



Medal-winning chefs / D3

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015

D1

# ARTS & LIFE

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*With pampered pooches and lounging lizards, the Winnipeg Pet Show is aimed at animal lovers of every stripe*

## Pawsitive reinforcement



Top, the pet show will feature the Extreme Dogs agility show twice a day. And there will be plenty for bird and reptile fans to see and do as well.

FOR about 20 years, Sherri Rheubottom of Showtime Productions has helped organize huge trade shows, everything from the Wonderful Wedding Show to the Winnipeg Baby & Kids Show.

This year, however, Rheubottom realized there was nothing catering to the needs of the city's exploding population of people obsessed with their pets.

Which is how the inaugural Winnipeg Pet Show, which takes over the third floor of the RBC Convention Centre Saturday and Sunday, came howling into existence. (Tickets are \$12 at Ticketmaster or at the door. Kids under 12 get in free.)

"We've been doing the Wonderful Wedding Show and the Baby & Kids Show for years," says Rheubottom, show manager for the pet trade show. "I thought, 'Let's do something for the pet lovers.'"

"I've always had pets in my life. In fact, I just lost my dog last week. We had to put her (a 13-year-old Bichon named Nikki) to sleep. She was such an important part of my life. I'm kind of going forward and doing this in memory of her."

"I'm really passionate about animals and pets, and for so many people, pets are part of their family. We wanted to do a show to celebrate how important pets are to people."

Rheubottom, 48, says her dream is for this two-day celebration to be a one-stop shop for



DOUG SPEIRS



anyone who has a pet or is thinking about getting one.

"It's just something I think Winnipeg was missing, another lifestyle event," she says. "The show is basically a one-stop pet extravaganza, a pet-apalooza, everything you could possibly want to know about anything to do with pets. Vets will be on hand to answer questions, there will be seminars; it's going to be a really fun family event. If you love pets, you'll love the pet show."

The upbeat organizer noted pets have become big business in North America, with many animal lovers spending almost as much on their dogs and cats as they do on their kids.

"It's amazing," she says. "There are so many great retailers in Winnipeg. It's such a great community. People want

clothes for their pets and fun things... Photography is really important. Pets are included in family photos.

"They are important members of the family. Pets don't talk back and they give you unconditional love. Pets cover every demographic — from young kids and young couples to grandparents."

Organizers hope at least 6,000 animal lovers descend on the convention centre to check out the latest products, services and trends in the booming pet industry.

The show will feature at least 100 exhibitors and vendors, including pet-clothing retailers, animal shelters, waste-removal firms, groomers, artisans, insurance companies, kennels, photographers, trainers, veterinarians and more.

Continued  
Please see PAWSITIVE D5



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Laurel Skuba and Cooper, a golden retriever at Pawsh Dog Wellness Centre.

**Pawsitive**  
Continued from D1

There will also be animal-themed entertainment, with 30 canines from the celebrated ExTreme Dogs agility show strutting their stuff twice a day in the 5,000-square-foot entertainment ring. "These dogs can do amazing things. They have everything from mutts and little dogs to big dogs and purebreds," Rheubottom says.

While you can't bring your own pets to the convention centre, there will be no shortage of animals, from the mundane to the exotic, to check out. "We've incorporated every kind of pet imaginable," the organizer says. "Craig Street Cats is bringing a bunch of cats. There's the Canadian Kennel Club Breeders Showcase with a variety of different dogs to see in the entertainment ring.

"Prairie Exotics is bringing snakes and lizards to display at Reptile Island. And there will be a collection of colourful fish and birds coming, too." Along with the breeders showcase, there will be a special zone set up where dog lovers can get up close and personal with potential pets and ask questions of the breeders.

One of the main sponsors of the new show is the Pawsh Dog, Winnipeg's upscale doggie salon, daycare, boarding facility, training studio and wellness centre for pampered pooches.

Laurel Skuba, owner of the Pawsh Dog's three city outlets, says the show is an incredible opportunity for her business to showcase its growing range of services. "We're excited to be there and show everybody what we can do. We do anything and everything 'dog.'"

Regular readers will recall Skuba from my first official pet column back in 2013, which described how she adopted "Hairless Harry," a nearly hairless, badly abused dog that was found freezing and starving in a barn in Ohio and brought to Winnipeg by a network of rescuers.

Harry went from death row at a U.S. animal shelter to a job as "official greeter" at Pawsh Dog's Taylor Avenue outlet. "He's doing great," Skuba says, laughing. "He's put on a lot of weight. He's not that good a greeter. He decided he owned the whole store."

At the show, Pawsh Dog will have stylists doing grooming displays — "We'll have feather extensions, toenail polish and some bling" — along with demonstrations of training and obedience exercises.

It will also highlight the business's state-of-the-art wellness centre, featuring a hydrotherapy pool, dry-land fitness training and, coming soon, the first underwater treadmill for dogs.

"It's for rehabilitating dogs. It's like sports medicine," Skuba notes.

Along with its doggie ambassadors, the Winnipeg Humane Society — which, as the official charity, gets a cut of the show's proceeds — will be on hand with behaviour experts to field questions from the public.

"This is a rare opportunity to have a face to face and discuss the perplexing things that someone's pet may be doing," says Aileen White, the society's director of communications and public affairs. "People like to have a conversation. It's what makes the pet-show setup so fantastic."

For her part, organizer Rheubottom says the goal is to be educational as well as entertaining.

"Part of the show is promoting responsible pet ownership. If people are educated, they are more likely to pick a pet that is suitable for their family. That reduces the number of animals that end up in shelters," she says.

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*pets of the week*

Have you got a favourite pet picture and story to share with us? We'd love to see it. We'll be publishing our pets of the week every Tuesday on this page. We'll also feature a gallery of your photos on the website at [winnipegfreepress.com](http://winnipegfreepress.com). Email your photos and story, including your pet's name and age, to [readerpix@freepress.mb.ca](mailto:readerpix@freepress.mb.ca).



**Nacho**

Our nine-year-old Shih Tzu Nacho has decided to be a hamburger for Halloween this year. He looks cute enough to eat!

— Charlene and Braden Baraniuk



**Pierre**

Here is the love of my life — my sweet Pierre, who is getting all groomed up for his 15th birthday. I am so thankful that he has been a very healthy and happy dog all of these years. He has started to show his age by sleeping more and by not being able to jump on the bed as much anymore. Love, love my big boy!

— Del Kehler



**Joie**

Joie is a seven-year-old female puggle that is getting ready for Halloween in her Starbucks barista costume. She loves to greet kids at the door and see what candy they have in their bags!

— Jaclyn and Trevor LaBossiere

**Scarlette 362559**  
Hi! This beauty is Scarlett and she is super excited to meet you! She is a very energetic and bouncy lass who just loves to play! A friendly dog who has a real zest for life! She will do even better after taking dog obedience classes since they are a great way to bond and will help Scarlett to practice her manners. Maybe you could go home together? She'd love to learn and have fun with a new family of her very own. Come and ask about her today!

The Winnipeg Pet Show is supporting The WHS as the official show charity for the event this **October 24 and 25**. WHS behaviour staff will be available to answer questions about your pet's behaviour. For more information please visit: <http://winnipegpetshow.com/>

**To donate call 204-982-2041**

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**Peak of the Market**  
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**TODAY'S Recipe**

**GARLIC SPINACH FETTUCCINE**

Metric	Ingredients	Imperial
227 g	package fettuccine	8 oz
40 ml	olive oil	3 tbsp
250 ml	onion, thinly sliced	1 cup
3	clove garlic, minced	3
284 g	frozen spinach, thawed & squeezed dry	10 oz
50 ml	fresh basil, chopped	1/4 cup
175 ml	parmesan cheese, grated	3/4 cup

**Directions**  
In a large skillet; heat oil. Add onion, garlic and spinach. Cook about 7 minutes on medium heat, stirring every few minutes. Reduce heat to low and cook for another 10 to 12 minutes, add basil. Meanwhile cook pasta according to package directions. Drain well.  
Add pasta to spinach mixture. Add half the parmesan cheese, mixing well. Place in serving dish and top with remaining parmesan cheese.  
Serves 4

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Larry McIntosh