

## Special Delivery!

Spring has brought many new arrivals to Willow Creek—puppies, chickens, and turkeys, for starters.

But no arrival has given me such delight as my new book, **Barbets: The Best Kept Secret of the Dog World.**

To my knowledge, this is the first book ever on the Barbet, and I wrote it as an homage to an amazing breed that deserves time in the spotlight.

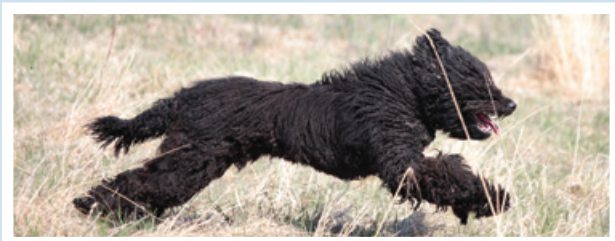


**Available in print and e-book on amazon.com**

### Here's the cover description:

*Never heard of a Barbet? That's no surprise, because this rare breed is still a hidden treasure. Dog lovers are only starting to discover the appeal of this calm, clever, and charming purebred that comes in a medium-sized, allergy-friendly package.*

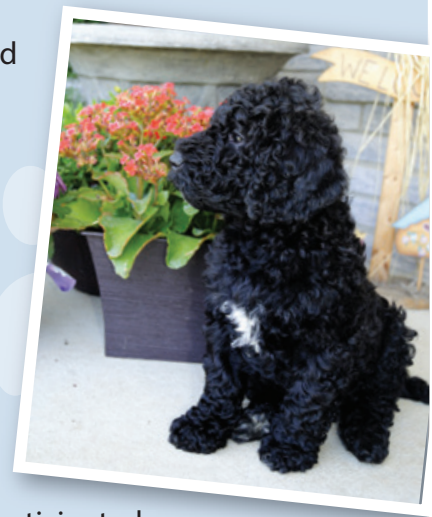
*A versatile and sturdy breed that once graced the palaces and marshes of France, the Barbet population dwindled to near-extinction before dedicated breeders staged its comeback.*



*In "Barbets: The Best Kept Secret of the Dog World," Pam Heaton of Willow Creek Water Dogs draws on her extensive breeding experience to shine a spotlight on this canine gem. A long-time fan of Portuguese Water Dogs, Heaton calls the Barbet a "decaffeinated" version of the spirited Portie and a wonderful companion dog. This primer covers all the essentials, from finding a reputable breeder who does required health checks, to care, training and grooming. Heaton also shares an insider's look at the complicated world of dog breeding. Beautiful photos and owner testimonials will make you wonder how this amazing breed remained a secret for so long.*

I'm proud of this book, and thrilled that so many Willow Creek clients completed surveys and interviews, and shared hundreds of photos of their dogs. There is no better way to showcase the Barbet's character than through the eyes and words of owners.

Thanks again to all who participated.



Already, more people are finding their way to the Barbet through this book. I hope current owners will join the Willow Creek Waterdogs Facebook Group and provide insights and supports to newcomers to the breed. While I'm always available for advice and input to my clients, sometimes it's nice to compare notes with other owners, especially about the challenges of raising a puppy—from middle-of-the-night piddle breaks, to nipping and chewing. Share photos and stories as littermates grow.

## Homecoming Day

Calling all Willow Creek Barbet owners...  
Please come join the fun!

**JUNE**  
**SATURDAY** 14

The reunion will be held at Pinetree Pet Care centre, which is just a few miles from my home. The facility offers indoor space, so the event is guaranteed, rain or shine! **Check it out at [www.pinetreepetcarecentre.com](http://www.pinetreepetcarecentre.com)**



I am very excited to see some of my Barbet "babies" all grown up, not to mention their wonderful owners.

I welcome anyone who is interested in learning about the breed to come and see what all the fuss is about. And to be honest, I won't turn away my

wonderful Portuguese Water Dog (PWD) owners, if they want to come and mingle with Barbet people. ***The more the merrier!***



## WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Meet, greet and play
- Grooming, and ear/nail care demonstrations
- Agility course
- Snacks and surprises

**Date: June 14, 2014**

**Time: 1-3 p.m.**

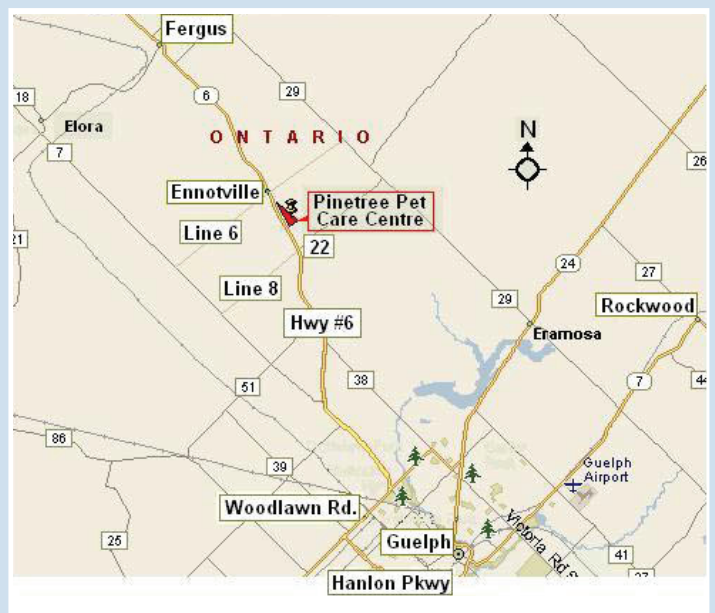
**Location: Pine Tree Pet Care Centre**

**Address: 5951 Hwy 6, Guelph, ON**

**Price: No charge – but donations gladly accepted for Therapy Dog International**  
**Please RSVP to**

**[pam@willowcreekwaterdogs.com](mailto:pam@willowcreekwaterdogs.com)**  
**by June 12**

## DIRECTIONS:



## Willow Creek on the Small Screen

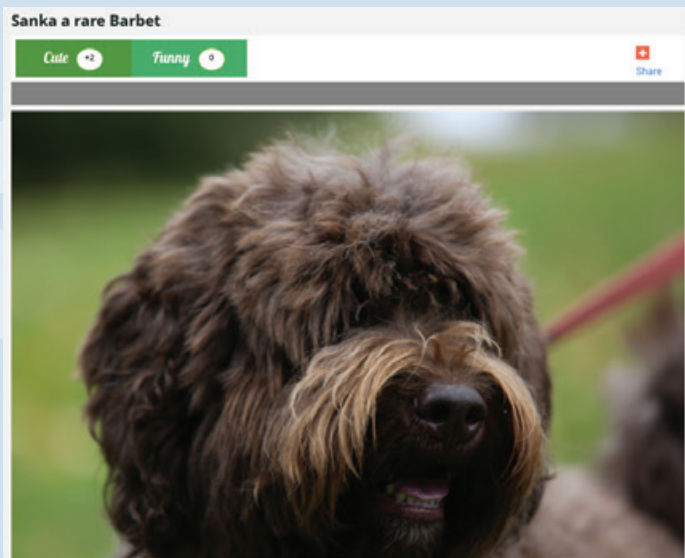
The wonderful new series, Dog Park Tales, shot an episode here last summer that will go live on **May 26, 2014** at [www.dogparktales.ca](http://www.dogparktales.ca)



I love this show—and not just because I'm part of it! So far, the episodes have been informative, touching and often hilarious.

The Willow Creek preview, called "**How to Adopt a Puppy,**" is already posted. I understand that this web series will also air on the Pet Network starting in the fall.

**{ VOTE FOR SANKA ON DOG PARK TALES! }**



## New Kid in Town

***Who doesn't love a tall, dark and handsome guy in a tuxedo?***

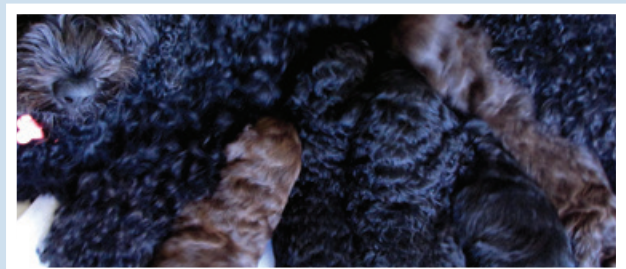
That's how an esteemed breeder colleague of mine describes the new Willow Creek Barbet sire she's produced.

The new boy is named "Jireh," which means providence, and conveys my high expectations. He's expected in Guelph in June.

I've waited a long time for a male of sound lines from health-tested parents that would bring the right qualities for my breeding program. My current sire, Farley, has produced some lovely daughters who will be vying for Jireh's attention, once he's passed his clearances, and he proves to be a gentleman in temperament.

In the words of his breeder, Jireh is "a big, beautiful tuxedo-attired gentleman, sporting four white feet. He has a lovely head and excellent bite. As of today, it appears that his coat will be a loose wave and very dense."

Only time will tell if Jireh lives up to his promise, but I anticipate that my new tuxedo-clad boy may take the Barbet dress code up a notch around here.



## Ask Pam...

I get a lot of calls and e-mails, especially in spring, when a dog lover's fancy turns to thoughts of... frolicking puppies.



The good news is that there should be enough Willow Creek puppies to go around. If all goes as planned, I will have several litters of Barbets and PWDs.

Most of my pups go home at eight weeks of age, but lately, people have been inquiring about older, more mature pups, and I've been able to meet that need.

Like a fine wine, a well-aged puppy may suit some owners better. Sure, a two-month-old pup is at the height of cuteness, but for busy families, and people who work full-time, an older pup has many notable advantages.

First, physical capacity. At two months, a puppy can only hold its urine for three hours maximum. For each month of life, add another hour to the potty schedule. Housebreaking an older pup is much easier.

Second, mental capacity. Puppies are ready to begin learning basic commands at 8 weeks of age, but by 12 weeks, the lessons "stick" better. That extra month brings much in the way of focus and self-control.

Third, bite inhibition. A pup who stays a little longer with a littermate will likely arrive at your house with better bite inhibition. When a puppy chomps its little pals, they either stop playing, or bite back harder.

Either way, pup learns it's in his best interest to withhold the bite. Nipping is the single biggest challenge for most new owners, so this is a big perk of the older pup!

Last, an asset at this time of year, an older pup will be more heat tolerant. Very young puppies simply can't pant fast enough to cool their bodies, and heat exhaustion is a very real threat.

An older pup comes with its second set of shots, and will transition just as easily into a new home as a younger one, if not more so. Recently, a 13-week-old Barbet, Zoe, moved to her beautiful new home in Massachusetts. Her owner, photographer Lisa Little, shared some of her gorgeous photos and described Zoe's first day at home:



*She is well-loved already... An instant bond was formed with my daughter Nadia and the two are nearly inseparable... She is eating and playing, and doing a great job of going potty outside. And she proved instantly that she is a water dog as she had so much fun running through the sprinkler today. What a fabulous addition to our family!*

In response to requests, I am also planning to launch a "**Head Start**" program, in which very young pups stay an extra month to learn crate training, housebreaking, basic commands and even leash manners. Each pup is unique, and some pick things up faster than others, but both the Barbet and the PWD are smart, trainable breeds, so I expect owners will be pleased with the results.

*Contact me for more information about "started" puppies. At Willow Creek, I am constantly trying to improve both my breeding program and my services. I appreciate any and all ideas and questions.*

**HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON, AND HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

Follow us

