



(left to right: Cheryl Meyer of Outbound Hounds, Monique Anstee of Naughty Dogge & Kate Schroeder of Accent in Grooming).

### ***Doggie Threesome meets all of your Dog's Needs***

Long gone are the days when a drive into Langford is necessary to meet your canine's needs. Three local businesses consisting of a groomer, trainer and walker/sitter, join forces making life easier. **Outbound Hounds Pet Care Service**, **The Naughty Dogge** and **Accent In Grooming**, share ideas in the care and well-being of your dogs over the Holiday Season.

While making plans to 'deck the halls', many pet owners will soon be contemplating choices in care. A creative alternative, inviting a professional pet-sitter to live-in, ensures a stress-free experience for your animals and yourselves. Enjoying the comfort, security and routine of their own household, pets escape the trauma associated with removal from home. In turn, pet-owners appreciate the benefit of built-in security and maintenance for their homes.

When choosing a pet-care provider, insurance, bonding and licensing are points to be seriously considered. Family, friends and neighbours may initially seem a simpler and less costly choice, yet the professional who has met these criteria, along with

certificates in pet-first aid, offers an ability to effectively handle the unexpected. In addition (a plus for many), with the professional agreement existing between client and sitter, theirs is a guilt-free relationship. Keep the season Merry. No favours here. Walking, feeding, scooping, even on Christmas Day...it's all part of the job description!

Cheryl Meyer of Outbound Hounds, is licensed, bonded and insured with certificates in pet first-aid and vet assistance. Contact, **Outbound Hounds Pet Care Service @ [www.outboundhounds.com](http://www.outboundhounds.com)** or call: **642-4440**.

Although living on the West Shore does not ordinarily afford us the opportunity to wander in a winter wonderland of the white stuff, we are blessed with incredible spots to roam with our furry friends. When walking the food-motivated dog, a yummy treat given each time he checks in with you reinforces this behaviour, encouraging more of the same. From teaching this essential lesson, ensuring your daily walks are safe and fun, to instructing your dog to refrain from jumping on you or your holiday guests, rewarding positive behaviours increases their frequency. Prevent nasty habits from developing, through early and consistent training.

Socialization, exposing your young pup (up to the age of 2 depending on breed) to all manner of experiences, in combination with regular exercise, both physical and mental, offers your dog the opportunity to develop into the happy, healthy and well adjusted pet that he deserves to be. Education, through working with a professional trainer goes a long way in achieving this optimal balance.

Monique Anstee of The Naughty Dogge has over 18 yrs. experience in training, gaining over 50 working titles with her re-trained problem dogs. Contact **The Naughty Dogge @ 642-0869** or go to **[www.naughtydogge.com](http://www.naughtydogge.com)**.

Ensure your pet is ready for his close-up in this year's family Christmas photo! Grooming is more than just a bath and a haircut; it's part of the total health care of your pet. Puppies of all breeds should make a few visits to a professional groomer during its first year. It is much easier to get a puppy accustomed to the smells, sounds and grooming procedures, than a mature dog who has never set paw in a grooming shop, then finds himself there at age 6. Many breeds will require bathing and clipping every 4-8 weeks during lifespan of the pet. What better way to start, than as a puppy? It's also a great opportunity to obtain useful information. Remember, the groomer has the tools and know-how. Take advantage of this knowledge and expertise.

Consider the research involved in choosing a breeder or the appropriate dog. The same should apply when choosing a groomer. A low volume establishment may in turn mean a low-stress operation. It is important to find a groomer who honours the pet's experience, while also being knowledgeable on presentation of each breed.

Kate Schroeder of Accent in Grooming, is certified and a member of the International Pet Grooming Association. For more hints on keeping your dog in style and to book

your appt. with **Accent in Grooming**, contact Kate at: **642-6342 (C) 818-6342** or email: **accentdog@hotmail.com**.

**Outbound Hounds, The Naughty Dogge** and **Accent in Grooming**, local businesses, providing care and attention for your pets, all in the convenience of your own community. The girls look forward to hearing from you and wish you a howling Holiday Season!