

# Pampering Your Pets

A VOICE NEWS SPECIAL SECTION



## Don't break your back with a tub, head to The Canine Scrub

By April D. Refior

All dog owners know bath time for your beloved pooch may be more of a headache and a chore than quality time. Whether you have a five pound Yorkie, or a 250 pound German Shepherd, there is a place in Lincoln that would love to make bath time your (and your dog's) favorite.

The Canine Scrub, located at 2774 South Street, is the only self-service, no appointment dog wash in the area. Mike Wensel and Lezlie Ferguson started this business venture last April, and have already washed over 1,000 dogs in the Lincoln area.

The idea for a self-service dog wash came when Wensel moved back to Nebraska from Oregon. "There were several self-service dog washes in the city he lived in," said Ferguson. "The idea to open our own came from Mike, and the fact that Lincoln did not have such a service. We have two big dogs ourselves, and we hoped this service would be well received."

Why does a business like this work so well in Lincoln? Ferguson

gave several reasons. Number one being there were no other self-serve facilities available. "Mike and I tried Petco once after he moved here. They allow you to wash your dog there, but you were working alongside the groomers. It always felt like you were in their way," said Ferguson. "We knew there was a need for those dogs that don't require professional grooming. They just need a bath, and it is no fun bathing your dog at home."

As mentioned before, bathing at home is a pain - it's back breaking and messy. At The Canine Scrub, the bath tubs are raised, and you don't have to worry about cleaning up the mess! The staff does that for you. "Grooming services are expensive, and if you are open to doing it yourself, you can save a lot of money," said Ferguson. "And, who treats your dog better than you do?"

Another plus side of The Canine Scrub is that everything is provided for you. "We supply towels, aprons, scrub brushes, ear cleaner, deshedding and demat sprays," said Ferguson. "You are welcome to bring

your own shampoo, but we also sell one-time use bottles of all-natural shampoos and conditioners.

"We have a drying room with three stations that include dryers, all kinds of grooming brushes, nail trimmers, and, we even have colognes for you to use," Ferguson continued. "Every dog gets a treat before they leave, and we take photos of every dog and post them on our Facebook page. We don't nickel and dime you like other places, and we don't have time limits on the use of our tubs. We want the dog to be relaxed and have a good experience here."

Right now, only Ferguson and Wensel work at The Scrub when they're open during the week. But, Wensel's sister, Amanda Rich, can be found at The Scrub on weekends for nail trimming for \$10, and his mother, Connie Kucera, helps when needed.

Wensel and Ferguson were friends when they both went to high school together at Lincoln High. After graduating in 1980, the two lost touch. However, in 2010, they were reunited.

"We both attended our 30 year



Lezlie Ferguson and Mike Wensel are the owners of The Canine Scrub in Lincoln. Photo submitted

high school reunion in 2010," said Ferguson. "Mike had been to a couple prior reunions, but I hadn't attended any of them until the 30th. We were thrilled to see each other and had a blast catching up. I was in the middle of a divorce after 26 years of marriage and Mike's 18 year marriage was ending as well. We continued to stay in touch after he returned to Oregon, but he soon decided he needed to return to Nebraska for good, in 2010."

The couple has been together ever since. Wensel and Ferguson are now business and life partners and plan to marry in the next few years. "We each recently went through divorces and are in no hurry to get married again," said Ferguson.

Wensel was born in Japan and moved to Lincoln from California when he was in junior high. Ferguson was born in Sturgis, South Dakota, but has lived in Lincoln since she was young.

Before starting The Canine Scrub, Ferguson worked for a Lincoln company for 26 years until they downsized in 2009. "I then worked for a marketing company here in Lincoln for a year

before deciding I needed to take a break and figure out something different to do," she said.

Wensel was let go from his job in 2011 after 15 years of service. He now works a full-time job with service routes in Omaha and Lincoln, and helps out at The Canine Scrub after he finishes, and on weekends.

"We love dogs! We try to make every customer feel at home and comfortable here," said Ferguson. "People are happy when they are with their dogs, and we are happy to meet their dogs as well. We promote the health of dogs and feel our services bring people closer to their dogs."

The Canine Scrub is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. and no appointments are necessary. For more information, call (402) 477-2782, visit their website at [www.TheCanineScrub.com](http://www.TheCanineScrub.com), find "The Canine Scrub" on Facebook, or see their ad every month in the VOICE News Pamper Your Pets special section.



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