

Doggy Day Spa

Analyzing Interactions

Directions: Read the following passage from *185 To Go*, a humorous book about beach life, and answer the questions.

I ran an errand for mother this afternoon, dropping off a bag of books at A&A Doggy Day Spa: “Home of the Poodle Bouffant.” Mrs. Buchanan runs the daily operations of the family business, named after her twin children, Aly and Aubrey.

When I walked through the door, Aubrey and Aly were busy helping two clients, Ms. Cleo and Cleveland. Mrs. Pierce had also brought Sir Alfred in for his monthly primping. There is a lot of information to absorb when you walk into Doggy Day Spa. Sometimes it is difficult to know which signs are for humans and which are for dogs: *No Sniffing Customers, Checks Accepted, Toilet not for Drinking*.

Once a beautification plan is chosen, washing and styling begin. To help dogs choose their hairstyle, Aubrey puts on various wigs, like the Rover, Lassie, or Clifford. For more adventurous dogs, there is the Elvis “You Ain’t Nothing But a Hound Dog” (dyed black, slicked back with gel.) Aly carefully studies tail wags, and the wig with the most wags wins.

While they are shampooed and shammied, the dogs can chose to watch relaxing videos. There is a video monitor for each customer, with such options as Snoopy, cars driving past houses – and the always humorous – cats taking baths.

“Hold still, Ms. Cleo. It’s time for your *pet-i-cure*,” smiled Aly, who always enjoys puns and working with the off-white Lhasa Apso. Fancy is the theme for housedogs.

“Hold still, Cleveland,” stated Aubrey, who lost rock-paper-scissors to her sister. “Yo, Cleveland, over here. Cleveland, this way Cleveland, *this* way. Yoo-hoo Cleveland, Cleve-land!” After repeatedly clogging the dog spa drain, Cleveland is no longer offered the pressure wash option. Instead, Mrs. Buchanan gives him a voucher for the drive-thru car wash down the street.

Once, Mrs. Buchanan even tried extra luxury, like the big Hollywood dog spas. She offered customers cucumber slices for their eyes, as a way to relieve stress from chasing sticks and their tails. However, every veggie slice placed on a customer’s face was quickly eaten. As a final exclamation point to the whole doggy spa experience, the patrons choose their own aromas:

Perfume for the ladies – tuna, chicken, or jasmine.

Cologne for the gentlemen – peppermint, bacon, or garbage.

Sir Alfred had just finished his bacon spritz behind the ears and one for his breath. Mrs. Pierce paid at the register, speaking aloud to Sir Alfred, “Why don’t you wait outside on the sidewalk, while mommy pays.”

A well-heeled Sir Alfred knew exactly what to do after doggy spa – trot across the street and roll in seaweed.



Questions:

1. Describe three features at Doggy Day Spa. (**≥3 sentences**) **Doggy Spa has choose-your-own hairstyles. Dogs can watch videos. The dogs leave with a fragrance.**
2. Analyze the spa’s atmosphere. Is it a pleasant experience for dogs? (**≥3 sentences, cite text using quotes**) **Yes, it is pleasant because the staff is caring: “Aly and Aubrey were busy helping...” The spa is extravagant: “Mrs. Buchanan even tried extra luxury...” The shop has a variety of choices: “the patrons choose their own aromas.”**
3. Explain the meaning in context: *Aubrey, who lost rock-paper-scissors to her sister.* (**1 sentence**) **Neither girl's first choice was working with Cleveland.**
4. If you were a dog, what part of the spa experience would you enjoy the most? (**≥2 sentences**) **Answers vary.**
5. What type of people should Mrs. Buchanan hire to work at her spa? (**≥2 sentences**) **She should hire energetic people who like working with dogs. They should also have a lot of patience for pets like Cleveland.**
6. Irony is a twist in the story – the unexpected happens. Explain the ironic ending. (**≥1 sentence**) **In the end, the clean, well-groomed Sir Alfred wants to get dirty again.**

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