

Kobuck at the Groomer

You would probably imagine my life to be fairly hectic – what with working, taking care of twenty-two dogs, volunteering, my rescue work and home life. In actuality, I have no idea how I manage to juggle article deadlines, household chores, radio and TV interviews, additional work and any semblance of a social life along with the care, supervision and management of my dogs. During any given week, at least one of my dogs is at the vet for one reason or another i.e. Coco's ear infection, Kali's recurrence of mange, Sunny's fungal infection, Khanti's insect bite, Phoebe's vomiting, and so on. Each week several of my dogs are taken to the groomer; others perform animal assisted therapy; others accompany me on errands (weather permitting, of course!).

Today, Lucado is being groomed, and I am overwhelmed, relieved and surprised that her groomer has deemed her 'cooperative, friendly and well-behaved'. Lucado? Really? No way – not my diabolical, willful, clever girl 'Cooperative, well-behaved?' I'm about to pick her up. I'm certain, that for at least a few hours she will look (and smell) fresh and beautiful. Hmm, 'cooperative, friendly and well-behaved' MY Lucado?

Several weeks ago, Kobuck and Nenani were groomed. Kobuck doesn't mind being trimmed and coiffed, but getting him into the salon is the rub! As he is an Alaskan Malamute weighing about 130 sled dog pounds, he gets near the salon door and halts – then hunkers down. During his most recent visit, it took four technicians to hoist him up and escort him into the salon. Kobuck is huge and gorgeous but can be a very intimidating presence for those who aren't aware that he is a total wuss. Ah, another day, another adventure with Kobuck as he nearly escapes from the salon forcing the staff to chase and capture him – and then decides that he will cooperate after all. It takes a village – no, just a team of canine aestheticians to bathe, shampoo, condition and trim and blow-dry him from head to toe.

My secret belief is that Kobuck LOVES all the attention he receives. There is also plenty of admiration of his good looks among the staff. He definitely receives a great number of compliments and soothing, encouraging words.

Kobuck is a big boy with a big heart and lots of personality. But I have learned that my baby is precisely that – a baby who demands affection, admiration, multiple hugs and paw-holding during his visits to the groomer...