

Stouffville veterinarian treats top dog

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

On Oct. 18, Dr. Chris Elson of Thicketwood Veterinary Services on Main St., received a request to make an unusual house call.

A friend from a concierge service in Toronto told him she was at the Four Seasons Hotel, grooming Barbra Streisand's dog, a Coton de Tulear called Sammie, and the dog was having problems with her paw. Asked to recommend a veterinarian, his friend suggested Dr. Elson.



He arranged to call in the following day, despite being somewhat awed by the prospect of treating the beloved companion of such a high-profile client. "In hindsight it was quite fun, but I was certainly very nervous at the time," he admitted. He spent about 45 minutes with Sammie, who came through her physical with flying colours, and he even caught a fleeting glimpse of her famous owner.

Meanwhile, back in Stouffville, he has been treating Tiger, a beautiful tabby who was suffering from peripheral neuropathy, a condition which left him completely paralyzed. Dr. Elson first saw him in July when he had lost the use of his front paws. Today, after many setbacks and extensive treatments, Tiger has regained full use of his limbs, not to mention his feline sense of entitlement.

He has been adopted by the staff of Groomingdale's and, while he may not enjoy the pampering services offered by a classy Toronto hotel, he is clearly in his element surrounded by loving caregivers in Stouffville.

Tiger gets weighed in by Dr. Chris Elson, whose recent clients include a Coton de Tulear owned by world famous diva Barbra Streisand.

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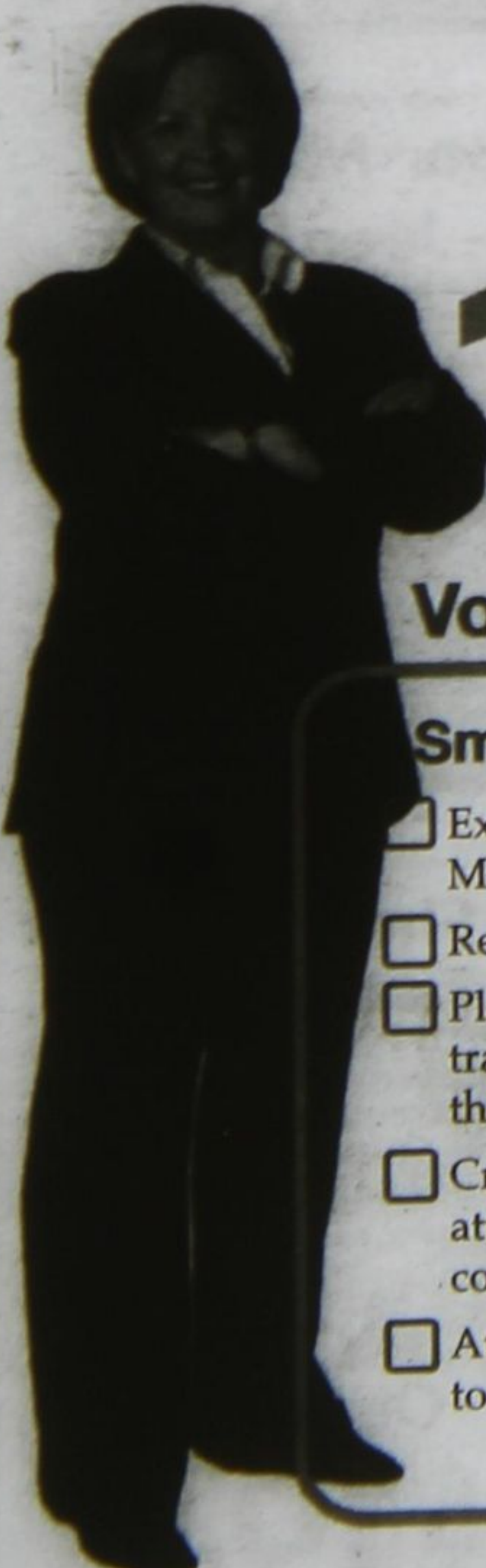
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