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THE SCOOP ON DOG FOOD! PG 20

DOGSTER MAGAZINE

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8 OBSESSIONS

We're Talking About,
We're Doing, We're
Loving

3/ Here Comes Pearl

Pearl, the Pomeranian, is the winner of this year's America's Top Dog Model contest. The theme of 2016 was "Meet the Paw-litician," and contestants were selected on "their leadership qualities and best portrayal of their favorite politician." Pet parent Cheryl Bauer and Pearl chose to write an essay on Abraham Lincoln for his beliefs in freedom and love of animals. Pearl will be on the cover of the 2018 America's Top Dog Model Calendar, plus receive a variety of other goodies, including a tiara and a couture ensemble.

Cheryl said that Pearl's "fairytail" came true the day Underdog Rescue of MN rescued her from a puppy mill. She was then placed into foster care, which is where Cheryl adopted her in August 2015. "She didn't even know how to eat or drink out of a bowl when I adopted her," she said. "She was so scared. Her rehabilitation has gone so well!"

Sweet Pearl is "definitely a Mama's girl," described Cheryl, "and she loves her Papa and fur-brother Kirby." Cheryl said this calendar dog model spends her days learning all about soft squeaky toys, running around in the grass, and feeling safe and loved. — *Melissa*

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4/ Crocheted Hats for Pets

I came across a photo the other day of a dog wearing a crocheted pumpkin-shaped hat. I wondered if this was a "thing." Then I did an internet search. Yes — it is definitely a thing, and a really cute thing at that.

I found some really fun pet hats on Etsy and wondered what would inspire someone to make this particular type of accessory for pets. For Shana Xavier (Handmade Monster), it was her beloved Pug, Lady Yoshi Mifune (who also happens to be the shop's official model). "When she was a puppy, I would crochet her costumes and accessories," she said. Making and selling pet hats seemed a logical next step.

Mel Douthwright (GreyBabyCrochet) first made a headband to cover her Greyhounds' ears to

help keep them warm in winter. After adding devil horns to them (which suited her male, Crush), she posted a photo to Instagram. "I immediately got requests from followers to buy one," she said. So, she decided to open an Etsy shop, and GreyBabyCrochet was born. "I had no idea silly dog hats would be so popular when I first started," she said.

For Meredith Langley (IHeartNeedlework), it started out as just a fun hobby. But her work received so much positive attention, a family member suggested she open a shop on Etsy. "I never expected that my creations would be warmly welcomed nor so popular," she said. The normal, everyday world is what inspires her. The ideas for her hats are derived from commonplace objects, professions, and creatures re-imagined as art. The primary models for her work have been her five cats and her Pug.

All of the artists told me that they hear nothing but great things from their customers, and all of them receive lots of fun photos from customers of dogs wearing their hats. — *Annie*



COURTESY: MEL DOUTHWRIGHT/GREYBABYCROCH-ET

COURTESY: MEREDITH LANGLEY/IHEARTNEEDLEWORK

COURTESY: SHANA XAVIER/HANDMADE MONSTER