

ODYSSEY PETS

14999 Preston Rd. Ste. 400A Dallas, Tx. 75254 972-407-1166

Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-8pm, Sunday 12-6pm
Early drop off for grooming, boarding, & daycare
as early as 7:30am.

Pet Service Experts in:
Grooming, Boarding,
Daycare, Aquarium Service



EVENTS:

- Woof-O-Ween 2017: Game of Bones! Oct. 28th, 4-6pm
- Feral Friends Cat Adoptions: 3rd Sunday of every month
- Low Cost Vaccine Clinic: usually the last Saturday of the month from 1-4pm. Check our website for up-to-date details.
- Dog Adoptions: check our website for updated schedules

WWW.ODYSSEYPETS.COM



If we wouldn't use it for our pets, we
wouldn't sell it for yours.

Always natural.
Always healthy.



Cover photo of @vinnythegriff
by Verjean Lunenschloss

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2018

THE ODYSSEY BARKER

making some noise about pets & toys

Gift Guide

To Pluck or Not to Pluck?

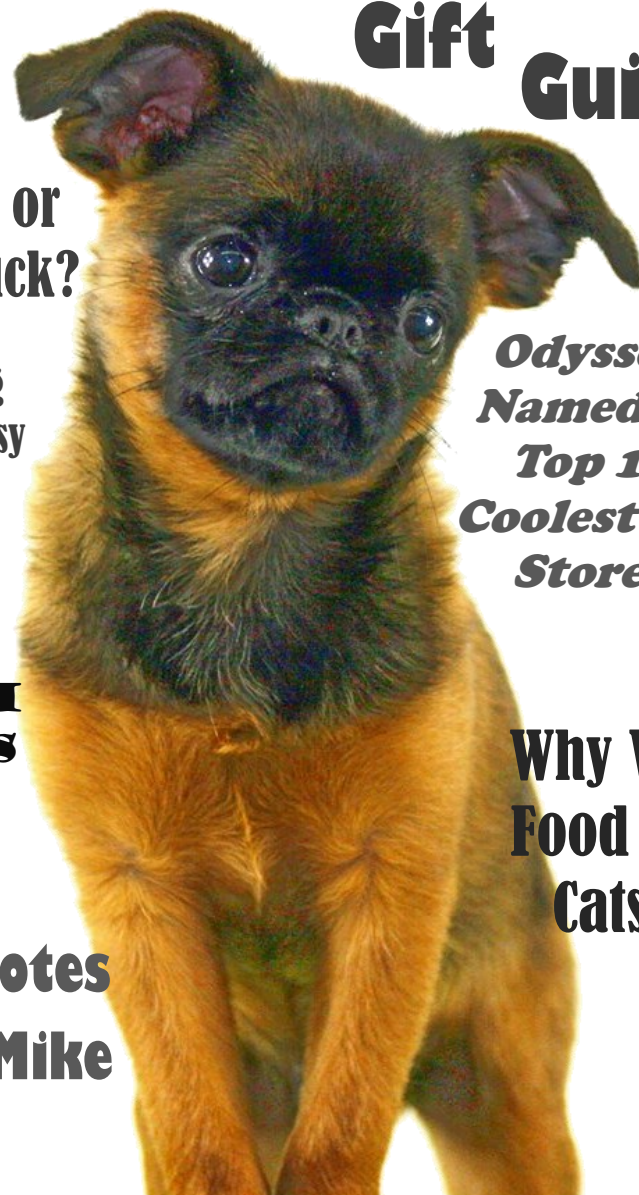
The Ear
Plucking
Controversy

*Odyssey
Named in
Top 10
Coolest Pet
Stores*

LEASH RULES

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from Mike





Odyssey Named Top 10 Coolest Pet Stores in America

Ten independent pet businesses have been chosen "America's Coolest" by Pets+, "The

Magazine for the America's Pet Pros," in its inaugural contest.

The America's Coolest Stores Contest highlights the best examples of independent pet businesses throughout the United States. They are judged by a panel of retail experts on the basis of business practices, history, online presence, traditional advertising, interior decor & curb appeal. This inaugural contest in the magazine's first year of publication saw entries from all across America.

"We feel privileged to bring our readers the best of the best in our industry," said Ralf Kircher, Pets+ editor-in-chief. "Winning stores often have amazing product lineups and are impressive to look at. But a store wouldn't really fit our 'cool' criteria if it weren't for such aspects as innovative marketing, creative retail environment and a unique work culture."

We here at Odyssey want to give a big thank you to our super cool employees and our amazingly cool customers for helping make O.P. one of the "Coolest Pet Stores in America!"

TERRIFIC TRIPE

Green Tripe is a great source of probiotics, calcium, digestive enzymes, and much more. It promotes a healthy digestive system and boosts pets' immune systems. A true superfood for dogs! So, what exactly is tripe? It is the untreated contents of a grazing animal's stomach or intestines. It sounds gross, but your pet will thank you. Odyssey offers tripe in several convenient formats: canned, freeze-dried, frozen, and even in treats! A great addition to any diet.



Kitty Korner

Why Wet Food?

Cats tend to visit the water bowl less than dogs because in nature, they consume the majority of their moisture intake from raw meat. "Nature designs cats to hydrate via their diet," according to Dr. Karen Becker, a proactive and integrative wellness veterinarian. The healthiest, most natural diet you could feed your cat is a nutritionally balanced, fresh meat-based diet. Cats that are fed kibble only will not drink enough water to compensate for the lack of moisture in their food, therefore they are in a "constant state of dehydration," according to Dr. Becker. If you are not ready to take the raw plunge, consider a healthy canned diet. We're not talking Friskies here...you don't want any by-products, corn syrup, or cheap fillers. A healthy canned diet has a very high moisture content which will help kitty's kidneys in the long run.



Northwest Naturals Raw Cat Diets

98% meat, quick-thaw cat nibbles



Vital Essentials Raw Cat Patties

Complete RAW-meat meals with the essential nutrients that cats instinctively crave. Flash frozen, locking in essential nutrients and enzymes. Pure RAW—contains NO "Junk" ingredients.



Earthborn cat pouches

Wet food in eco-friendly packaging at a crazy good price point. Available in six fun flavors.

To Pluck or Not to Pluck?

The Ear Plucking Controversy

Even as recently as ten years ago, it was common practice for groomers to pluck the ears of a dog in order to remove all the hair at the opening of the ear canal. But as of late, a rift in the grooming community has risen as to the necessity of this practice. The new consensus of veterinarians and educated groomers is that plucking ear hair can do more harm than good. Rather than prevent ear infections, this procedure can actually create a greater likelihood of infection by damaging the tender inner ear tissue and allowing a foothold for bacteria to thrive. According to Dr. Karen Becker, an integrative veterinarian, "Ear hair has a purpose, so unless it's causing a problem or is aggravating an existing infection, it's not a good idea to remove it, and especially not by plucking. Plucking itself can cause irritation and inflammation."



Christina Pawlosky, a Certified Master Groomer also states, "In a healthy ear with normal cellular production, the ear maintains good balance. Normal amounts of skin cells are shed and are removed by the normal amounts of the skin flora — microorganisms that live on the skin surface. But when we pluck hair from the ear, we cause a reaction." If a reaction is caused, the extra cells produced will need to be removed in a few days or weeks, causing a cycle of injury to the skin.

Dr. Heide Newton, DVM, DACVD also states that "Healthy ears are self-cleaning." She encourages the practice of ear cleaning with products formulated for ear care. The groomer will massage the base of the ear to allow the product to loosen the wax and debris from deep in the ear canal. Clipping or scissoring excess hair around the ear opening to allow air flow is best, but no plucking. Another note of interest is that Dr. Heide also states that "Bathing with clean water will NOT cause ear infections. Contaminated water may introduce microbes that lead to ear infections, but clean water is not a problem."

We at Odyssey want to do the best for you and your pet. We constantly research and keep up with continuing education. This is why we do not continue the practice of ear plucking. If the hair is so thick that it is blocking the ear canal, we will carefully clip or scissor the hair. We clean out the wax and debris to the best of our ability. If we notice any signs of abnormality like redness, itchiness, odor, swollen tissue of outer ear, hair loss on earflap, scabs, or scaliness, we will refer you to the veterinary dermatologist where it can be diagnosed accurately and an effective treatment prescribed.

A Letter from Sherry

Should you always keep your dog on leash?

In the past eleven years of being a pet store owner, I've seen it all. I've seen all manner of proper and improper ways to retain a dog. I've seen one person carry 3 dogs in one arm. I've seen homemade leashes made from chains and scarves. On the other hand, I've also seen well-mannered dogs heel perfectly next to their owner. Even if you don't have the most well-behaved dog, or if you think you have the best trained dog in the world, you should always keep them on a proper leash and collar or harness (see harness note below) when in public.

One of our customers learned this fact first-hand while shopping in a competitor's store. She had a small dog that always heeled by her side. Another customer came in with a large dog also off-leash. The large dog attacked the small one in an instant before anyone could stop it. Had one or the other (or both!) of these owners had their dogs on leash, the little dog would still be with us today. Keeping your dog on leash will protect it and others from possible attacks. You will have more control and be able to pull your dog away from harm.

Another reason to keep your dog on leash is that it's law in most cities. Sidenote: For the safety of you and your pet, Odyssey requires all dogs entering the store to be on leash, held in your arms, or in a crate/carrier. Also, if you use a retractable leash, it must be in locked position. And, speaking of retractable leashes....I only recommend them for well-trained dogs. Those types of leashes offer the handler almost no control.

Now, a note on harnesses....they are only necessary if your dog has a trachea problem or you want them to pull a sled. A harness will not discourage pulling. Rather, it encourages and makes it easier for the animal to pull. I also see many collars that are too loose. A dog can back out of a loose collar easily. You want the collar to be properly fitted so that you can slide 2-3 fingers underneath it. We love the slip lead. It solves so many problems! The slip lead allows you to leash the dog quickly and it discourages pulling by giving YOU more control, not the dog. The Odyssey staff is more than happy to help you with recommendations and fittings for your dog.

Lastly, walking your dog on leash strengthens the human-animal bond. Once they learn how to walk with you properly, they will love it!

Happy walking!

—Sherry Redwine, Odyssey Pets co-owner



Fish Notes from Mike: Species Specific

Ever think about having an aquarium but you don't have enough room? Find yourself saying, "That would be really cool but that's too complicated?" None of it is true of course. It is neither difficult nor size dependent. In fact, today I'm going to talk about small and about how awesome small can be.



Micro tanks, pico tanks, nano tanks...whatever you want to call them, they are experiencing a new evolution in the pet industry. These are aquariums that are about 10 gallons or less. A large variety of species specific animals that adapt well to these tiny habitats are becoming readily available on the market. Pea puffers, cherry shrimp, harlequin shrimp, mantis shrimp, killifish, endler's livebearers, and more! Many of these creatures can only be kept by themselves because they are either predators or they are prey. This is a trend that can be done with salt or freshwater. All provide an incredible insight into the small aquatic environments that surround us in the natural world and give us an opportunity to interact as both creator and observer.

There are many elegant solutions for micro and species tank keeping on the market. The Bio Cube and the Fluval Evo tank kits come with lighting, filtration and have sleek, modern design. This is a great and easy way to dip your toes into the micro habitat world of aquarium keeping. Plus, it is perfect for a desk!

—Mike Doan, Odyssey Pets co-owner

GIFT GUIDE



Nerf Tennis Ball Blaster

Need we say more?

Sugar Cookie Cologne

Always a favorite!
Mmmmm cookies.



Catapult Cage Toy

So innovative!
Durable. Crinkly.
Made in USA!

Nitey Leash

Super bright fiber
optic leash! The
best we've ever
seen.



Cozy Scarves

New 2017 colors.
Get 'em while they
last! We sell out
every year.



Jiminy's Cricket Cookies

Treats made
from high-protein
cricket meal!



Pumpkin Spice Treats

Yum.



Coal Ball

Perfect for that
mischievous dog.
Floats. Made in the
U.S.A.



Pet House Room Spray

New! Natural & effective quick odor
removal. Available in 4 yummy flavors.

Cubo Tower

3 levels of kitty fun
on the inside!
Detachable side
cover & cushions
for easy cleaning.



Stretch Fleece

Just right for
Texas Winters.



Freeze-dried Minnows

Kitties go
crazy for these!