



Interview with Vicki Cooper, owner of Circle Star Pet Resort

Vicki has always been drawn to animals and feels a deep connection with them.

Born in San Francisco, California in 1958, Vicki spent her summers on her grandparent's farm surrounding by goats, cows, horses and of course dogs.

Vicki remembers going to a beach house at age 8 with a family she didn't know very well. "I felt very out of place and lonely". One day, using the spending money her mom gave her, she bought a book on dog training. "That night, for the first time since I'd been there, I found joy reading my first dog training book and dreaming of the day I would train a dog". Vicki was involved in a special program that allowed her to go to Junior College when she was just 15 years old. She graduated with an A.A. when she was 18. She has been self employed ever since. Her first business was a successful dance school in Washington. Her second business was a gourmet shop in San Jose, California. At the gourmet shop, she created Ice Cap Frosty Cappuccino Mix and took the company nationwide. She created a manufacturing plant to create the cappuccino mix from start to finish which included buying the coffee beans from foreign countries, learning how to expertly roast, grind and brew them. The factory featured a self tour, retail center and cafe. From there, she created spinoff retail cafes in California Airports. She also had a food service business providing boxed meals to American Airlines, the Air National Guard, the California Department of Forestry and the California Air Attack Bases.

Meanwhile, Vicki always had dogs and showed them in obedience. At one point, she had a top scoring Great Pyrenees dog. In 2003, she and her mother sold their homes in California and bought a ranch together in Texas. They named it Circle Star Ranch. At the suggestion of a local veterinarian, they began boarding dogs. They received a wonderful response. Vicki's mother passed away a few years ago but Vicki has continued the business they started.

Vicki feels as though this is what she was destined to do. She cares for pets like her own. She knows each one by name and personality quirks. Additionally, she trains dogs to become wonderful family members. Often these dogs would have been removed from their homes due to bad behavior.

She is very excited about the newest kennel addition called "The Lodge". Reminiscent of a West Texas Hunting Lodge, it has open beam ceilings, antler chandeliers, indoor and outdoor play yards, fireplaces, a dog saloon and much, much more. Vicki has also just started a Pet Taxi service to pick up and deliver dogs both locally and beyond, increasing the number of people the Pet Resort can serve by a million and a half people.

Vicki, now 53, is married to Allan Springer, a Fire Chief at the Dallas Fire Department. Allan is also a Cutting Horse trainer and he and Vicki share a love of riding cutting horses.



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