



## DIVERSE SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT: Geese Chasers of South Jersey and Delaware BY TJ PRUSHINSKI

Delaware is rich in wetlands and open fields, a playground for geese. Why then, are they nonexistent on some golf courses, school yards and other business sites? Let us introduce you to, Geese Chasers.

Geese Chasers, LLC was founded in 1999 by Bob Young while throwing a ball to his Border Collie, Boomer. The two were approached by a local golf course owner who asked Bob if he would chase geese off his property in exchange for free golf.

What started off as chasing geese for free golf, transformed into a lucrative franchise. Geese Chasers now has locations in New Jersey; Delaware; Long Island, New York; Southeastern Pennsylvania; and Central North Carolina.

One such franchise is Geese Chasers of South Jersey and Delaware. Kerri Stinger purchased the franchise and stepped into the role of CEO in July 2013.

“I purchased a fully trained Border Collie who actually taught me,” said Stinger. “Rex was 5 years old when I purchased him. He is now 11 years old.”

A veteran like Rex, showed Kerri why Border Collies are perfect for the job.

“As an energetic and restless breed, they are happiest when working,” said Stinger, who explained that Border Collies are famously known as herding dogs and ‘workaholics.’ Their lifespan of 12-15 years also allows them to stay in the business longer, which saves Geese Chasers time and money in training. A professional ‘geese chaser’ takes up to two years to train.

Geese Chasers offers a humane and environmentally safe solution for businesses to eliminate the problem. According to Stinger, Border Collies mock the Arctic Fox, which is a known hunter of Canadian Geese. Although they mimic a vicious predator, Collies are a gentle breed and never cause harm to geese.

Kerri currently employs five humans and four dogs between South Jersey and Delaware. Looking into 2020 and beyond, Stinger plans to expand her business.

“I already built up South Jersey’s locations. Now my goal is to build up Delaware’s franchise,” said Stinger. “Delaware is in need of growth. Developments with clubhouses and ponds are filled with geese who are tearing up the properties.”

As this issue’s Diverse Supplier Spotlight, Stinger reflects on why being a woman-owned business is important. “It opens more doors for women to be business owners,” said Kerri. “The more female business owners we have, the more opportunities will be presented to other females in the community.”



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