





### **Beyond baths: Grooming redefined**

ady Connor Lorraine is the love of Denise Jernberg's life. Connor, as the border collie is known for short, is a frequent patron of Spa 4 Paws in Fort Collins.

"She loves going there," Jernberg says. "Sometimes your dogs are just a little tense — just like we are."

At Spa 4 Paws, pets receive "wellness massages" at the end of their grooming sessions. Owner April Castillon has been grooming cats and dogs for 12 years.

"I wanted to make pet grooming more appealing," Castillon says.

The spa also offers reiki, a Japanese technique based on "life-force energy."

"Some (pets) have had traumatic experiences, and I use reiki to calm them," Castillon explains.

Spa 4 Paws sells products for pampering your pet at home, including the massaging Zoom Groom rubber brush by toymaker Kong, doggie bath robes and Happy Tails' Calming Aromatherapy Spritzer. Happytailsspa.com features a variety of hygiene kits to match the personality of your pet. Collections include "Metro Dog" and "Celebrity Dog."

Alternatively, you can bring the groomer to your home. Pet Express Salon and Mobile Grooming has a self-contained van, so they won't make a mess of your house. The business serves Larimer County, Greeley and Cheyenne, Wyo.



New to Northern Colorado, The Pooch Mobile is a mobile hydrobath, which is pressurized to massage and deep-clean as it sprays warm water from a showerhead in the trailer. Solutions can be added to the water to penetrate pets' fur for aromatherapy, to treat skin conditions or even to kill fleas.

Cats often prefer to be groomed in the comfort of their own homes. Purrfect Fur Cat Grooming offers mobile service. With 14 years of experience, owner Linda Spanier is an expert at fixing the tangled coats cats often get during winter.



# Sittin' pretty: **Pet portraits**

fter a good grooming, your pet will be looking its best, so why not get some portraits taken?

Photographer Heidi Muller of Fort Collins travels to pet owners' homes to capture her subjects where they feel most comfortable. She became intrigued with pet photography after volunteering to shoot for the Larimer Humane Society.

"Animals are always their true selves," Muller says.

Fort Collins artist Robin Nielsen first gets to know the personality of the pet and how it interacts with its owner. Then she takes pictures and paints watercolor portraits from them.

"My goal is to match the pet with the painting," Nielsen says.

Loveland artist Hiroko Ishimaru sometimes takes a more abstract approach to painting pets.

"My painting styles are both pop and realistic," Ishimaru says. "If my images express something beyond what's in photographs, as a dog painter, I feel it's very rewarding."



Top: "Golly Gee' by Robin Nielsen

Left: "What's the Buzz?" by Hiroko Ishimaru



### Mobile groomers

◆ Four Paws: (970) 310-8647; based in Fort Collins (for dogs)

◆ The Pooch Mobile: (970) 391-1525; based in Loveland (for dogs)

♦ Deb's Designer Dogs:

(970) 302-7540; based in Greeley (for dogs and cats)

◆ Pet Express Salon and Mobile Grooming: (970) 282-0312; based in Fort Collins (for all groomable pets) ◆ Purrfect Fur Cat Grooming:

◆ Purrfect Fur Cat Grooming: (970) 493-2785; based in Fort Collins (for cats)

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