



Chris Waller/Index
 Owner of Pawsitive Animalworks and Truman alumna Laci Cook stands near pictures of her dog and her daughter Oct. 9 on the store's opening weekend. Mimi is an 8-month-old Chinese Crested sporting a pink sweater and bow.

Grooming offered

- Bathing
- Hand Brushing and loose hair removal
- Haircut
- Nail trimming
- Ear cleaning and plucking
- Teeth brushing
- Flea and tick removal

Massage rates

Dogs & Cats	Horses
15 minutes - \$15	30 minutes - \$30
30 minutes - \$25	45 minutes - \$40

Pawsitive Animalworks

Location: 208 S. Main St.

Hours of Operation: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Tuesday through Friday
 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Saturday

Web site: www.pawsitiveanimalworks.com

Pets experience the good life

Dogs, cats and horses receive star treatment with massages and grooming

Maggie Wolcott
 Staff Reporter

Although it includes pedicures, massages and aromatherapy, Pawsitive Animalworks is not your average spa.

Owner Laci Cook said the grand opening for Pawsitive Animalworks was Oct. 8, and between 20 and 25 pets attended. Cook, a Truman alumna, said the store promotes everything from nose to tail for pets.

In addition to the spa, Pawsitive Animalworks includes a pet boutique and offers educational workshops.

Cook said the reasons pets receive massages are parallel to why people get massages.

"It is hard for [people] to understand, but it is exactly the same thing," Cook said. "It is just because dogs can't communicate verbally, but yet there is so much you can do through touch."

Cook is a certified pet massage prac-

itioner and said she received her certification from the Pet Massage and Research Institute in Toledo, Ohio.

A lot of people get massages for their pets because they want to give them a special treat, Cook said. Massages release endorphins, and endorphins make you happy, Cook said.

For animals who stress easily or don't socialize well with other animals or people, massages can help, Cook said. Also, she said they are great for pets who have hip displacia, sore backs or other health conditions.

Cook massages dogs and cats at her store and does off-site massages for horses, she said.

Before Pawsitive Animalworks opened, Cook said she was doing pet grooming from her home.

She said that before, people had to drive to Columbia, Mo., Kansas City, Mo., or St. Louis to get similar services that her store now provides.

"I think that there was a need in Kirksville that wasn't being met," Cook said.

An average grooming for a dog takes about two hours, she said. Pawsitive An-

imalworks offers a full grooming package or services a la carte.

She said a lot goes into grooming that people don't realize. Dogs receive a bath, their fur is blow-dried and brushed and then their fur is cut. Cook said she also cleans the dogs' ears, cuts their toenails and brushes their teeth.

Oftentimes owners worry their dogs won't behave during grooming, but Cook said that many times they act like perfect angels.

She said aromatherapy for pets works the same as with humans, sending a signal to their brains — for example lavender says, "I'm at peace."

"My favorite is the Canine Coconut smell," Cook said. "It is supposed to be uplifting and energizing for the pet."

Cook said a lot of dog treats that are available for pets aren't really healthy. She said they contain a lot of fillers and artificial coloring.

Cook said that for this reason she makes her own natural, 100-percent people-grade line of cat and dog treats.

Cook said clients have requested a lot of the items the boutique carries.

The boutique sells everything to pamper pets from dog cigars and truffles to glittery collars and leashes. Hygiene items like disposable mint toothbrushes and breath mints might be more of a treat for the owners than the pets.

Senior Matt Decker visited Pawsitive Animal works during family weekend with his dad and stepmother. He said the store offers unique things like "birthday pawties" for pets.

He said his stepmother, who pampers their dog, bought a sweater for the dog. "Spend your money on what you want, but I will never spend my money on a sweater for a dog," Decker said.

Pawsitive Animalworks serves as

a haven for a lot of pet services, Cook said.

She has a reference service for pet-sitting. She said obedience classes will be offered starting this fall. Also, Cook said she plans to host "birthday pawties" and "yappy hours."

Senior Laura Wollard visited Pawsitive Animalworks and said the store is really cute.

"I've never seen anything like this," Wollard said. "Definitely in Kirksville, you wouldn't expect it."

Cook said she always has had an absolute love for all animals.

"I was excited to finally find a way to express that and help other people that have the love for [animals] too," Cook said.

Cook said Pawsitive Animalworks was in the Kirksville High School Homecoming Parade and will be in the Truman Homecoming Parade this weekend. Another event Cook has planned is the "Howl-O-Ween Spooktacular," which is a Halloween party for pets and their owners. There will be a costume contest and bobbing for apples at the party, Cook said.

"I've never seen anything like this. Definitely in Kirksville you wouldn't expect it."

Laura Wollard
 Senior

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