

Career in animals paws for thought

By PIA AKERMAN

VANESSA Pollari's love of animals led to a high-school work experience placement grooming pets — a move that turned into a career.

"I love working with animals and gaining their trust," she says.

Mrs Pollari has been working at A Dapper Dog Grooming Parlour in Maroubra since 1987, and bought it with her partner eight years ago.

She says the best part of her job is making the dogs look so beautiful "they walk out the door and get more hugs".

Dog grooming has taken off in recent years as Australians spend more money on their pets, and the

Pet Industry Joint Association Council recently announced plans to begin official accreditation of the industry.

Mrs Pollari says that during winter, many clients treat their pets to a warm bubble bath.

She says some people are reluctant to chase their pets around the back yard for a bath on a cold day.

"I've never had another job, and I wouldn't want any other," Mrs Pollari says.

She reveals that A Dapper Dog often sees the pets of eastern suburbs socialites and celebrities, but vows to protect her clients' privacy. It's a dog-eat-dog world, after all.



Puppy love: Vanessa Pollari with one of her charges