

## FACES OF BODEGA BAY

### Meet Michael and Barb Trapani

Interview by Robin Rudderow

The sun shone on foggy Bodega Bay when Barb Dunning moved to the Sonoma Coast in 2010. With a friendly disposition and helpful attitude, Barb was quickly embraced by our community.

After settling into Michael's cozy Carmet cottage, Barb agreed to join Michael in opening a veterinary facility. Their dream became reality when Barb saw laundromat space in Pelican Plaza available for rent. After months of work, in September 2011 she and Michael opened the Bodega Bay Veterinary Hospital (BBVH) to the good fortune of Bodega Bay pet owners and visitors to the Coast.

Early in Michael's veterinary career he found a wounded Kestrel in the road. Nursing the bird back to health, Michael discovered a passion for wildlife care, particularly birds of prey. His patients have included

Bald and Golden Eagles, hawks of many kinds, Great Horned, Screech, Pigmy and Saw-Whet Owls. He continues to contribute his time and ability to help sick and injured wildlife.

Barb has always felt a love for animals, so once her children were grown, she volunteered as a receptionist at "Animal Save" an animal adoption organization in Grass Valley. Before long, Barb's hard work earned her a job as Cat Adoption Manager. And who was the spay and neuter veterinarian at *Animal Save*? None other than Barb's family veterinarian, Dr. Michael Trapani! A friendship was kindled and before long, romance bloomed.

As the Practice Manager for BBVH Barb has her hands full but in her free time she enjoys gardening, playing



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tambourine to Michael's guitar, hot tub astronomy, bird and whale watching. Living on the coast provides so many photo opportunities that Barb has come to enjoy documenting what she sees through the lens of her camera. She enjoys spending time with her many friends.

Barb is proud of the BBVH ethic. She and Michael respect and value their staff by including them in decision making. They emphasize caring for both clients and staff with respect. Always, they strive to provide highest quality, compassionate veterinary care.

Buoyed by recommendations of satisfied clients, the hospital has become a busy hive of animal care activity. Local residents find Dr. Trapani a skilled and caring veterinarian. The focus of Michael's practice is caring for companion animals. Above all, he seeks to preserve the relationship between caring owners and their beloved pets. People who love their pets find a compassionate and understanding ally in "Dr. T."

Michael's regular column *The Family Pet* is published monthly in the *Sonoma County Gazette*. A guitarist, he sings and plays R & B on his amplified acoustic guitar. He is a regular cast member in the annual Cabaret Show, where he amuses the audience with enthusiastic lip-sync renditions.

Full of community spirit, Barb volunteers assistance in numerous community activities including the Hitchcock Film Festival, the Community Association

Car Show, Chowder Day, Fisherman's Festival Pet Parade and others.

Born in Honolulu, Barb moved with her family to Port Washington, Long Island, NY, where she spent most of her childhood. The family later relocated to Nevada City where Barb raised her family, daughter Cady, son Adam and daughter Taylor. She is happy grandmother to Cady's triplets and youngest child.

Raising sons Ben and Christopher, Dr. Trapani worked for over twenty years as a hospital owner and veterinarian in the Nevada City area. When Michael sold his practice and moved to his home in Carmet, he worked a few years for humane organizations, performing high volume spay and neuter surgery to help decrease pet over-population. *Animal Save* in Grass Valley was one of these organizations. It was here that he met Cat Adoption Manager, Barb Dunning. The rest, as they say, is history. The pair were married on December 31, 2015.

Michael loves Bodega Bay: the sunsets, the whales, the fog, and the sound of the waves fill his heart with gladness. He appreciates his neighbors and is pleased that people here trust him to care for their pets. He's proud to have become a part of our little town.

Barb has lived near water a good part of her life, born in Honolulu and growing up on the North shore of Long Island, living across the highway from the Pacific Ocean with whales and pelicans in her front yard, she feels right at home. ■

*A regular appearance in our quarterly newsletter, The Faces of Bodega Bay is a photojournalistic record of people in our town: school kids, surfers, shop owners, fishermen, restaurant workers; a whole gamut of people who live and work in Bodega Bay and help make it the wonderful community that it is. These "environmental portraits" portray the subjects in their natural environment, capturing their character and telling their story through their surroundings.*

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