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TIMBER RIDGE RESORT HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

Timber Ridge Partnering with A.C. PAW for Dog-Centric Event, Duke's Birthday Bash

TRAVERSE CITY, MICH—Timber Ridge Resort co-owner Kristin Levesque discovered her love for dogs in 2001 in the parking lot of her antique tub and tile refinishing shop. It was there, in her former home of Florida, that she first spotted the dog that would become Duke, her constant companion and her co-pilot in the resort's golf cart.

"I glanced over at this dog, this horribly bony and feeble dog standing in my parking lot," remembers Levesque. "I couldn't believe, first, that he was still alive in that condition and, second, that someone would allow this to happen to an innocent animal."

Levesque took the stray home and, with help from her local veterinarian, lovingly nursed him back to health. In 2005, when she returned to Michigan to purchase Timber Ridge with her partner, Gordon Waggoner, Duke made the journey with her and has never left her side. It in his honor that the Duke's Birthday Bash event was created.

"We're animal lovers here at the Ridge—we've always been a pet-friendly RV park," maintains Levesque. "With this event we want to shed light on how important and fulfilling having an animal in your home can be. We are partnering with A.C. PAW to educate guests on animal rescue and adoption."

A.C. PAW co-founders Brian Manley and June McGrath were thrilled to join with Timber Ridge to raise awareness and understanding of their organization and the plight of many homeless cats and dogs.

“We like to stay that these animals’ fates lie chained to your hearts,” says Manley. “If you can help in one way or another, whether it is as a foster parent, through adoption, or donations, you will change the fate of these rescued animals.” A.C. PAW operates on a miniscule budget, so they will be accepting donations of money, food, and new or gently used toys and bedding.

Duke’s Birthday Bash (Duke’s birthday date was selected at random) is scheduled for Saturday, August 2, from Noon to 6:00 p.m. Activities are being created with dog lovers and dogs themselves in mind. A.C. PAW will be onsite with some rescued animals up for adoption, always a crowd-pleaser. The nonprofit organization will also feature success stories, rescue education and tips, and several demonstrations by the A.C. PAW canine agility team, comprised entirely of rescued dogs.

Timber Ridge also has a line up of activities for park guests including face painting, design your own tie-dyed dog bandana, a dog parade, contests, dog races and tricks, and an evening “drive-in” dog-friendly movie. Overnight park guests are encouraged to bring their dogs to the Ridge to enjoy the canine-centric event.

Seasonal guest Teresa Patterson is more than ready to include her black Lab, Annie, in the festivities. “Timber Ridge has always been a fun place for our family to get away to,” Patterson begins. “They make sure to let us know that Annie is a part of our family, too.”

The general public and their dogs will be allowed to partake in some limited activities like the dog races and contests, agility demos, and playground area during the Bash. A nominal fee

per vehicle will be charged and then donated to A.C. PAW. Guests are encouraged to make a day of the event in the serene setting of the resort. (Food will be available for purchase from the resort's concession stand.)

The only question that remains is whether Levesque will be able to resist adopting one of the lovable dogs that will accompany A.C. PAW to the event. The answer is yes.

"We just took in another stray dog," Levesque smiles. "I'm not sure, but Duke may be just a tad bit jealous. But I think he, of all dogs, can understand."

Levesque turns to Duke. With a wag of the tail, Duke confirms.

For more developing details on Duke's Birthday Bash and to make reservations at Timber Ridge, visit www.TimberRidgeResort.net or call (231) 947-2770. To learn more about A.C. PAW and their tireless dedication to finding homes for abandoned animals, visit acpaw.org. A.C. PAW is also looking for volunteers to help staff its growing organization. Call (231) 587-9640 for more information.

Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort, located at 4050 Hammond Rd. East in Traverse City, is an all-season recreation resort featuring RV and tent camping; overnight cabin rentals; family oriented activities; a banquet facility and tents for weddings, events, reunions, family gatherings, and meetings; access to the popular VASA trail system; and renowned events like the North American VASA, Iceman Cometh Challenge mountain bike race, and Timber Ridge's own Suds & Snow. Visit www.TimberRidgeResort.net or call (231) 947-2770 for more information.

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