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It's A Dog's Life

Mystic Clippers—Where Dogs, Cats, And A Few Ferrets Feel At Home

By Bree Shirvell | [Email the author](#) | January 27, 2011

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If you drive on Route 1 in Mystic, you've probably driven by [Mystic Clippers](#). You might have even noticed the dog grooming and spa's iconic logo—the black silhouette of a dog standing on the edge of a sailboat.

“Everyone gets stuck at the light and sees our logo,” Jay Presser said of the traffic light at Williams Ave. and Hewitt Rd.

Stuck at the light they might get, but once inside, customers and their human owners come back for the cozy, home-like feel, the quality of service, and the passion of owners Presser and his wife, Darla Connelly.

“Quality does not happen by accident,” is the spa's unofficial motto, and one both owners live by.

Ex-New Yorkers, the two had a cottage in Lord's Point where they came every weekend. Looking for a new career, Connelly worked as groomer at Pet Smart for two years while they started to look at what was available in the area to open their own shop.

In 2009, in the middle of one of the worst recessions the country has known, they opened Mystic Clippers at 67 Williams Ave. in Mystic.

“We just did it,” Presser said of opening during tough economic times.

Since then, the business has taken off, and they've started to become a part of the community.

“The animals are happy,” Connelly said. “Their tails start wagging and they dash up the stairs.”

Connelly and Presser said working with the animals, all of which have their own unique personalities, is one of the best things about this second career.

“You develop a relationship with animals and the owners,” Connelly said. “We look forward to seeing each other.”

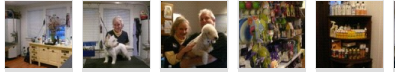
Presser added that where else do you get to bring your dogs to work everyday.

“We enjoying coming to work everyday,” Presser said.

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Which isn't to say it's all fun and tail wagging. The couple works hard at what they do, working six days a week. The grooming, which requires standing for one to two hours per animal, can be physically exhausting.

And while Connelly worked at Pet Smart, she is largely a self-taught groomer. She has earned several certifications from the National Dog Groomers Association and will soon be certified as a master groomer.

"If they enjoy it, I enjoy it," Connelly said of the animals they've have groomed.

The couple estimates Mystic Clippers have groomed over 1,100 dogs and cats and even two ferrets.

It's easy to see why the animals enjoy it. In a converted house, the spa retains its welcoming feel. Along the walls are inspirational quotes that Presser collects. Everything is open, from the bathing to the grooming, so customers never feel as though their pets are taken to some undisclosed room.

"People feel comfortable," Connelly said.

And it seems so do the tail-wagging customers.

Are you a customer of Mystic Clippers? [Tell us in the comments.](#)