

MEDINA'S GOURMET BAKERY...FOR DOGS

One Lucky Dog!



by Benjamin Margalit/Margalit Studio

Stacey Sutphen is surrounded by her current best friends: Finn, Jane, Knight and Cookie. All are Scottish Deerhounds, an active breed requiring a high performance diet. For Stacey, "It's all about the dogs."

Stacey Sutphen is taking the next step with her wildly successful internet business, *One Lucky Dog Bakery*. Soon canine connoisseurs will be pulling their owners to her new shop on the Square in Medina for these fabulous treats.

by MimiVanderhaven

Stacey Sutphen might be described as the unlikely entrepreneur. Like many of us, Stacey set off in life to fulfill her ambitions. In her case, it was to become a nanny where she could let her nurturing personality shine. Along the way she also got married.

Also like many of us, the marriage unfortunately did not quite work out. But Stacey had a circle of close friends to give her some essential moral support in those days. Their names were Jake, Mozey and Lucy. And they were three of the best rescue dogs ever.

Just as Stacey helped them heal from their own individual traumas, the three rescue dogs made sure that all of the love and affection Stacey poured on them was returned in kind when Stacey was left alone.

You see, Jake, Mozey and Lucy rescued Stacey.

"Really, I don't know what I would have done without my three friends," Stacey recalls. "They helped me smile when I was sad, they let me cry when I needed a good cry, and they always seemed to know when I needed a good laugh."

During the holidays, back in those years, one of the children Stacey was working with as a nanny asked if she could show him how to bake cookies. Stacey decided to do something fun and different. The two baked cookies for their pets.

The cookies needed to be all-natural and not quite sure what to put in them, Stacey decided to try some of the things that her own dogs enjoyed—like peanut butter, blueberries and chicken.

The cookies were a hit. All of the dogs loved them, especially Lucy who adored the peanut butter, and Mozey who was partial to the pumpkin biscotti. Jake loved them all. These holiday "cookies" became a yearly tradition, and just like a Mrs. Fields for our canine friends, word got around about Stacey's dog treats.

Stacey began to experiment with different flavors. And because she wanted her three very best friends to live long, healthy lives, she made her treats with all-natural ingredients and no preservatives. "There are some very nasty chemicals that are used as preservatives in pet food and dog treats that potentially could cause serious issues with your pet," Stacey explains. "Propylene glycol, which is used in anti-freeze, is a common preservative, and so are ingredients suspected of causing cancer, like butylated hydroxyanisole and ethoxyquin."

Early on Stacey also created gluten-free and wheat-free options, which can also be important to a dog's health and vitality.

As you can imagine, it eventually became obvious that Stacey's gourmet dog treats were a hot item with many possibilities to market them. Two years ago, One Lucky Dog Bakery opened on the internet and has become such a hit that Stacey is now ready to take the next step in her journey and open a storefront in the brick and mortar of 45 Public Square in Medina. Construction should be completed in the next few months.

"The children I have nannied are now grown. As One Lucky Dog bakery grows, it will become my new career. It's funny how things have worked out. Jake, Mozey and Lucy have all passed, but they are still taking care of me by way of this bakery that they



One Lucky Dog treats can be ordered from the website www.oneluckydogbakery.com.



The One Lucky Dog Bakery will also feature treats, toys and specialty items.

helped inspire," Stacey reflects.

After interviewing Stacey, Mimi decided to check the ingredients in her own pet's treats. She wasn't happy with what she found. It certainly wasn't the brown rice flour, apples, natural peanut butter, blueberries, carrots, eggs, pumpkin, mackerel, sweet potato, chicken white meat, banana and flax seed that Stacey uses for her treats. In fact, her treats are so natural, they need to be refrigerated. The shelf life is around four weeks. But don't worry, these treats won't last long once your favorite little friend discovers you cared enough to bring them home.

You can learn more by visiting the One Lucky Dog website at www.oneluckydogbakery.com.