

Obama pooch may eat Island treats

BY JUDITH LAVOIE, TIMES COLONIST FEBRUARY 23, 2009

The puppy that winds up living at the White House won't be a slumdog by any stretch, but it will certainly eat like a millionaire.

And its favourite treat just might be a canine cookie prepared by a Brentwood Bay company.

Three bags of heart-shaped dog cookies, made by Want A Cookie Co., will be in a special hamper for U.S. President Barack Obama's family dog, put together by a Los Angeles public relations firm.

The company's "natural, gourmet dog treats" were among 15 products picked for inclusion in the presidential puppy gift basket from more than 250 products, said Troy Hawboldt, who founded the company with his wife, Leah.

"All our cookies are heart-shaped because we love dogs," said Hawboldt, who has chosen cheddar cheese, peanut butter and wild Pacific salmon as flavours for the as yet unchosen Obama puppy.

The three bags should translate to a one-year supply as the daily treat quota is supposed to be two cookies a day, he said.

Obama promised his daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, that the family would get a dog after they moved into the White House.

What sort of dog will be chosen has been the subject of intense speculation. Malia suffers from allergies, and breeders from all over the world have offered hairless and nonallergenic dogs.

Want A Cookie was formed three years ago, and the gourmet treats have proved so successful they are now made in a commercial kitchen on the Lower Mainland instead of in the Hawboldts' kitchen, as in the beginning.

"When they became more and more popular, we couldn't keep up with the baking," he said.

The cookies are now sold at stores across Canada and in parts of the U.S.

At \$8 a bag, they are not cheap.

"But, you get what you pay for," Hawboldt said.

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