) like St. Bernhards, Hovawarts, and Irish Setters.

For more information, call Alexandra Amschler at 0171-6840509, or send her an E-mail at info@zottel-hundefriseur.de, or go to www.zottel-hundefriseur.de.



Cat at the Tierheim Bayreuth - Photo: Susanne Williams

How to find a great vacation home for your pets

By Susanne Williams

EVERY YEAR PET OWNERS FACE THE SAME PROBLEM: THEY WANT TO GO ON A LONGER TRIP (MAYBE HOME TO THE STATES, OR SPEND THE SUMMER VACATION SOMEWHERE IN ITALY OR SPAIN) BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEIR PET. THE NEIGHBORS WON'T TAKE SHILO, THE LABRADOR, BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID HE MIGHT BREAK SOMETHING IN THEIR HOUSE AND FRIENDS SAYS THEY ARE ALLERGIC TO KITTY, THE CAT, SO SHE CAN'T COME TO THEIR HOUSE EITHER...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

Please never leave your pet behind, or let it run free!!! Your pet is probably not going to survive! If it doesn't starve, it might die from a broken heart! Bring your pet to an animal shelter (=Tierheim) in Amberg, Weiden or Bayreuth. They will gladly help you!

Allow me to introduce the three animal homes in the Grafenwoehr-Vilseck region to you:

Tierheim Amberg (www.tierheim-amberg.de), phone: 09621-82600

The Tierheim in Amberg was founded in 1975 and is located in the forest near Gailoh close to Amberg. 30 dogs, 40 cats and about 15 small animals live on 60,000 square meters. Your pet can spend its vacation here and it is not even expensive. For dogs the prices vary from 6 Euro to 9 Euro per day depending on the size of the dog. For one cat, you have to pay 5 Euro per day and for two cats 8 Euro per day. Small animals are charged by cages: Birds cost 1,50 Euro a day, hamsters 2 Euro, one guinea pig is 3 Euro while two guinea pigs are only 4,50 Euro and one bunny costs 3,50 Euro while they charge you 5 Euro per day for two bunnies. You have to pay when you pick up your pet again. Make sure your pet has all its shots and its vaccination card. Let them know as soon as possible that you want to bring your pet and that you want to make a reservation. If the Tierheim is too crowded in the main traveling season they will give you addresses and phone numbers of pet hotels nearby.

Tierheim Weiden (www.tierheim-weiden.de), phone: 0961-25780

The animal home in Weiden is located in a suburb of Weiden called Schustermooslohe. It opened its doors on April 27, 1972. They have room for 25 dogs and 30 cats. Including the various small animals that live there as well, they take care of about 60 or 70 pets. Only dogs can spend their vacation at this animal shelter. You have to pay 8 Euro per day for a little dog and 10 Euro per day for a big dog.

Jutta Böhm, the director of the Tierheim Weiden since 1990, also owns the cat hotel "Kitty" in Schwarzenbach near Pressath (phone: 09644-6249). Please make a reservation for your cat as soon as possible because this cat hotel is quite busy. You have to pay 7 Euro a day for an all inclusive vacation for your cat and 12 Euro a day for two cats. Make sure your cat has its shots and is fixed before you bring it. If your German is not too



Two Golden Retriever - Photo: Dominik Waas

good, you should bring an interpreter with you to the animal shelter here in Weiden to make the conversation easier for you and Mrs. Böhm.

Tierheim Bayreuth (www.tierheim-bayreuth.de), phone: 0921-62634, and www.tierschutz-bayreuth.de, phone 0921-62048

The Tierheim in Bayreuth was built in 1968. It has room for up to 65 cats, 30 small animals (there are bunnies, guinea pigs and rats) and either 20 big, or 40 small dogs. If you go on vacation, you can leave your cat there for 4 Euro a day and your dog for 9 Euro a day. If they don't have any room for more guests they will also give you phone numbers and addresses of local pet hotels.

Please note that every animal shelter would rather admit your pet and keep it before you abandon it somewhere. Giving an animal to an animal shelter if you cannot keep it any longer is sad but leaving it behind is simply mean and heartless! And in Germany it is against the law!

Please remember that animals are living creatures just like human beings. They have feelings just like us: They can feel joy, happiness and confidence but also sadness, fears and pain. They aren't toys and they are not to be pushed around. Having an animals means having responsibilities, just like having children does!

You want to help the poor animals stranded in the Tierheim because their former owners passed away, didn't have enough time anymore or simply lost their interest in their pets? Animal shelters depend on donations from the local society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Becoming a member of this society, only costs you 10 Euro per year but it helps the animals a lot.

You can also make donations to local animal shelters. Tierheim Amberg: donation account 190 010 793; Sparkasse Amberg-Sulzbach; bank sorting code 752 500 00 Tierheim Weiden: donation account 106 161; Stadtparkasse Weiden; bank sorting code 753 500 00

Tierheim Bayreuth: donation account 300 041 327; VR-Bank; bank sorting code 773 900 00

If you do not want to donate any money, you can also drop off a few cans of pet food, some hey, old towels and blankets, pillows, cages, leashes, or any other pet supplies at the animal homes. They are grateful for everything!

You can also go there and pet cats (the Tierheim Bayreuth is seriously looking for cat-petters who spend time with the cats who feel lonely), or take a dog for a walk. That doesn't cost you anything and makes an animal happy.

The Tierheim Amberg is closed on Mondays. Animals can be visited on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2 to 5:00 p.m. and after that dogs can be taken for walks. Every day, dogs can also be taken for walks from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from Sunday to Tuesday and on Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m. in summer time, and from 3 to 6 p.m. in the winter time.

The Tierheim Weiden is open for visitors on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Only members of the local society for the

prevention of cruelty to animals are allowed to take dogs for walks here.

The Tierheim in Bayreuth is open every day from 2 to 5 p.m. except for Mondays and Thursdays. That's when you can visit all the animals, pet the cats and take a dog for a walk. Please bring your ID card when

you want to take a dog for a walk, so they can register you. You have to be 18 years or older to be allowed to take a dog for a walk.

If you want to adopt an animal from a Tierheim, please check if you are really going to have enough time and room for your new friend. Do you have to work eight hours a day and is the dog going to sit in a cage all day long then? Are your children old enough for a pet, yet? Is anyone in your family allergic? Did you inform yourself about what your pet is going to need (long walks, how much food, special medications,...) and are you going to be able to fulfill all these needs? Are you going to be able to afford an animal and all the costs for pet food and vets as long as the animal lives? Who is going to help you if for some reason (e. g. illness) you can't take care of your pet anymore?

The personnel at the animal shelters can answer your questions. The animal shelter is going to check your home to see if you can offer your new pet good living conditions. If you adopt an animal they are going to charge you for it because all animals from shelters have their shots and medical check-ups and they are chipped and fixed. When your new friend is living at your house people from the animal homes are going to come by and see how your pet is doing. The first priority of the animal homes is that the animals feel comfortable and are happy with their new families. Let it be our first priority, too!

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