



Doggie Day Care offers fun and exercise for your pet pals.

or a show of your pet's choice. (One dog prefers ESPN on Saturday afternoons, and another guest's must-see TV is the Weather Channel). Many villas are outfitted with webcams. Each is temperature-controlled and monitored by a visible thermostat. Bedding and food are included in the daily price.

Luxury Suites are another option; these are stainless-steel, powder coated kennels. All suites are climate controlled, have elevated bedding, and are tuned in to soft classical background music.

Whether the dogs are hosted in villas or suites, they are all treated to Iams premium dog food (or food can be brought in), and are taken for at least three outdoor trips each day. Additional one-on-one services can be purchased, too. These include daycare, kennel bath, complete groom, spa trip, outside walk and one-on-one playtime.

Jeff recommends that pet owners make boarding reservations as soon as their travel plans are firm. From April to Labor Day this year, Pet Spot's 156 boarding kennels were sold out. In fact, over the Labor Day weekend 200 dogs came under their care.

Cats are welcome at the Pet Spot, too. The feline guests are usually siblings of the visiting dogs. Compared to the canines, taking care of cats is a relatively small part of Pet Spot's business. Nevertheless, they offer two sizes of luxury cat condos featuring multiple tiers, glass viewing doors, individual venting and climate control. The cats sleep in separate kennels and have individual air systems so they do not breathe each other's air and acquire respiratory infections. Also included are Iams food, fresh water, litter and TLC.

Daycare: Over 750 dogs are registered at Pet Spot for doggy day care. Each weekday between 7 and 8 a.m. 150 dogs are dropped off for a day of fun. "It really is sort of like a kids' daycare," said Jeff. "Dog lovers think dogs are part of their family. We recognize that they're entrusting their family members with us." Ten climate controlled play areas (with clever room names like "Ault

Bark Pavilion" and "Central Bark") make up 21,000 square feet of indoor space and an additional 10,000 square feet outdoors. Dogs are grouped by size and play styles and are constantly supervised in manage-



Making friends!

able playgroups.

Webcams are posted throughout the day care – in fact, in the afternoon, there might be 100 pet owners online watching their dogs (and they are probably envious their pets are romping and socializing while they're stuck at work). Daycare is available Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grooming: Another service Pet Spot offers is full-service grooming by three professionally trained groomers on staff. Any type of groom is available.

Spa: While you are schlepping your baggage during your next trip, you may want to treat your dog to a massage at the Pet Spot spa. The Certified Canine Massage Practitioner will help your dog work out the kinks and relax with a full body massage. Or you can treat him to a "pawdicure," a gentle joint rub (good for older dogs) or an ear ecstasy service.

Training: Two professional trainers run a busy schedule of training classes including puppy preschool, good manners class, basic obedience I and II, tricks class, and advanced class. Private lessons, evening classes, family classes, and a 1 or 2 week board and train program are also available. Class sizes are small, and are taught by two trainers.

Jeff and Terry continue to reinvest capital in Pet Spot. They've been approached about franchising and other expansion opportunities, but at this point they're making sure their headquarters runs flawlessly. "This business is fun. It's hardly like a job. I pinch myself everyday because it is exactly what I want to do. It's a dream come true."

For more information, contact The Pet Spot – Cincinnati's Premier Luxury Pet Care Resort; 2503 Norwood Avenue; Norwood, OH 45212; 351-SPOT; www.PetSpotInc.com.

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