

● DECEMBER 2024

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

Defined electric service areas protect rural Iowans

Holiday party recipes

Grundy County REC offers youth opportunities

Business spotlight: Posh Paws Grooming & Boarding ▶ See Pages 4-5



POSH PAWS GROOMING & BOARDING: TAILORED CARE AND COZY COMFORT FOR EVERY PET

Nestled just north of Grundy Center on a beautiful property, there is a special place where four-legged family members are treated with as much love and care as if they were at home. And that place is Posh Paws Grooming & Boarding (Posh Paws).

This cozy home away from home for pets is owned and operated by Scott

and Lisa Bienfang and has become a special place for local pets – and a source of comfort for their owners. Posh Paws is a labor of love rooted in their passion for animals and commitment to creating a positive, safe experience for each “client.” They don’t just see these pets as customers – they see them as family. Each wagging tail and excited bark is a reminder of the bond they share with every pet and person who walks through their doors.

Here, grooming isn’t rushed; it’s an experience tailored to each pet’s unique needs, creating calm and comfort with every brush, wash, belly rub and trim. Boarding isn’t just a service; it’s an invitation to play, rest and feel secure while their loved ones are away.

We sat down with Lisa to learn more about Posh Paws.



Tell us about Posh Paws, its offerings, and what makes it special.

A: Posh Paws offers personalized, one-on-one dog grooming and long-term boarding services, all in a warm, welcoming environment. Licensed and inspected by the State of Iowa, we take pride in maintaining the highest standards of care for every dog that stays with us.

Each pup has a private 5-by-5-foot den with 24-hour access to a fenced and covered outdoor “lanai.” While

they have their own cozy space, we also encourage “social boarding,” where dogs can play together rather than spend the day in their kennels. To ensure safe and enjoyable play, we conduct temperament tests to understand each dog’s personality, play style and the best fit for their playgroup.

Posh Paws offers indoor and outdoor play areas, 13 boarding dens equipped with food and water bowls, an elevated bed, and plenty of toys and treats. We can also administer any needed medications, providing peace of mind to pet parents. And because I love photography, many clients receive fun, seasonal photos of their freshly groomed, happy pets – capturing these special moments to share with their families.



What made you want to get into this line of work?

A: In 2020, I was working as a business marketing specialist with the State of Iowa, but COVID-19 changed everything, motivating me to explore a new path. One day, a friend asked if I could look after her dog in one of our barn stalls. Soon after, another friend suggested that while I was boarding her dog, I might as well give him a bath. With some encouragement, I started watching YouTube tutorials and shadowing an experienced groomer. Before I knew it, I was grooming dogs at night after my day job. Within just



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two months, I was able to leave my job and focus on grooming and boarding full time.

We initially converted a 10-by-10-foot space in the barn for grooming. But as demand grew, we expanded further, renovating a much larger area in another building on our farm just three months later.

What do you enjoy most about operating your business?

A: I love running my own business for the flexibility it brings – allowing me to travel and meet wonderful people from across central Iowa. And after spending over an hour on the road every day in past jobs, my 80-step commute is pretty great!

Our “fur family” has truly been a blessing. We get to grow close to each client as we care for their pets. When a pet passes away, it genuinely feels like losing one of our own.

What makes Posh Paws unique?

A: At Posh Paws, we provide personalized, one-on-one grooming services that allow us to focus entirely on each pup’s physical and emotional needs. As much as humans enjoy a “spa day,” not all pets consider a grooming session relaxing. We spend the extra time helping them feel safe and secure throughout their visit. When it comes to grooming, we believe in “humanity over vanity,” so we consider which

trims and treatments meet their overall needs. Our selection of shampoo and conditioner options addresses a range of skin and fur types, and when it comes to the pups’ nails, we clip and/or buff to make sure the nails are smooth, not just short.

Our guests are often entertained by the sights and sounds of the farm, which is home to cattle and free-range chickens. Many pups have never seen a cow or a chicken, so watching their reaction is fun! Pet parents and their kiddos are fascinated by the novelty of seeing the mini donkeys as they pull into the driveway!

Posh Paws is truly a family business. Scott lets the pups out in the morning and provides their morning breakfast. I’m in charge of grooming, cleaning, scheduling, boarding check-ins and check-outs, appointment reminders, social media/marketing and customer service. We also have a part-time employee who works a couple of hours a month and helps track vaccination records.

Tell us more about your community involvement.

A: For the past four years, we’ve proudly sponsored and run the Felix Grundy Festival Pet and Kiddie Parade. It’s great seeing the families enthusiastically dressing up to match each year’s theme, adding to the fun and friendly competition. We’ve had as many as 50 participants and hope to

grow the event each year! We love the festival and enjoy drawing families to enjoy the festivities, too.

We also proudly sponsor the Grundy County Fair Dog Show each year. In addition to community events, we have hosted several interns and job shadow students. I encourage anyone who enjoys working with animals to consider a career as a pet groomer – there is still a significant need for more groomers and boarding options in the area.

What would people be surprised to know about Posh Paws?

A: Posh Paws has approximately 300 pets active on our services (between grooming and boarding). Clients come from Grundy Center, Reinbeck, Wellsburg, Holland, Conrad, Marshalltown, State Center, Alden, Iowa Falls, Steamboat Rock, Evansdale and Waterloo/Cedar Falls.

Is there anything else you’d like our members to know about Posh Paws?

A: Although we’re not able to accept new grooming clients at this time, we welcome new boarding clients when dens are available. We already have clients booking for Christmas 2025, so we encourage clients to plan ahead!

Grundy County REC proudly provides power to Posh Paws Grooming & Boarding in Grundy Center!



Coming soon!

Patronage dividends will be reflected on your December bill.



Be on the lookout for an email or postcard urging you to update your contact information with Grundy County REC.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

From our co-op family to yours, we wish you a safe and warm holiday season with friends and family.

Our office will be closed the following days to give our employees time to celebrate the holidays with loved ones:

- Tuesday, Dec. 24
- Wednesday, Dec. 25
- Wednesday, Jan. 1

As always, our phones are answered 24/7, year-round. Call 319-824-5251 to report an outage or power-related emergency.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/forms/electronic-forms>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of the alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights 1400
Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or
(202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Save the date! The 2025 Youth Tour will be June 15-21, 2025.

NOW ACCEPTING 2025 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS

Each year, Grundy County REC sponsors one high school student in their sophomore, junior or senior year to attend the Youth Tour in our nation's capital. It's an all-expenses-paid trip that students will never forget!

Youth Tour participants learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. They also visit with their representatives in the House and the Senate and tour popular destinations around Washington, D.C.

Applicants must be the dependent of a current Grundy County REC member to qualify. Learn more and submit your application at www.grundycountyrecia.com/youth-tour.

The deadline to apply is March 3, 2025.

2025 COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Grundy County REC awards three \$1,000 scholarships and one \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship each year. The scholarships help member students (child/dependent of a current Grundy County REC member) who are high school seniors or recent graduates pay for their higher education. The scholarships go directly to the school of each recipient's choice to assist with college tuition.

For more information, visit www.grundycountyrecia.com/scholarships.

Apply by Feb. 5, 2025!

Visit our website at www.grundycountyrecia.com



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