



Supplied photo

Kelley and Larry Post have been the Manitoba distributors of Riplee's Ranch Pet Food for the past seven years. They recently purchased a chase vehicle from the Richer Fire Department and renovated it to make it a mobile pet food store.

Food truck for Fido

BY JENNIFER MCFEE
SPECIAL TO CANSTAR

ST. JAMES

During the dog days of summer, animal lovers can now enjoy a food truck experience with their furry friends.

St. James residents Kelley Post and her husband Larry have been the Manitoba distributors of Riplee's Ranch Pet Food for the past seven years. They recently renovated a 1997 Chevy G3500 cube van into a walk-in mobile pet food store for their products.

"We're a home-based business and we deliver pet food right to people's doors," she said.

"We have a van that we use for deliveries, and we also used that van to take our displays and tents to vendors' markets. Throughout the years, we wanted a better way to display our products at markets, so we started looking at all different kinds of vehicles."

About a year and half ago, they responded to a Kijiji ad and purchased a chase vehicle from the Richer Fire Department. Then they embarked on a project to renovate the vehicle to create a vintage look.

"We did all of the interior renovations ourselves. Renovating the truck involved removing the interior equipment and box seats. The floor was removed and water-resistant laminate flooring was installed so if anybody has a little accident while they're in shopping, it's OK," Post said.

"The walls and the ceiling were covered with barn-board panelling. The counters are

a reused kitchen cabinet set that we purchased off Kijiji. The walls have slat boards, and we have vintage lighting in the truck as well. The decalling of the truck on the outside is extremely vibrant and it was done by Pro-Image from Portage la Prairie."

The innovative couple also added steps to the vehicle that are safe, sturdy and convenient.

"They actually fold right up into the truck when we're driving and then they fold down outside when we're parked," Post said.

So far, the response has been overwhelmingly positive from both pets and their owners.

"People love it. They can take their dogs right up in our truck — and the dogs can do their own shopping," Post said.

"We give them all kinds of different samples so they can see if their pets like our product. If they do, then afterwards we can deliver it right to their door."

The all-natural pet food is produced in B.C. with no chemicals or artificial colours.

"The cat food and dog food are preserved with Vitamin E, Vitamin C and rosemary," said Post, who feeds the products to her own three dogs. "Oil of the yucca plant helps digestion, which means the cat litter smells better and there's less poop to scoop."

Starting July 13, Riplee's Ranch Pet Food and Treatery will be set up every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Red River Farmers' Market. Then every Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., they'll be located at Skinner's Locks Market.

For more information, visit petaffection.ca or email ripleesranchwpg@gmail.com