



AnnaBelle (left) with her Rally Excellent Ribbon and Honey (right) when she got her Championship title.



Lisa Groover with Honey.

Helping Dog Owners When They Move

BY LISA GROOVER
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When I was in college, my parents gave away my black lab, Kayla, because they couldn't find a place to live that would accept a dog over 50 pounds. It broke my heart. When I got into real estate, I knew from the beginning that I wanted to ease the pain for people in similar situations.

I was just churning some numbers and discovered that 40 percent of my clients are pet owners!

Pugs, Bulldogs, Greyhounds, Havanese, Rottweilers, Weimaraners, Tabbies, Calicos ... it has been my pleasure to work with animal lovers to find a new home, or to sell theirs. I have to admit that finding the right

place to live for a family with seven beagles has been my most challenging search to date!

My dog owner clients Tracy and Sherrie said, "Being the first time we sold a home, Lisa made us feel like her only client, and was extra attentive to our needs as we have three dogs. We would use Lisa again in a heartbeat!"

And dog owner Jacquie said, "Finding a home with three dogs was challenging. Working with an agent who understood our pet needs was not one of them. A pet owner can always tell another animal lover, and that is exactly what we got with Lisa!"

In addition to being a pet friendly real estate professional, I have also been a volunteer dog obedience trainer with Mount Vernon Dog Training Club for 5-6 years. Ours has been a class teaching the basic

skills of sit, down, stay, come and heel to dogs 5 months or older. More advanced classes are available through the club offering opportunities for earning a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) designation, and skills for showing your dog in all levels of competition. My dog AnnaBelle (Golden Retriever) earned five obedience and rally titles at trials throughout the area.

Dog therapy has been one of my favorite ways to volunteer in the community. Alexandria Public Library has a wonderful Paws to Read program where elementary school-aged children practice their reading aloud one-on-one to dogs.

Playing with a dog during exam week is a great way to relieve stress for students. We had a very special day at Georgetown University.

Greeting WWII and Vietnam vets as they

arrive on Honor Flights at Reagan National Airport is a fantastic way to give back to those that have served.

Whether it is nursing homes, hospitals, libraries or schools ... dog therapy makes a difference to those that need unconditional love from a caring four-legged friend.

I am proud to have been a sponsor for the Alexandria Dog Walk in support of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, and Paws for the People to raise funds for the Christ Church Food Pantry.

Yes ... I am a dog lover. Please stop me to say "hello" when you see me walking Honey ... my seventh Golden Retriever. I would be happy to help you get involved. You may also go to my website (LisaGroover.com) and click on the "dog friendly real estate" section for tips on moving when you own a dog.

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- Tracy and Sherrie

Buying or selling your home?
Contact Lisa Groover...the Alexandria agent that truly understands that home is where your dog is. For tips on dog friendly real estate, check out LisaGroover.com.

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