



Women in Business 2012



Dr. Carol Champion with the "little" vet clinic, practicing personal, custom-designed health care.

Dr. Carol answers your pet questions (and maybe even saves a marriage!)

Dear Dr. Carol

My husband and I would like to add a pet to our family, but I'm a dog person and it turns out he's a cat person.

I don't want to be stuck with a disloyal, condescending, hairball-gagging rug shredder for 20 years, and he doesn't want to

scoop poop, endure doggy breath in the car and arrange play dates and puppy classes. I know this is the kind of thing couples usually discuss before they get married, but is it too late for us?

- *Conflicted in Cumberland*

Dear *Conflicted*,

In 20 years of practice,

I've seen plenty of folks change their stripes when it comes to their pet allegiances. The trick is to focus on the positive and celebrate the uniqueness of each species.

It has been said that the average dog is a better person than the average person. Dogs are loyal and useful companions, happy in the moment and refreshingly optimistic and uncomplicated.

Cats, on the other hand, are aloof, independent and self-absorbed. Or, as a former husband once described me, "self-centered, demanding and manipulative." (He didn't like cats either.) Cats should be admired, however, for their candour, self-reliance and sensuality. Stretching, purring and luxuriating in a warm pool of sunshine? Hey, we could all use a little ethical hedonism now and then.

So why choose? I suggest you get both a dog and a cat - perhaps a Basenji dog and a Bengal cat.

The Basenji, one of the oldest breeds in the world, cleans itself like a cat and has no body odor. They're sturdy, elegant, playful and athletic, and instead of barking, they "yodel" when happy.

The Bengal, a cross between our regular domestic shorthair and Asian leopard cats, is a spotted cat with a luxurious pelt (but not long-haired). Although a comparatively large breed, Bengals are friendly, loving, alert and intelligent.

Personally, I think every family needs one of each, and I think these two breeds would get along swimmingly. As for the hairballs and bad breath, well... they're completely avoidable but we can discuss that later.

The Cumberland Veterinary Clinic is located at 2728 Dunsmuir Avenue in Cumberland or online at www.cumberlandvet.ca. To book an appointment, call 250.336.8449.



Trudeau works with both business start-ups and established companies looking to freshen their brand

Designs on success

Kris Trudeau, owner of PixelPoint Design and Consulting, has been going far beyond simple website and graphic design for 12 years. She recognizes that good design is more effective when paired with a compelling, meaningful message and she brings it all together in creative solutions her clients rave about.

While Trudeau has

extensive knowledge of both print and web, she says it's her customer service and project management that really makes PixelPoint stand out. "I make it easy for my clients to understand what happens when, and what their role is in the project," she says. "Clients appreciate my firm quotes and take comfort in knowing there won't be any surprises."

Trudeau has been thrilling clients in the Comox Valley and Vancouver since 2011 and still maintains a client base in her hometown of Winnipeg. She works with both new business start-ups and established companies looking to freshen their brand - so if your website is broken or outdated, your logo doesn't look right or your brochures simply aren't effective, PixelPoint can help.

To learn more, visit www.pixel-point.ca.



Torry's Angels: Pictured from L to R: Wendy Mayers, Ashley Farnham, Amber Manderson and Rebecca Nelson. Missing from the photo: Laurie Gibson-Torry.

Torry and Sons Gals Sporting Sore Muscles & Big Grins for Habitat!

The Habitat for Humanity Build Coordinator, Peter Sanderson promised the Torry and Sons Plumbing and Heating Build Day volunteers "Sore Muscles and Big Grins." And, they got just what they were promised — and were delighted for it!

Managers, skilled trades, office workers, owners and trained technicians from Torry and Sons Plumbing and Heating volunteered side by side over the past few weekends to help with construction of the Habitat for Humanity duplexes going up on Piercy.

Included in that crew were five gals that regularly help the Torry and Sons administration tick like synchronized clock work — holding positions on the Executive Team, in Accounting, the Service Department, Marketing and the Installation Department.

On Build Day, they donned hard hats and steel toed boots and picked up drills, hammers and shovels to put up scaffolding, nail on insulation, dig ditches and lay pipes!

"... combined contribution to the Habitat project has totaled over \$16,000."

Ashley Farnham, Assistant Manager in the Residential Installation Department said: "The experience was one I will never forget, I was able to meet one of the potential home owners and the excitement and appreciation she showed was very empowering. It feels great to be a part of a life changing experience for people in our community."

This dedication of personal time to the project has been a significant addition to the Torry and Sons donation of skilled labor, materials and the installation of supplier donated equipment (with thanks to Carrier, Andrew Sheret, Moen, Hytec and Amana). The combined contribution to the Habitat project has totaled over \$16,000.

Sore muscles and big grins were definitely delivered, as promised — and are being worn very proudly as a Habitat for Humanity badge of honor by the gals at Torry and Sons.

Torry and Sons employs over 150 people on Vancouver Island and completes Residential projects on Vancouver Island and Commercial Projects throughout Western Canada. Contact them at 250.338.8865 or visit www.torryandsons.com

Kempling heads new Westerly Catering Company

The Westerly Hotel has been catering on-site functions for more than 30 years. With catering manager Laura Kempling at the helm since 2010, the hotel is now taking that service on the road with the Westerly Catering Company, offering a full range of catering services at any venue in the Comox Valley — and beyond.

"The Westerly Catering Company is offering the same professional service you've come to trust in our Hotel atmosphere, but this time we come to you," explains Kempling. "We're offering everything from office lunch delivery to large event catering, set-up and cleanup."

The service, she says, is about getting clients the catering they want and need; Kempling and the Westerly team will happily customize their services to any event needs and



Laura Kempling is now taking the Westerly Catering Company service on the road

budget. That includes dietary accommodations, from vegetarian to celiac-friendly, and offering after-event hotel accommodations and services for off-site functions.

"We offer services no

other catering company can," says Kempling. "One call and you get it all!" For more information visit www.westerlycatering.ca. To book an event, contact Sarah Pelletier at 250.338.2745 or sales@thewesterlyhotel.com