

The Star-Ledger (Newark, New Jersey)

July 21, 2007 Saturday
FINAL EDITION

Indulged pets on the rise

SECTION: ABODE; Pg. 9

LENGTH: 682 words

Today's typical American family is apt to leave their pet friendly home (perhaps one whose kitchen has a built-in dog feeding station), pack up their pet friendly car (perhaps equipped with special doggie seat belts) and leave for a pet friendly vacation (perhaps at Camp Unleashed in the Berkshires, where they can hike, swim and camp with their dog at their sides).

On the way, they might outfit the pooch with a pair of "Doggles" - sports goggles for dogs - to protect his eyes when he sticks his head out the window.

Before heading back home they might drop him off, not just for a bath, but for the "complete line of spa services" - washing, blow dry, massage and pedicure. At [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) in Fairfax, Va., overnight dog accommodations can run \$90 a night.

A new survey finds that the family dog is sitting prettier than ever - more popular, more coddled, more considered, some might say even more human, than ever before.

"I read somewhere that, not too many years ago, 80 percent of dogs lived outside. Today, 80 percent live inside," said Tom Berger, co-owner of The Pretentious Pooch, a dog boutique in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood.

Whether it's a matter of dogs finally getting their due, an increasing human need for companionship (in its most loyal, least confrontational form), or another step in the evolution of the always symbiotic human-dog relationship that began with the domestication of wolves 15,000-plus years ago, there is little dispute that the powerful bond between the two has never been stronger.

The APPMA's National Pet Owners Survey, released last month, found that pet ownership is at its highest level ever, with 71.1 million households (63 percent) in the U.S. owning at least one pet. That's up from 51 million households in 1988, when APPMA's research began.

Those numbers help explain the mushrooming number of doggie boutiques, gourmet dog treat makers and, at the other end of the, uh, spectrum, the proliferation of poop-scooping companies that will haul your dog's waste away.

And Americans are spending more on dogs, and pets in general, than ever before, with sales expecting to top \$50 billion annually by the end of the decade, the APPMA predicts.

But beneath those numbers, beyond what we casually discount as "pampering," there's something else at play - another full step, it seems, in the evolution that has seen dogs go from worker to companion to family member, or even soul mate.

Fido is no longer that friendly lump of fur in the back yard. He's no longer an afterthought when it comes to family life; but more often what schedules, big purchases and vacations revolve around.

"Expect the trend of the humanization of pets to continue," The Herman Group, a futurist organization, advised two years ago. "As more Baby Boomers become empty-nesters, they will seek to fill the vacuum left by their departed children with the four-legged variety . . . (who) will affect how we function day-to-day, take vacations and choose residences."

Dogs once were valued for the work they did - as hunters, herders, guards and more. Today, people get pets primarily for the company, especially when a relationship ends - after a breakup, divorce or the death of a spouse.

Indulged pets on the rise The Star-Ledger (Newark, New Jersey) July 21, 2007 Saturday

On top of boomers feathering their empty nests with dogs, many young couples bring home a dog as practice for raising children - or maybe instead of raising children. The increase in the dog population, and recent declines in the birth rate nationally, have led to city parks where there are more dogs at play than children. In some American neighborhoods, and even entire cities - Seattle, for one - canines outnumber kids.

Not only are there more pets - 74.8 million dogs and 88.3 million cats, according to the APPMA survey - but more homeowners are incorporating the needs of their cats and dogs into their home design - installing lower windows that allow pets to see out, built-in sleeping nooks and see-through pet doors.

PetSafe manufactures backyard play-sets for dogs, heated pet beds and a new "cat veranda" that fits in an open window to create an open-air "sunroom."

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The Baltimore Sun

July 15, 2007 Sunday
FINAL EDITION

A DOG'S LIFE; A NEW SURVEY FINDS PET OWNERS SPENDING RECORD AMOUNTS OF PAMPERING THEIR POOCHES

BYLINE: John Woestendiek, Sun Reporter

SECTION: MODERN LIFE; Pg. 1N

LENGTH: 1889 words

Today's typical American family is apt to leave their pet-friendly home (perhaps one whose kitchen has a built-in dog feeding station), pack up their pet-friendly car (perhaps equipped with special doggie seat belts) and leave for a pet-friendly vacation (perhaps at Camp Unleashed in the Berkshires, where they can hike, swim and camp with their dog at their sides).

They may, on the way there, outfit the pooch with a pair of "Doggles" - sports goggles for dogs - to protect his eyes when he sticks his head out the window.

They may, before heading back home, drop him off, not just for a bath, but for the "complete line of spa services" - washing, blow dry, massage and pedicure - such as that available at **Olde Towne Pet Resort** in Fairfax, Va., where overnight dog accommodations can run \$90 a night.

A DOG'S LIFE; A NEW SURVEY FINDS PET OWNERS SPENDING RECORD AMOUNTS OF PAMPERING THEIR POOCHES The Baltimore Sun July 15, 2007 Sunday

A new survey finds that the family dog is sitting prettier than ever - more popular, more coddled, more considered, some might say even more human, than ever before.

"I read somewhere that, not too many years ago, 80 percent of dogs lived outside. Today, 80 percent live inside," said Tom Berger, co-owner of The Pretentious Pooch, a dog boutique in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood. "There is definitely this paradigm where pets are moving from physically outside and emotionally outside to physically inside and emotionally inside.

"What's behind that trend, I don't know - enlightenment?"

Whether it's a matter of dogs finally getting their due, an increasing human need for companionship (in its most loyal, least confrontational form), or another step in the evolution of the always symbiotic human-dog relationship that began with the domestication of wolves 15,000-plus years ago, there is little dispute that the powerful bond between the two has never been closer.

As the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association put it, "If you're worried that you may be obsessed with your dog just because he has his own cell phone, frequent flier miles and page on MySpace, you're not alone."

The APPMA's National Pet Owners Survey, released last month, found that pet ownership is at its highest level ever, with 71.1 million households (63 percent) in the U.S. owning at least one pet. That's up from 69 million households in 2004, 64 million households in 2002 and 51 million households in 1988, when APPMA's research began.

Those numbers help explain the mushrooming number of doggie boutiques, gourmet dog treat makers and, at the other end of the, uh, spectrum, the proliferation of poop-scooping companies who will haul your dog's waste away - Inside Scoop, Doody Calls and Scooper Hero Dog Waste Removal Service, to name just three in the Baltimore/Washington area.

And Americans are spending more on dogs, and pets in general, than ever before, with sales expecting to top \$50 billion annually by the end of the decade, the APPMA predicts.

But beneath those numbers, beyond what we casually discount as "pampering," there's something else at play - another full step, it seems, in the evolution that has seen dogs go from worker to companion to family member, or even soul mate.

Fido is no longer that friendly lump of fur in the backyard; today he's more likely to live inside, have his own bed, his own toothbrush and a more human name. He's no longer an afterthought when it comes to family life; but more often what schedules, big purchases and vacations revolve around.

"Expect the trend of the humanization of pets to continue," The Herman Group, a business futurist organization, advised two years ago. "As more baby boomers become empty-nesters, they will seek to fill the vacuum left by their departed children with the four-legged variety ... [who] will affect how we function day-to-day, take vacations and even choose residences."

"There's no question," said Daniel Rubin, 51, a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer, whose recent decision to adopt a dog was influenced by the impending departure of his two teenage sons for college in the fall. "We're going from two boys in the house to no boys in the house."

Getting a dog, he said, was "a way of avoiding the void" - escaping feelings of loneliness, having no purpose or, worse yet, being over the hill.

"The idea of just the two of us - it would make us feel old," Rubin said. The Bouvier Des Flandres he and his schoolteacher wife, Mimi, adopted "totally limits our ability to travel and do stuff. We're pinned down in the home again. But I think we sort of like the job."

Dogs were once valued for the work they did - as hunters, herders, guards and more. Today, people get pets primarily for the company, and they are especially prone to do so when a relationship ends - after a breakup, divorce or the death of a spouse.

On top of boomers feathering their empty nests with dogs, many young couples bring home a dog as practice for raising children - or, increasingly it seems, instead of raising children.

The increase in the dog population, and recent declines in the birth rate nationally, have led to city parks - such as those in Baltimore's more gentrified neighborhoods - where there are more dogs at play than children.

A DOG'S LIFE; A NEW SURVEY FINDS PET OWNERS SPENDING RECORD AMOUNTS OF PAMPERING THEIR POOCHES The Baltimore Sun July 15, 2007 Sunday

In some American neighborhoods, and even entire cities - Seattle, for one - canines outnumber kids.

Pet-friendly homes

Once upon a time, dogs were dogs.

This was back when we went to pet supply stores, instead of doggie boutiques; before kennels became doggie resorts, before bars offered dog-friendly "yappy hours;" before there were animal acupuncturists, psychics and masseuses in the yellow pages; before the advent of doggie day care, complete with the canine version of the nanny cam.

Then, most only rarely came into the house. Now, not only are there more pets - 74.8 million dogs and 88.3 million cats, according to the APPMA survey - but the vast majority are nearly full-time indoor-dwellers, often with a door of their own, a nook of their own, sometimes even a room of their own.

More homeowners are incorporating the needs of their cats and dogs into their home design - installing lower windows that allow pets to see out, built-in sleeping nooks and see-through pet doors.

Cat-lover Lierra Lenhard, who designed her home seven years ago, included pet-friendly features such as a feeding area, fans in closets that would contain litter boxes and numerous cat doors, one of which leads from the second floor onto a catwalk that spans her open great room.

"I thought it would be fun, knowing how they like to climb on things and be high up," said Lenhard, of Phoenix.

The catwalk matches the rest of the house's cherry-colored trim, contains lighting and serves to break up the vast space, which has a 24-foot high ceiling. Mainly, though, it's for the cats - Chloe, Toes, Boo Boo and Sammy.

"I think people are thinking more about making their pets' lives enjoyable," Lenhard said, "though maybe not as obsessively as me."

Some carmakers - most notably Volvo and Subaru, have taken steps to make their vehicles more pet friendly, with cargo doors big enough to put a kennel crate through, special slings and seat belts for dogs, space dividers, stain resistant fabrics and hoseable rubber floor mats.

Nearly 50 percent of American families consider their dog's comfort when buying a car, according to the American Kennel Club's 21st Century Dog Owner Survey - and 30 percent say when they go on vacation, the dog goes, too.

Go, dog, go

An increasing number of hotel chains are accepting pets, and some families are opting for vacations built around the dog - like a trip to Camp Unleashed ("Where City Dogs go To Ruff It") in western Massachusetts. There, or at Camp Dogwood outside Chicago, vacationers can hike, swim, camp and enjoy a host of dog-oriented activities.

And for the dog who is left home alone, there's now music designed for canine listeners - soothing, animal-friendly CDs such as Skip Haynes' recently released Ask the Animals: Songs to Make Dogs Happy! which includes the singles "You're a Good Dog" and "Scratch My Back." There is custom-made cat music as well, including the five volume set Music for Cats and Friends, (available at petsandmusic.com) that was developed by an animal behaviorist in Vienna who says the songs help cats relax.

Dogs still aren't allowed in movie theaters, but they've dominated the marquee this year, with major releases that include Year of the Dog, Firehouse Dog and, coming soon, Underdog, a live action remake of the cartoon superhero dog's adventures. A Dog Year, a movie based on the Jon Katz book of the same name, is due out in 2008.

According to Box Office Mojo, an online movie publication and box office reporting service, dogs have dominated the movie animal sweepstakes, being the subject of 44 live-action, big-studio films since 1974. Horses come in second, with 20 films.

Pet-health products

The biggest boom, though, is in dog-related products - not so much "froufrou and bling," says Charlotte Havelly, lifestyles director for PetSafe, but items that promote the animal's mental and physical well-being.

A DOG'S LIFE; A NEW SURVEY FINDS PET OWNERS SPENDING RECORD AMOUNTS OF PAMPERING THEIR POOCHES The Baltimore Sun July 15, 2007 Sunday

"The dog is now truly another member of the family, Havelly said. "There has been a shift in social attitudes, with people marrying later, if marrying at all, and having children later, if having them at all. What we're seeing is pets really become like children."

PetSafe manufactures backyard play-sets for dogs, heated pet beds and a new "cat veranda" that fits in an open window to create an open-air "sunroom."

The buyers of pet products aren't always pet owners, said Berger of The Pretentious Pooch. "A lot of customers come into the shop to pick up something for their `grand-dog' ... because their children are not having children."

Despite the name of his shop - it opened two years ago - Berger says most of what he sells aren't cute and frivolous items, but products aimed at improving an animal's health and well-being.

"I don't see it as `pampering,'" he said. "There's just so much more information available now, Animal Planet and the like, and people are becoming more aware of the emotional side of their animals and how to better care for them."

Berger acknowledged that humans get something out of the deal as well. Studies have shown having a pet can lower your blood pressure and help deal with stress and depression. On top of that, Berger said, it satisfies our need to nurture - at least it did with him.

Berger and his partner were trying to adopt a child in Baltimore - a tedious, drawn-out process that they eventually gave up on, settling instead for an American bulldog they named Chai.

Soon to move into a new home, Berger plans to devote a full room to his dog, furnished and decorated specifically for Chai.

"He deserves it," he said.

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Dogs by the numbers

44.8 million

-- number of American households with dogs\$176.00

-- amount the average dog owner spends annually on grooming at a salon

6

-- percentage of dog owners who hold parties for their pets

10

-- percentage of dog owners who say they would be interested in poop-scooping service (9 percent for small dogs, 12 percent for big dogs)

Cats by the numbers

38.4 million

-- number of American households with cats\$18

-- amount the average cat owner spends annually on grooming

15

-- percentage of cat owners who plan to buy an urn, headstone or casket for their cat when it dies

[Source: 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey, America Pet Products Manufacturers Association Inc.]

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GRAPHIC: Photo(s)

A DOG'S LIFE; A NEW SURVEY FINDS PET OWNERS SPENDING RECORD AMOUNTS OF PAMPERING THEIR POOCHES The Baltimore Sun July 15, 2007 Sunday

1. - 3. Chai, canine greeter at Pretentious Pooch, is looking sweet in a handmade party dress. Right, a doggy stroller. Top, Pretentious Pooch offers pet products such as nail polish and organic chew toys. 4. Lierra Lenhard of Phoenix designed her home to be pet-friendly.

1. - 3. Photos by Elizabeth Malby : Sun Photographer Courtesy of Lierra Lenhard

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Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

May 13, 2007 Sunday
Final Edition

Focus on pets reflects trends

BYLINE: Iris Taylor; Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. D-3

LENGTH: 141 words

What's fueling the luxury pet care rage?

"It's really a reflection of the demographics of this country," said Leah Fried-Sedwick, an owner of the **Olde Towne Pet Resort** in Springfield. "A lot of [pet] trends seem to follow the baby boomer trends," such as exercise and low-carb dieting.

Also, empty nesters' pets become their children, she said.

In time, "I think you're going to see dogs having legal rights," she predicted. "People are increasingly going to claim emotional damage" when something happens to their pet family members.

Three trends were identified by the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association Inc. in Connecticut and Washington:

- * Big name companies such as Paul Mitchell and Omaha Steaks offer lines of pet products.
- * More hotels are laying out the welcome mat for pets.
- * Pet diets are increasingly complete and balanced.

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Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

May 13, 2007 Sunday
Final Edition

It's a dog's resort, massage and all; Fido or Fifi need pampering? Spas across Virginia offer list of luxury touches for canines

BYLINE: IRIS TAYLOR; Times-Dispatch Staff Writer**SECTION:** BUSINESS; Pg. D-1**LENGTH:** 1134 words

It's outrageous.

A whirlpool bath, treadmill, suites with a child-size bed and lounge chair, limousine service, a massage parlor, etiquette classes and a boutique that sells custom-made clothing - all for dogs.

Welcome to the Petite Pet Inn & Spa on Hilliard Road in Henrico County, a luxury facility for canines under 25 pounds or 13 inches long.

When Montpelier resident and veteran dog

trainer Donna Anderson opened her 5,000-square-foot, 30-dog facility west of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in July 2006, she became another player in the fast-growing, \$2.9 billion services sector of the U.S. pet industry.

Dozens of doggie daycares, spas and pet-related stores have opened across Virginia in recent years.

Many of them are luxury facilities. Some, including one in Northern Virginia, have cyber cameras so that pet owners can watch Fido playing. Others, such as the Pamplin Animal Wellness Services (P.A.W.S.), offer homeopathic therapy for pets.

Baby boomers helped push pet care to the limits of luxury, she said. They and other doting pet owners across the nation have shown by their spending habits that they are willing to spare nothing to pamper Fifi and Fido.

The statistics prove it: The American Pet Products Manufacturers Association in Connecticut said total pet expenditures for food, vet care, supplies and medicine, animal purchases and services, including grooming and boarding for all pets, reached \$38.5 billion in 2006.

They're expected to be \$40.8 billion by year end, the group said. About 43.5 million U.S. households - 41 percent - own a dog, it said.

Birds, cats, horses, fish and reptiles - they're in the sales mix, too.

When it comes to dogs, Anderson is a good example of what-a-baby-boomer-wants, a-baby-boomer-gets, and she was savvy enough to recognize that what she wanted might make a nice business niche: a special place for small dogs.

Anderson opened the inn because of Blink, her 4-year-old papillon (pronounce that PAP-ee-yon). Papillons grow no taller than 12 inches, and they weigh 7 to 10 pounds. Anderson wanted somewhere to take Blink for pet care where there were no big dogs around and he wouldn't feel terrified or get trampled or hurt.

It's a dog's resort, massage and all; Fido or Fifi need pampering? Spas across Virginia offer list of luxury touches for canines Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia) May 13, 2007 Sunday

"Can you imagine if you were only 10 inches tall and a big German shepherd walked in?" she asked. German shepherds reach 77 to 85 pounds.

Anderson also wanted a safe place for family pets Limit, a border collie; Runner, a yellow Lab, and Toby, a 13-year-old papillon.

Anderson's pet inn and spa was years in the making.

As a hobby, "I've been training dogs going on 30 years in the Richmond area," she said. "I was the first to teach agility [a competitive sport in which canines run an obstacle course] in Richmond."

During those years, Anderson also home schooled her children, worked as a bookkeeper, apprenticed as a dog trainer and worked at a Richmond dog training center.

She taught agility in her backyard to private clients.

About four years ago, she set her sights on starting a business and began looking for locations. She got rebuffed by zoning offices in a few counties - one was concerned about whether barking dogs would disturb the neighbors.

She eventually settled on the 3010 Hilliard Road location in Henrico.

Why a luxury pet facility?

Because that's what dog owners want, she said.

Dogs are like people's children, she said. The owner might have only a little money, "but every nickel they've got, they're going to spend it" on their dog.

"We try to provide a home environment, even though they're not at home," she said. "We have the home furnishings. We have the extra luxuries that they want and the attention to detail that they want."

The Petite Pet Inn isn't the only luxury facility in Virginia.

Four-legged guests of the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) in Springfield, which accommodates 185 dogs and 40 cats in 27,000 square feet, have their choice of high-end treatments: a hydrotherapy pool, hospital-grade air systems and a half-million-dollar power generator so the dogs never lose their cable TV during an outage.

Cybercams are available in five-star dog suites so clients can watch what their dogs are doing while they're on vacation.

The resort also offers pet shopping sprees, diet treats and Opi brand doggie nail "pawlish" in fire-hydrant red and other colors in the salon.

The rooms are luxurious at the PetSmart chain's PetsHotels in Virginia Beach and elsewhere - spacious and stylish with hypoallergenic lambskin blankets. If their owners miss them too much, they can call their pet and talk to them using the facility's "bone booth."

Holiday Barn Pet Resorts in northern Henrico and in Chesterfield County and St. Francis Pet Resort & Rehabilitation Center in Williamsburg also lure canines with luxuries.

Pamplin Animal Wellness Services (P.A.W.S.) in Pamplin is a homeopathic resort that specializes in doggie swim therapy, chiropractic, acupuncture, physical therapy, nutrition and pain management.

There are many more pet boarding facilities in the state.

What's it all cost?

Canine accommodations at Olde Towne range from \$55 to \$120 per night for dog guests, \$25 to \$45 for cats. Walks, play time and meals are included; all other services are a la carte.

A canine massage, for example, costs \$35 per half hour. Doggie day camp costs \$35 per day, or \$150 for five days. A fitness training exercise session costs \$75 per hour. Many other services are available for a fee.

Petite Pet Inn's rates are all-inclusive, said Anderson: \$35 to \$75 for an overnight stay, \$20 for day care.

The priciest suite includes a large room with a window, bed, armchair, limousine pick-up, day care, medication administration, a bath and outdoor exercise; staff will cook food guests bring.

It's a dog's resort, massage and all; Fido or Fifi need pampering? Spas across Virginia offer list of luxury touches for canines Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia) May 13, 2007 Sunday

Consider some of the frou-frou offered by other pet resorts nationwide: a bone-shaped swimming pool; themed vacation suites; antique furnishings; and retro lofts.

Also, VIP rooms with cast iron beds and "comfortable linens changed daily;" Cape Cod-style cottages; cozy condos, skylights, music therapy, aromatherapy, room service, in-room TV/VCR.

Canines and other pets even have their own national magazines and boutiques.

"The luxury pet market is exploding," Anderson said.

* * *

Pet particulars

Total pet expenditure: \$38.5 billion in 2006 (\$40.8 billion expected in 2007) for food, veterinarian care, supplies and medicine, animal purchases and services, says the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association.

Dog ownership: About 43.5 million U.S. households own a dog.

Day-care costs: \$20 a day at Petite Pet Inn; \$22 a day at Holiday Barn Pet Resorts.

Overnight stays: \$26 to \$88, depending on room size, at Holiday Barn Pet Resorts.

* * *

GO ONLINE

For a slide show on the Richmond area's pampered pooches, visit inRich.com

Contact staff writer Iris Taylor at itaylor@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6349.

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Washingtonian

March 2006

SECTION: LETTERS; Pg. 19-21

LENGTH: 710 words

HIGHLIGHT: Pet owners liked the February cover story and added more information about animal organizations

Bringing In The Pets

Thank you for your mention of People Animals Love's pet-loss hotline in February and for identifying PAL as one of the charities that will receive proceeds from your "Put Your Pet on the Cover" opportunity.

Dr. Earl Strimple, a Washington-area veterinarian who established People Animals Love in 1981, recognized the power of the human-animal bond to provide healing and joy.

We are continually looking for volunteers for the Pet Therapy Visiting Program, which brings animals to 15 nursing-care facilities, mental-health facilities, and hospitals. PAL Club and Camp provide children the opportunity to care for and bond with animals.

For more information about PAL, visit peopleanimalslove.com.

Kimberly Chester

Washington, DC

Bush Hates Washington

After reading Fred Barnes's January piece, "George W. to Washington: Drop Dead," I'd like to tell Barnes that the feeling is mutual. Many of us in Washington don't like Mr. Bush any better than he likes us. We'll be happy when he departs for Midland, Crawford, Cross Plains, or wherever, the sooner the better.

Glen Wester

Alexandria

Washington's Coin Toss

Congratulations to Ernest B. Furgurson for correcting a Parson Weems story that has been mistold for centuries.

Because I was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, I am particularly aware that each February, rather like the movie Groundhog Day, repetition has made the tale more and more entrenched. Any proud native of Fredericksburg would wince to see once again in the media that the Potomac River was the site of Washington's "silver dollar" toss when, in fact, it was a stone thrown across the Rappahannock River, which flows between Ferry Farm, where Washington lived as a boy, and the town of Fredericksburg.

When I started reading "About That Cherry Tree . . ." in the February issue, I thought, "Oh, no, not again!" However, the author is not only a terrific writer, he is also a terrific researcher. This article was so fascinating that I look forward to reading Furgurson's book about Washington during the Civil War.

Joan Timberlake

Washington, DC

Washington's other lawyers

I was pleased to see "How the Law in Washington Became a Very Big Business" in February. However, a portrayal of the legal landscape in Washington should include in-house counsel. There are now a couple thousand in-house attorneys in the DC area.

In the post-Sarbanes-Oxley world, which often requires sophisticated counsel coupled with deep organizational knowledge, a company's decision to "make" or "buy" appears to favor using in-house counsel.

At the area's larger companies, compensation for in-house lawyers is becoming much more competitive than it was just a few years ago. And as Mr. Kester correctly points out, for attorneys less tenured than himself, law-firm life often includes work on monotonous discovery matters from "the big case"-matters that in-house lawyers can hire temporary attorneys to handle or merely farm out to firms.

Eric D. Reicin

President

Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association

Bethesda

Art In the City

I commend you for Larry Van Dyne's December article on the National Gallery of Art's senior curator of prints and drawings, Andrew Robison.

Washington's art world is far more active than is generally known. Moreover, it is the working stiffs of that world—our curators, artists, print publishers, and gallery directors—who keep our cultural wheels turning. Thank you also for Susan Davidson's informative and well-illustrated piece on the NGA's important Cézanne show.

Marion F. Houstoun

Washington, DC

Corrections

In the February article on pet services, Happy Hounds in Arlington (703-553-0555) was listed under pet daycare. It is a pet-sitting and pet-walking service.

A February Where & When article on art donor Tom Klarner misstated the artists whose works appear in the National Gallery's "Dada" exhibit. Among Klarner's donations on view in that exhibit are works by Hans Arp, Kurt Schwitters, Marcel Janco, and Tristan Tzara.

In the February books article, the title of Michelle Singletary's new book should have been *Your Money and Your Man*, not *Your Money or Your Man*.

In the February issue, the answer key to January's crossword puzzle, "DC's Bubble Trouble," contained several errors. The correct answer key is below.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: [Olde Towne Pet Resort](http://oldtownepetresort.com) in Springfield (oldtownepetresort.com), a luxury kennel for dogs and cats, should have been listed under good pet boarding in February's issue. It also offers daycare and grooming and sells pet products.

Photograph courtesy of Old Towne Pet Resort

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Welland Tribune (Ontario)

September 28, 2005 Wednesday
Final Edition

Rich dogs, fat cats - It's a Martha kind of market

BYLINE: William Thomas, InPort

SECTION: INPORT; Humour; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 877 words

The business of pets is flourishing faster and higher than Martha Stewart Inc. and no dogs or cats had to spend time in a federal prison to help promote their products. (Who knew going to jail could be a great career move?) This year, we in North America will spend approximately \$40 billion on our little darlings, doubling the amount we dolled out just 10 years ago.

Most of that over-the-counter cash will be used to purchase essentials like food, pet care products, treats, litter and okay, Babble the Farting Ball. (I can't tell you the number of times Jake has rolled over on his dog bed in the middle of the night sending the ball rolling across the living room carpet and me scurrying for a blunt instrument to confront a flatulent intruder.)

As I was saying, most of the billions of dollars we spend on our pets provide the basics of proper pet parenting but some high-end goods and services will cause your head to shake like Bobble Head Lassie, the dog that launched an acting career on the antics of an extremely stupid kid. (Just once didn't you want to see Lassie refuse to rescue Timmy with his foot caught in the railway tracks and the train bearing down on them and instead she would shout: "Take your shoe off stupid and leave me out of it!")

Get ready for dogs hanging out of car windows wearing goggles just like Snoopy "The Flying Ace" chasing the Red Baron in his open cockpitplane. They're called Doggles and yes, of course, they were created in California.

Coming soon: Doggles with prescriptions lenses for old dogs who want to learn to knit. Afghans, of course.

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www.williamthomas.ca.

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Niagara Falls Review (Ontario)

[September](#) 27, 2005 Tuesday
Final Edition

It's a Martha market for pet products today

BYLINE: William Thomas, Special to The Review

SECTION: LIFESTYLES; Humour; Pg. B6

LENGTH: 843 words

It's a Martha market for pet products today Niagara Falls Review (Ontario) September 27, 2005 Tuesday

The business of pets is flourishing faster and higher than Martha Stewart Inc., and no dogs or cats had to spend time in a federal prison to help promote their products. (Who knew going to jail could be a great career move?) This year, we in North America will spend approximately \$40 billion on our little darlings, doubling the amount we dolled out just 10 years ago.

Most of that over-the-counter cash will be used to purchase essentials like food, pet care products, treats, litter and OK, Babble the Farting Ball. (I can't tell you the number of times Jake has rolled over on his dog bed in the middle of the night sending the ball rolling across the living room carpet and me scurrying for a blunt instrument to confront a flatulent intruder.)

As I was saying, most of the billions of dollars we spend on our pets provides the basics of proper pet parenting, but some high-end goods and services will cause your head to shake like Bobble Head Lassie, the dog that launched an acting career on the antics of an extremely stupid kid. (Just once, didn't you want to see Lassie refuse to rescue Timmy with his foot caught in the railway tracks and the train bearing down on them and instead she would shout: "Take your shoe off, stupid, and leave me out of it!"?)

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Welland Tribune (Ontario)

September 26, 2005 Monday
Final Edition

Rich dogs, fat cats - It's a Martha kind of market

BYLINE: William Thomas, Tribune

SECTION: VIEWPOINT; Humour; Pg. A6

LENGTH: 878 words

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The Washington Post
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The Washington Post

July 15, 2004 Thursday
Final Edition

Vacations Are No Day At the Beach For Pets; Making Arrangements Before You Take Off

BYLINE: Cheryl Kenny, Special to The Washington Post

SECTION: Home; H01

LENGTH: 1744 words

When Ellen Makar of Clarksville plans her summer vacation, the first order of business is deciding where to go. The second is planning what to do with the dog.

"It's right at the top of the list," said Makar, who has used boarding kennels and a neighborhood pet sitter, but now leaves her border collie with dog-owning friends. "Dog care is important to us."

More than 64 million American households have pets, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, and when those pet owners leave home, someone has to pour out the kibbles and scoop out the litter box. Options run from the simple and cheap (hiring the kid next door) to elaborate and not cheap (finding a pampering pet spa).

Kitty can stay home alone and unattended, can't she? Perhaps. Veterinarian Mike Berbert of Gaithersburg Animal Hospital says healthy young cats that have passed a physical within the past year may be left unattended for up to three days. Older cats, or those with medical conditions, should not be left alone.

Katherine Calder of Friendship Hospital for Animals in Northwest Washington recommends healthy female cats be left unattended no more than five days, and males, which are prone to urinary tract obstructions, no more than two.

Multiple bowls of hard food and water, plus extra litter boxes, must be provided.

Neither veterinarian recommends leaving a dog unattended, even with a dog-door to the yard. "If I had a dog-door, I would not be comfortable with wildlife or intruders being able to come in through that door," said Berbert. "And dogs

left alone outside could get into problems. They could eat something they shouldn't, or start barking so that someone calls the animal warden."

Birds also are poor candidates for solitary stays because they are highly dependent on social interaction, quickly soil their cages and require frequent changes of food and water. Calder advises not leaving a bird unattended; Berbert says unattended stays should be limited to two days.

"People should not forget that when a pet is left unattended, there is a risk an unexpected illness or injury will go untreated," Berbert added. He also noted that some pets can eat a three-day supply of food in one day, and that with multiple pets, one animal could eat the other pet's share of food.

Pet care often means hiring a neighbor to stop by. The upside is that the cost is less than boarding or hiring a professional pet sitter. The downside is that a neighbor, particularly a young one, might forget to visit. And if a pet needs special care, such as receiving injections, the teen next-door might not want to do it.

An informal survey of 17 young people in the Washington area suggests pay rates vary widely and depend on the number of daily visits required and the tasks involved. In Falls Church, Arlington and Northwest Washington, where neighbors are usually a short walk away, young sitters were earning \$2.50 to \$7 per daily visit; most received \$5. In sprawling Great Falls, where it's often a drive to the house, rates ran \$6 to \$10 per visit. Normally, a visit includes bringing in mail and newspapers, feeding the pet, cleaning litter, and playing or walking. Some expect extra pay for multiple dogs. A few have given oral or topical medications.

In setting pay, pet owners might keep in mind that providing animal care is not always as simple as it seems. Kane Kanagawa, 16, of Great Falls has been pet sitting for three years. On one job, while caring for two hairless cats and an iguana, one cat escaped from its room and headed for an attic area. "We heard a meow and a thump and we thought it had landed in the furnace," said Kanagawa. "We were freaking out."

Eventually, kitty was found unharmed, and Kanagawa began feeding the iguana some live crickets that were kept in a box. The box top fell off. "There were about 50 crickets jumping all around the house," said Kanagawa. "We could hear them, but we didn't know what to do." With the help of the hairless cats, all 50 crickets were corralled and returned to either the box or the iguana. What should have been a half-hour visit took nearly two hours.

On another job, Kanagawa had to break into a client's house through an unlocked window after the rushed owner dropped off the wrong key and left the contact information inside the locked house. "Things like this do come up," Kanagawa said. "They teach us responsibility."

Matt Sese, 12, a cat sitter in Falls Church, cited another time-consuming job glitch. "The owner didn't leave enough food," he said. "We had to go to the grocery store to get more."

Lots of adults make -- or supplement -- their living by going to other people's homes to care for pets. Sheila Smith, a spokeswoman for the 6,500-member Pet Sitters International, said a professional sitter provides peace of mind. "They usually have plenty of experience, they may have had training, and they should be insured and bonded in case of a problem."

Smith advises pet owners to check references and draw up a written agreement specifying fees, duties and the owner's contact information. "There also should definitely be an initial consultation at the owner's home before a sitter takes a job," Smith said.

Becky O'Neil is president of the Northern Virginia Professional Pet Sitters Network, which includes 37 members serving Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District. She said many area pet-sitting services charge a one-time registration fee of \$10 to \$25; a single visit for one pet generally runs \$15 to \$25, with \$3 to \$5 extra for each additional pet.

Visits normally include walking, scooping litter, feeding, watering indoor plants, adjusting blinds or lights to create a lived-in look, and bringing in mail and newspapers. Often there is an additional fee for giving medication, typically \$1 to \$5 per dose. O'Neil, who is also owner of Becky's Pet Care in Alexandria, estimates about half of local services, including her own, have staff that can give injections.

Many professional sitters offer overnight stays for \$50 to \$85 per night, O'Neil said. Typical overnight service includes an evening feeding and walk or playtime, a nighttime walk, and a morning feeding and walk or play. Some services include a midday visit as part of the overnight charge, others require an additional \$12 to \$18.

Vacations Are No Day At the Beach For Pets; Making Arrangements Before You Take Off The Washington Post July 15, 2004 Thursday

Lisa Snyder, owner of Pets 'n Plants Pet and House Sitting in Vienna, said hiring a professional ensures that a pet will not be forgotten. "Our sitters are accountable to someone. We have a procedure to check that a job is done," she said.

Dog owner Kim Campbell of Mason Neck, who uses Becky's Pet Care, said that another benefit is not having to plan so far ahead. "When we were kenneling, we'd have to make our reservations at practically the same time as our vacation reservations, at least four weeks ahead," she said. "Now, even if we forget until a few days before vacation, we can usually get a pet sitter."

Kennels and some animal hospitals offer boarding, and fees vary widely.

At Friendship Hospital for Animals, daily fees range from about \$23 for a dog less than 15 pounds to nearly \$30 for a dog more than 95 pounds. The fee includes access to a run, but walks cost an additional \$4.25 each.

Kenneling for cats is about \$22. Animals requiring significant attention from a veterinary technician, such as diabetics, are charged \$57.75. Boarding is for 24-hour periods.

The Royal Pet Shop and Kennel in Alexandria charges according to the size of the cage. Daily rates run from \$16 for a 3-by-3-foot cage, to \$24 for a 5-by-10-foot cage. The fee includes four walks a day. Cats are charged \$13 per day; small caged animals are charged \$10 daily. The kennel does not take pets requiring significant medical attention, such as diabetics.

The Web site of the American Boarding Kennels Association, www.abka.com, includes a locator for finding member kennels, as well as tips on choosing a kennel.

Some professional pet sitters, often those with large yards in the country, take dogs into their own homes. Debrajean Norris, owner of Home Away from Home Pet Sitting Service in Viewtown, Va., in Rappahannock County, opens part of her home plus a 2.5-acre fenced yard to canine boarders for a flat fee of \$25 per night. Before being accepted for boarding, a dog and its owner must visit Norris at home so she can assess the dog's compatibility. Owners bring their dog's food, toys and crate, if normally used.

Up to three boarders at a time share digs with the Norris family, including her own three dogs. Well-behaved canines may use a dog-door to come and go as they please, taking in the sights of the llama farm next-door or sleeping in Norris's basement. Large pens are available to accommodate any destructive or non-compatible dogs. "It's not like your home," said Norris, a licensed veterinary technician, "but it's better than a kennel because they aren't kept in cages."

Anne Angers of the Pet Nanny in Waldorf, also offers boarding in her home for up to four dogs at a time. For \$30 to \$35 per day, she allows limited access to her house and quarter-acre yard, and provides two daily walks.

Kitty Country in Lovettsville offers non-caged luxury boarding for felines. Owner Debbie Spring divided several of her home's bedrooms into cat rooms, none smaller than 4 by 7 feet, and all with cat perches, scratching posts, and a window overlooking a bird feeder and her five-acre yard. Cats are played with and brushed in a playroom with a television. Cost is \$20 per night plus \$10 per night for each additional family cat in the same room.

Then there are the resorts, such as Springfield's **Olde Towne Pet Resort**, a 27,000-square-foot "spa" offering a range of "hotel suite accommodations" for your pet. At the lower range is the \$25 per night "Classic Cat," which includes a multi-level enclosure with a view of the woods or a sunlit hallway, gourmet food, a bed and a play session. At the high end, for dogs, is the \$85 per night "Luxury in the Rotunda," which includes a penthouse room with private play area, four walks per day, gourmet food, music, television and an Internet hookup that lets vacationing owners watch Fido play. Fido can also shop at the resort's pet store -- subject to an allowance set in advance -- where toys and other goodies are displayed at cat-and-dog nose levels. A la carte extras include a salon bath and a canine massage.

All of which makes your human vacation seem just a bit mundane, doesn't it?

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The Washington Times

May 21, 2004, Friday, Final Edition

Dogs' best friend ; Canine companion turns day camp into a pet party

BYLINE: By Chris Baker, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** BUSINESS; WASHINGTON AT WORK; Pg. C09**LENGTH:** 895 words

Shawn Gibson is one lucky dog - not to mention Top Dog - at the Olde Town Pet Resort, a "day spa and hotel" for canines and cats in Springfield.

He spends most of each workday running, wrestling and playing catch with his charges. "I'm with them eight hours a day. I get to know them better than their owners do," he said.

The resort is located off Interstate 95. There is a "salon" where dogs - and cats, too - can get fluffed and buffed and have their claws trimmed. And there is an indoor pool. And there are spacious cages where the guests eat and sleep.

The staff includes a "veterinarian acupuncturist" and a masseuse.

"This is kind of a flipped world. It's 'The Twilight Zone.' You almost expect the people to be in the cages and the animals to be walking around the building," said Mr. Gibson, a dog lover who has worked at the resort about a year.

The resort charges \$35 a day for its popular "doggie day camp" service, where Mr. Gibson and one or two assistants spend the day playing with the dogs while their owners are at work.

It charges \$30 for a 30-minute swim for the dogs, \$30 for a canine massage and \$20 for a 20-minute one-on-one "play date" between a staffer and a pet.

Dog owners pay \$50 a day to kennel their pet in one of the resort's basic "hotel suites," a 31/2-foot by 51/2-foot cage. The cost includes three 20-minute walks; a cage near one of the building's big picture windows costs \$5 extra.

The most luxurious suite, a 5-foot by 12-foot cage, costs \$110 a night, including the cost of three 20-minute walks and a 20-minute playtime.

The grooming costs vary depending on an animal's breed and coat condition.

The resort's owners spent \$5 million building the three-level facility, which they bill in its brochure as "the most innovative pet resort in the nation." It opened in October 2002; the owners are scouting Montgomery County for a second location.

"The demand is there. There's no getting around that," Mr. Gibson said.

He arrived at work one day last week at 6:30 a.m. and reviewed his schedule. The resort opened a half-hour later, and Mr. Gibson began greeting the dogs as their owners dropped them off for day camp.

"As soon as they see me, they break off from their owners and run to me. It's a riot every morning," Mr. Gibson said.

Dogs' best friend ;Canine companion turns day camp into a pet party The Washington Times May 21, 2004, Friday, Final Edition

He spends an hour or so calling potential clients to set up appointments, then evaluates dogs whose owners have signed them up for doggie day camp. When evaluating a pet, Mr. Gibson gauges an animal's friendliness, how well it interacts with people and whether it is aggressive or not.

Come 10:30 a.m., it's playtime.

Roughly 30 dogs have shown up for day camp on this day. The bigger animals are assigned to a room in the building's second floor; the smaller puppies stay in a room on the ground floor.

Mr. Gibson likes the big dogs best.

"Go deep, Tucker. Go deep," he calls out before throwing a slobber-coated rubber ball to an Australian shepherd.

"Good boy. Good boy."

Playtime is an exercise in controlled chaos - 15 big dogs, some racing around the room, others growling and nipping each other, all competing for Mr. Gibson's attention.

He doesn't ignore any of them.

"You want to wrestle Taylor? You want to wrestle?"

"That's a no-no Gina. You better hide from me."

"Tanner."

The room has big picture windows and a shiny tile floor. Mr. Gibson keeps a mop and bucket on hand in case one of the dogs has an accident.

The barking never stops.

"I can see their personalities come out of their eyes. I just like to understand how they communicate. It's like a hidden language going on in here."

Shortly before noon, Mr. Gibson decides to take the dogs outside to the "agility field," where they can romp around on brightly colored equipment designed especially for them.

Mr. Gibson moves his slender frame down a flight of steps and props open the door to the yard, then calls upstairs to a colleague in the playroom where the dogs are being held.

"Let 'em rip."

Fifteen dogs come barreling down the stairs, past Mr. Gibson, out the door and onto the field.

Mr. Gibson, 24, grew up in North Carolina and Alexandria alongside his grandmother's Siberian husky.

His mother had a pet cat but he never took much of a liking to it.

"Cats are just naturally sneaky," he said.

Mr. Gibson owns two dogs: a 13-year-old Labrador named Ebony and a 2-year-old pit bull named Kiko.

He was working a security job at Washington Dulles International Airport when he stumbled across an online news article about the construction of the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#). At the time, he was trying to find a trainer for his own dogs.

He contacted the resort's owners, who took a liking to him and hired him to be a canine swim instructor. Eventually, he was promoted to run the doggie day camp.

James McManaman, the [Olde Towne Pet Resort's](#) general manager, said Mr. Gibson has found his calling in working with animals.

He calls him "the dog whisperer" because he knows how to connect with the animals one on one.

In his spare time, Mr. Gibson dabbles in the local hip-hop music scene. He hopes to one day work full time as a record producer.

For now, though, he's having a ball running the doggie day care.

Dogs' best friend ;Canine companion turns day camp into a pet party The Washington Times May 21, 2004, Friday,
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"It's like a different party every day."

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GRAPHIC: While Fernando Lobo [background] helps out, Mr. Gibson plays with other dogs. Playtime is controlled chaos with several large dogs racing around the room, competing for his attention. [Photo by Daniel Rosenbaum/The Washington Times] ; Shawn Gibson, supervisor of a day care for dogs, hugs Cassie, while working at [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) in Springfield. When evaluating a pet, he gauges an animal's friendliness, how well it interacts with people and whether it is aggressive. [Photo by Daniel Rosenbaum/The Washington Times] ; Shawn Gibson greeted Rina Guerra and her dog, Hercules, at [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) in Springfield May 13. "I'm with them eight hours a day. I get to know them better than their owners do." [Photo by Bill O'Brien/The Washington Times]

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Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah)

[October](#) 19, 2003, Sunday

Pets help boomers fill an empty nest

BYLINE: By Hope Yen Associated Press

SECTION: MONEY; Pg. M07

LENGTH: 794 words

NEW YORK -- Diane Benson, 53, had always adored the family dog, Pepper, a black Labrador who would excitedly greet her on the driveway when she came home. But their bond grew particularly strong after her kids grew up and moved away.

"Some people say they can't wait to be an empty nester, but this dog filled a void for me," said Benson, a high school Spanish teacher in Potomac, Md.

Recently, Pepper died of cancer. Now, Benson and her husband have Lucky, a new lab. This time around, Benson says she would strongly consider cancer treatment, regardless of cost, if Lucky was stricken and there was a good chance of success.

"I took Pepper's death very hard," she said.

Fed by a growing bond between owners and their pets, companies are ramping up their offerings of pet care and luxury services ranging from cancer and arthritis treatments to cat and doggie massages, acupuncture and room service.

Analysts say much of the demand is being driven by more affluent baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, whose children recently moved away but who don't yet have grandkids to indulge.

"An empty nest is a pet's best friend," said Ken Budd, features editor at AARP The Magazine. "Boomers are more inclined to spoil pets. Just as their kids had to go to the best camp, the dog or cat has to have the best toy, the latest gadget."

Pets help boomers fill an empty nest Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah) October 19, 2003, Sunday

The average age of a pet owner is now 46. They contribute to a \$31 billion pet care industry, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association.

A recent report by the Mc-Kinsey Group predicts that the pet care industry will grow 4.5 percent annually to reach about \$36 billion by 2007. It cited strong potential in basic pet medications, such as those that stave off parasites; treatment of age-related diseases including arthritis, kidney problems and cancer; and products for "lifestyle issues" such as reproduction control and anti-obesity drugs.

Companies are already responding.

Addison Biological Laboratory Inc., for example, recently began offering a sterilization shot for puppies, called Neutersol, to replace surgical castration, while Pfizer Inc. developed a new arthritis pill for dogs in 1997 that comes in a tasty chewable liver flavor.

The goal: make medical treatments not only more effective but also less painful for pets, allowing doting owners to have greater peace of mind.

"We get calls from consumers who say, 'Geez, my dog has cancer, diabetes, this problem or that, is there something we can do?' " said Bob Fauteux, a spokesman at Pfizer Animal Health. "We are indeed very actively trying to address these problems."

In Westbury, N.Y., a new Center for Specialized Veterinary Care offers treatments -- most of which are paid for out-of-pocket -- ranging from an estimated \$300-to-\$600 root canal to \$112 acupuncture and \$812 for a corneal transplant. Treatment is also available for cancer and brain tumors.

Dr. Diane Levitan said she opened the center six months ago with the idea of putting more compassion into pet care. "Like any child, pets should be treated as part of the family," Levitan said.

"We're able to offer equal care, the same kind of care we would expect for our human kids."

At the luxury Loews hotels, room guests are not only welcome to bring their dogs and cats but are also offered room service with a menu ranging from \$19 Bow Wow Tenderloin of Beef to \$17 Kitty's Salmon Supreme and \$17 Grrreat Vegetable Feast. All meals come with Evian Water and complimentary treats.

And at the **Olde Towne Pet Resort** in Springfield, Va., owners can drop off their pets for day-long spa treatments or a multi-day resort stay. Among the offerings: \$1.75 per mile limousine service; a \$30 half-hour sports massage; spa baths with pulsating jets; and \$75 per night suites with TVs. The rooms also come with a complimentary shopping spree in which dogs are unleashed in a room full of stuffed animals and treats and allowed to grab for keeps whatever interests them.

The resort, which can accommodate about 250 dogs and 60 cats, has been running at near full-capacity since opening 11 months ago, with boomers representing about 30 percent to 40 percent of the clientele, said chief operating officer Joe Rinaldis.

"Pets are no longer something you keep chained up in the back," he said.

Vinz Koller, 40, a sociologist in Carmel, Calif., agreed. He and his wife Ann admit to doting over their Doberman-Rottweiler mix Roxie with more than her fair share of doggie toys and stuffed animals.

"Sometimes we joke about the poor dogless couple who have to have children," Koller said. "(Roxie) is like a lower maintenance kid. She certainly doesn't complain very much, and she's always adoring."

LOAD-DATE: October 19, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Boomer empty-nesters help push growth of pet health care The Associated Press September 23, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

The Associated Press

September 23, 2003, Tuesday, BC cycle

Boomer empty-nesters help push growth of pet health care

BYLINE: By HOPE YEN, AP Business Writer

SECTION: Domestic News; Business News

LENGTH: 858 words

DATELINE: NEW YORK

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Dr. Diane Levitan said she opened the center six months ago with the idea of putting more compassion into pet care, such as by designing rooms so that owners can be with their pet after an operation as the animal recovers.

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On the Net:

American Pet Products Manufacturers Association Inc.: www.appma.org

AARP The Magazine: www.aarpmagazine.org

Center for Specialized Veterinary Care: www.vetspecialist.com

Olde Towne Pet Resort: www.oldetownepetresort.com

Loews Hotels: www.loewshotels.com

LOAD-DATE: September 24, 2003

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The Washington Post

washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post

August 17, 2003 Sunday
Final Edition

One Little Kit, A Lot of Caboodle

BYLINE: Patrick Welsh

SECTION: OUTLOOK; Pg. B02

LENGTH: 1300 words

It was time for the home visit. When the knock came, my wife Angela gave me a nervous glance. The house was sparkling, she had put out fresh flowers, and afternoon tea was ready. Still, she was worried. We had waited a long time to get 10-month-old Brooke. Angela had been so excited when the agency called to announce: "Good news! You're going to have a new daughter." She didn't want us to blow it now.

The adoption evaluator and her supervisor took a seat on the living room couch. The evaluator launched immediately into a lecture about how lucky we were to get Brooke, whom the agency's official papers described as a "tolerant girl" who "loves to talk." Then they went over with us, in point-by-point detail, the proper care and nurture of this newest member of our family, with whose precious young life we were about to be entrusted. As the women were leaving, they handed me a 44-page "adoption handbook" and wished us luck, assuring us they felt that Brooke had found a loving home.

I watched them go down the walk, thinking how dedicated they were, how kind. And how I couldn't believe I'd just spent an hour being instructed on how to take care of a cat.

Remember the days when getting a cat just meant putting out a saucer of milk, cutting up an old cardboard box to serve as a litter tray and throwing a ball of yarn on the floor for a toy? Remember when dogs slept in doghouses? Remember when shelters practically begged you to take the animals off their hands? Okay, I know we do better by our animals these days. We're a more humane society, a more educated society. Not to mention a richer one. But it's not just that pet care has evolved -- if you ask me, it's gone off the rationality charts. And it's not all about the pets.

The very nice ladies from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria are just a small part of a growing and ever more fervent breed: hard-core animal lovers -- I call them animal junkies -- who seem to think that Darwin got it all wrong. People aren't the only Homo sapiens; dogs and cats are, too. You know the type I mean, the ones who coo "Come to Mommy" when they call their cats, or bedeck the heads of their Shih Tzus with the "silver princess tiara" (you can buy it for \$ 22 online at foxandhounds.com) or throw birthday parties for their Siberian huskies or Labrador retrievers.

Let's get real: If we hadn't adopted Brooke, wasn't there a good chance that the shelter might have had to, ahem, put her to sleep? But still, we have to go through a background check the FBI might take notes on and then we get a handbook (featuring a cover portrait of "Chewie, the League's beloved mascot") full of enlightening information on essential topics such as "teaching your cat to scratch appropriately" (there's an appropriate way for cats to scratch?) and "selecting the most satisfactory toys" (how long does your cat pay attention to those stuffed socks and treat balls before going after the cord hanging from a window blind, or the houseplants?).

Speaking of houseplants, there's a long section listing the 31 plants and flowers that are not to be kept in the home once the adoptee becomes a "resident animal." Naturally, they include all of Angela's favorite flowers -- amaryllis, rhododendron and daffodils. (After we renamed our new cat Lily, as in tiger lily, because she's a brown tiger, we discovered to our amusement that "Easter lily and all other lilies" were flora non grata.) Most confounding, though, is

the handbook's injunction against putting our kitty "to work as a mouser." Huh? Haven't these people ever heard of Puss in Boots? Chasing mice is a feline's raison d'tre. Or at least it used to be. But I guess these are different times we live in. Perhaps cats and mice have declared a truce. Perhaps Lily is some sort of New Age kitty that will not attack its traditional prey.

She definitely is New Age in one sense: Before she came to us, the shelter implanted a computer microchip under her skin with her own personal identification number in case a dispute should arise as to who she really is. Of course, I don't know how such a dispute should arise, since the handbook informs us that the shelter "requires that adopted cats be kept indoors." So our poor kitty is cut off from her true feline nature, forced to sit on our bedroom windowsill, swiping her paws in vain at the birds in the tree outside.

Don't get me wrong. I really like animals (especially my own). I recognize their value as loving companions and relentless exercise machines (about the only physical activity I get most days is walking our Bernese mountain dog, May). But am I the only one who thinks there's something really over-the-top about the way so many people these days are pampering, anthropomorphizing, glorifying their pets? Maybe it's the teacher in me, but I get a little disturbed thinking that our society has gotten so self-centered that it seems to care more about animals than it does about children.

Here in Alexandria, I see businesses dedicated to the indulgence of the four-legged set thriving all around. For dogs that have had a tough day, a coffeehouse a few blocks from my home holds a "Yappy Hour" sponsored by the Hydrant Dog Barkery and Boutique, offering free "gourmet treats" to both dogs and their owners. Okay, I admit I've taken May there; I'm a sucker for freebies. Still, when I heard last January about the Hydrant Barkery opening on Mount Vernon Avenue in the heart of Del Ray -- a neighborhood known more for crack houses than coffeehouses not that long ago -- I was a little incredulous. I never thought the neighborhood would support a doggie boutique. Boy, was I wrong. The bakery's going gangbusters -- and the closer the treats it offers are to human food, the better they sell! Its doggie birthday business is booming, too.

But nothing beats the animal day care at **Olde Towne Pet Resort** Day Spa and Hotel for Dogs and Cats in nearby Springfield. Wondering about what we would do with Lily and May when we went on vacation, I checked it out recently. It offers a "cornucopia" of services to ensure "the utmost in your pet's comfort, safety and joy," including the \$ 75-a-night, three-night minimum "Five Star Luxury suites" in "the exclusive upper rotunda, with its own private play space." All the bells and whistles are there: If you're worried your pet will be bored, you can opt for a TV set so Fido or Felix can relax watching cable shows like "Animal Planet" or, for those with more big-screen tastes, videos like "Homeward Bound." (I don't know, I always thought it was part of our domesticated creatures' charm that they had their own mechanism for handling boredom -- it's called a nap.) If you really miss your poochie during the day, you can have a cybercam installed to check in regularly with him online. Twenty bucks buys your beloved beastie 20 minutes of "TLC cuddle time"; \$ 30 gets him a 30-minute "sports massage." This place sounds so luxurious, I'd stay there -- if I could afford it.

But I can't. And frankly, this is a cause of concern to me -- for Lily's sake. I mean, how can I raise her to have self-esteem, to be a confident cat with a solid sense of her unique and fetching furry personality, when so many of her better-off, more advantaged, thoroughly -- let's admit it -- spoiled pussycat peers are strutting around lording it over her because somehow they've gotten the idea that they're, well, people?

I looked, but there's nothing in the Cat Adoption Handbook to help me out there. Guess I'll have to muddle through on my own. Sigh. It's just so hard to raise a kitty these days.

Author's e-mail: May6dog@aol.com

</body>Pat Welsh, an English teacher at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, has owned 12 cats, seven dogs, two rabbits and five goldfish since he was a boy.

LOAD-DATE: August 17, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

17 of 27 DOCUMENTS

Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO)

August 16, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

BOW-WOW! HOW WE PAMPER OUR PETS NOW

BYLINE: Mike Pearson, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENT/WEEKEND/SPOTLIGHT; Pg. 2D

LENGTH: 627 words

It's a dog-eat-dog world out there when it comes to pet care and couture.

As the owner of three dogs with a collective weight of 240 pounds, I long ago stopped trying to keep up with the Joneses. I can't afford it.

You'll not find my dogs wearing canine tuxedos or black dresses with pearls (starting at \$45 at Callingalldogs.com). Forget about romps in the park wearing Burberry raincoats or customized \$70 name tags. I've reached the point where if they lose one more \$5 name tag, I'm having my address tattooed on their foreheads.

Americans spend \$31 billion annually on their pets, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturer's Association. That's roughly \$232 for each of the nation's 63 million dogs and 138 million cats.

Even during economic downturns we pamper our pets, which is fine if you're inclined toward "Talk To Me Treatballs" (owners can record their voice to help with separation anxiety) or a "snugly" for dogs, patterned after baby carriers. I'm guessing they don't make them in sizes for Saint Bernards.

Remember when a soup bone and a sock were enough to amuse your pet for hours? When playing fetch meant throwing a stick - not a peanut butter-flavored "Gigaball" from Petsport USA? If so, you're still stuck in the '70s.

APPM spokeswoman Lee Alvarado told a wire service earlier this year: "We find that following Sept. 11, 2001, pet ownership increased, people got closer to their pets and they are spending more on their pets."

Which might explain the latest trend to emerge from the \$1.5 billion pet-grooming business: Pet spas. A kennel is a place where they board and feed your pet. A spa is a place where they pamper and feed your pet's ego.

Understandably, the trend started on the West Coast about 10 years ago, where stars like Julia Roberts routinely dispatch limos to ferry their pets around, and people like Dick Clark reserve seats in their screening rooms for their animals. Pet spas can now be found in most major cities, and there's even a pet lifestyle magazine, called Pet Fair.

Those for whom money is no object can find spas where the daily rate rivals that of a modest-priced hotel. At Seattle's Wellsprings Dog Massage and Swim Spa, canine clients can enjoy a cardiovascular swimming program and low-impact indoor workouts. The Olde Towne Pet Resort in Washington, D.C., offers \$35-a-night rooms for pets, a hydrotherapy pool and 75-channel satellite TV. And the West Side Dog Spa in Manhattan offers a holistic approach, with aromatherapy, acupuncture and therapists for dogs with emotional problems.

Not all dog spas are quite so lofty. At Oona's Dog Groom and Spa, opening in Park Hill in late September, the emphasis will be on upscale grooming and TTouch massage (precise finger movements on dog body parts, named after inventor Linda Tellington-Jones). Owner Oona Gebauer admits the price for massages - \$15-\$17 per half-hour - will limit her clientele.

BOW-WOW! HOW WE PAMPER OUR PETS NOW Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO) August 16, 2003 Saturday
Final Edition

"These are people who are able to pamper their pets," she said. "It's probably very much connected with things they would do for themselves, like get a massage to feel better. Dogs are like people's kids these days. Instead of having a child, they have a dog."

If that's true, my dogs and I must fall on the dysfunctional end of the spectrum. I'm waiting for the spa that offers total body electrolysis so I can finally cure them of that shedding nonsense. Like I said, I love my dogs, I walk them. I feed them. I'm among the 36 percent of dog owners who let them sleep on the bed. But I draw the line at taking them to spas like the one in Ottawa, Canada, that offers aromatherapy featuring essence of deer, owl and squirrel.

They'll have to make do with essence of last night's leftovers.

LOAD-DATE: August 19, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

NOTES: CULTURAL CURRENTS;

Mike Pearson is features editor. pearsonm@RockyMountain News.com or 303-892-2592.

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The Washington Post
washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post

August 3, 2003 Sunday
Final Edition

New and Notable Movies, Arts, Sports and More

BYLINE: Entertainment

SECTION: SUNDAY SOURCE; ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. M04

LENGTH: 1461 words

EXPERIENCE UNLIMITED REUNION CONCERT -- Today at 8 p.m. Featuring Sugar Bear, Ju-Ju, Scootah, China Boogie, Foxy, Rob, Mike, Shorty Tim and more, with special guests Little Benny and Maiesha. Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW. \$ 20-\$ 50. 202-437-5330 or 202-432-7328.

THREE MO' TENORS -- Monday at 8 p.m. Victor Trent Cook, Rodrick Dixon and Thomas Young sing opera, Broadway, jazz, blues, soul, spirituals and gospel. Wolf Trap, Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna. \$ 20-\$ 34. 703-218-6500 or 703-255-1860.

CRAVIN' DOGS -- Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The local roots-rock band closes the summer Sunset Serenade concert series. Picnickers welcome. National Zoo, Lion/Tiger Hill,

3001 Connecticut Ave. NW. Free. 202-673-4717.

New and Notable Movies, Arts, Sports and More The Washington Post August 3, 2003 Sunday

LIVE ON PENN -- Saturday, 4-10 p.m. Everclear, Robert Randolph & the Family Band, and De La Soul. Benefits the Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund. Pennsylvania Avenue between Third and Sixth streets NW. \$ 3, younger than 12 free. 202-969-2979.

AEROSMITH AND KISS -- Saturday at 7 p.m. With Saliva. Nissan Pavilion at Stone Ridge, 7800 Cellar Door Dr., Bristow. \$ 48.50-\$ 128.50. 202-432-7328 or 703-754-6400.

WAXING POETIC: THE ART OF PAT GOSLEE -- Through Aug. 23. Reception today at 2 p.m. The D.C. artist displays her encaustic paintings. Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt. Free. 301-397-2208.

HIDDEN MEANINGS, MYSTERIOUS ENTITIES -- Opens Monday. Reception Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Everyday objects look unnatural in paintings and sculptures by Thomas Xenakis, Felisa Federman and Karey Kessler. Twist Restaurant, 3011 M St. NW. Free. 202-639-1828.

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER (AND CATS, TOO) -- Opens Wednesday. Reception Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. An all-media juried show, organized by Zenith Gallery and Olde Towne Pet Resort, 901 E St. NW. Free. 202-783-2963.

31 DAYS IN JULY -- Friday, 4-9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Local artists Matt Sesow and Dana Ellyn Kaufman display daily works based on the front pages of The Washington Post last month. Studio A, 1327 Naylor Ct. NW. Free. 202-387-0333 or 202-319-1459.

PEN SUPERSHOW -- Saturday-Aug. 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. See, learn about and buy collectible pens. Sheraton Premiere Hotel at Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. \$ 6, younger than 21 free with adult. 703-448-1234.

TRACKS, TRAINS AND TROLLEYS -- Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Aug. 10, 1-5 p.m. Working model trains. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Free. 703-838-4994.

CIVIL WAR DAYS -- Saturday-Aug. 10, noon-4 p.m. Living-history performers, period objects, dance, music and storytelling. Kids can make a West Point cadet hat in conjunction with the exhibition "West Point in the Making of America, 1802-1918." National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. Free. 202-357-2700.

VIEWING STONE EXHIBIT -- Opens Saturday. Valued for their natural beauty and the images they suggest, the stones are from the permanent collection and include recent donations from China, Italy and Japan. U.S. National Arboretum, National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Special Exhibits Wing, 3501 New York Ave. NE. Free. 202-245-2726.

ART AS MEDITATION -- Through Sept. 9. Reception Saturday at 6 p.m. Oil, watercolor and graphite on paper by local artist Wes Porter. Center for the Arts, Caton Merchant Family Gallery, 9419 Battle St., Manassas. Free. For reception reservations, call 703-330-2787.

16TH ANNUAL BOLIVIAN FESTIVAL -- Today, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Music, dance, arts and crafts, and food. Washington Lee High School, 1300 Quincy St., Arlington. \$ 15, ages 8-12 \$ 5, children younger than 8 free. 703-465-7410.

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR -- Today-Saturday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Agricultural exhibits, music, rides, a petting zoo and more. 2210 Fairgrounds Rd., West Friendship. \$ 4, seniors \$ 2, children younger than 10 free. 410-442-1022.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR -- Aug. 10-16, 8 a.m.-midnight; pre-fair Friday, 3 p.m.-midnight, and Saturday, 8 a.m.-midnight. Rosaire's Big Cat Encounter, racing pigs, music, a midway and more. Perry Parkway, off Route 355, Gaithersburg. \$ 6, children younger than 8 free. 301-926-3100.

Films open Friday unless otherwise noted. Check www.washingtonpost.com/movies or Friday's Weekend section for details. All movies are in general release unless otherwise noted. Opening dates subject to change.

FREAKY FRIDAY -- A mother (Jamie Lee Curtis) and daughter (Lindsay Lohan) wake up in each other's bodies in this comedy based on the Mary Rodgers novel. Opens Wednesday.

AND NOW LADIES AND GENTLEMAN -- French filmmaker Claude Lelouch directs this love story about a jewel thief (Jeremy Irons) and a jazz singer (Patricia Kaas).

BUFFALO SOLDIERS -- A military clerk (Joaquin Phoenix), at a U.S. Army base in West Germany as the Berlin Wall is about to fall, scams the military until a new sergeant (Scott Glenn) takes command.

CAMP -- When unpopular but talented kids attend Camp Ovation, they make friends while singing, dancing and acting.

LE DIVORCE -- One American sister in Paris (Naomi Watts) is pregnant and headed for divorce, and the other (Kate Hudson) is dating a married diplomat in this comedy from director James Ivory.

FLICKERING LIGHTS -- Denmark's award-winning comedy about a bunch of crooks who hide out in Barcelona as restaurateurs. At the Kennedy Center's AFI Theater.

POWER AND TERROR: NOAM CHOMSKY IN OUR TIMES -- A political documentary based on interviews and public talks in spring 2002. At Visions Cinema.

THE SEA IS WATCHING -- Based on a script by Akira Kurosawa. A young samurai seeks refuge at a Japanese brothel after he is wounded. In Japanese with English subtitles. At AFI Silver Theatre.

S.W.A.T. -- An action thriller inspired by the 1970s TV show, starring Colin Farrell as an L.A.P.D. officer who gets a shot at joining the Special Weapons and Tactics unit led by Samuel L. Jackson.

FIREBIRD -- Tuesday-Saturday at 10 a.m. at Wolf Trap, Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Carter Barron Amphitheatre. The Dance Institute of Washington's pre-professional students perform the story ballet. Wolf Trap's Theatre-in-the-Woods, 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna. \$ 4. 703-218-6500. Carter Barron Amphitheatre, 16th Street and Colorado Avenue NW. Free. 202-426-0486.

PETER COOK -- Wednesday at 6 p.m. The internationally known deaf performance artist tells stories through pantomime, acting and movement, and uses American Sign Language. Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage, 2700 F St. NW. Free. 202-467-4600.

LOVE IN EXILE -- Opens Wednesday. A new play about Vladimir Lenin and his band of Bolsheviks in the days leading up to the Russian Revolution. Warehouse Theater, 1021 Seventh St. NW. \$ 24-\$ 28. 202-783-3933.

ELBOW ROOM -- Opens Friday. Washington Improv Theatre explores relationships' embarrassing, irritating and awkward moments. District of Columbia Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW. \$ 10. 202-462-7833.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW -- Opens Friday. Presented by the Landless Theatre Company. District of Columbia Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW. \$ 15, students \$ 10. 202-462-7833.

PAINTED ALICE -- Opens Saturday, previews Thursday-Friday. Theater Alliance presents the play about a painter struggling to complete a commissioned work, loosely tied to "Alice in Wonderland." H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE. \$ 20-\$ 25. 800-494-8497.

POTOMAC THEATRE FESTIVAL 2003 -- Through Aug. 24. Includes "Monster," "Piaf," "Crave" and "No Man's Land" through Aug. 10. "The B-File" by Deborah Levy is free Friday at 9:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. Olney Theatre Center for the Arts, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd., Olney. Free-\$ 35. 301-924-3400.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES -- Today at 1:35 p.m. against the Boston Red Sox. Monday-Wednesday at 7:05 p.m., Thursday at 12:35 p.m. against the Minnesota Twins. Camden Yards, 333 W. Camden St., Baltimore. \$ 9-\$ 45. 410-685-9800.

LEGG MASON TENNIS CLASSIC -- Today at 2 p.m. The final match of the tournament. Portion of proceeds benefits the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation. William H.G. Fitzgerald Tennis Center, 16th and Kennedy streets NW. \$ 44-\$ 70. 202-721-9500.

WASHINGTON MYSTICS -- Today at 2 p.m. against the Phoenix Mercury. Wednesday at 7 p.m. against the Detroit Shock. Saturday at 4 p.m. against the New York Liberty. MCI Center, 601 F St. NW. \$ 10-\$ 50. 202-661-5050 or 202-432-7328.

HALL OF FAME GAME -- Monday at 8 p.m. on ABC. The Green Bay Packers take on the Kansas City Chiefs in this kickoff to the NFL season.

LIVE PRO BOXING AT THE LINCOLN THEATRE: IT'S A KNOCKOUT -- Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Hector "Junior" Camacho Jr. headlines the lineup to be televised on ESPN2's "Tuesday Night Fights." Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW. \$ 25-\$ 100. 202-432-7328 or 202-328-6000.

D.C. UNITED -- Saturday at 7:30 p.m. against the New England Revolution. RFK Stadium, 2400 East Capitol St. SE. \$ 16-\$ 36. 202-432-7328 or 703-478-6600.

LOAD-DATE: August 3, 2003

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The Washington Post
 washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post

July 13, 2003 Sunday
 Final Edition

Creature Comforts

BYLINE: Petset

SECTION: SUNDAY SOURCE; PETSET; Pg. M05

LENGTH: 592 words

If you're a pamper-prone human, life is pretty sweet. What with sugar scrubs, hot-rock massage, Pilates, meditation, seaweed wraps and everything else that gyms, salons and spas have to offer, you could treat yourself to something new every week. But what about our pets? Don't they deserve a little pampering as well? Turns out they, too, have some pretty plush options.

1 Splurge on
 a pet-icure

For our animal friends, it's always sandal season. Maybe that's why OPI, better known for its human nail polish, has recently introduced Pawlish, a pet-friendly, nontoxic version specially formulated to cover in one coat and dry quickly. Despite canine-centric names such as "Fire Hydrant Red," "Yuppy Puppy" and "Doghouse Blues," Pawlish is meant to go beyond the pup market -- though one go-round with Miss Meow may dissuade you from that route (it's not called "Clawlish," after all). Call 800-341-9999 or visit pawlish.opi.com for locations that sell Pawlish (\$ 9.95) and the It's Dog Gone Pawlish remover (\$ 4.95).

2 Yoga: Take your

dog to the mat

Ever wondered why it's called the downward-facing dog? Many yoga poses are derived from the shapes and movements of animals. And while no one expects Rover to do the tree pose, yoga instructor and author Bruce Van Horn believes animals benefit from relaxing interludes with their humans. He observed that his Dalmatian, Goodboy, became noticeably calmer during yoga and meditation sessions. Goodboy is now a regular at yoga class and appears in Van Horn's instructional "Daily Yoga" video and DVD, available for \$ 14.95 and \$ 18.95, respectively, at www.yogaforbusiness.com.

3Hot dog?

Hydrotherapy!

If your dog is aching to paddle, sign him up for a water workout at [Olde Towne Pet Resort](http://www.oldtownepetresort.com) in Springfield and let him splash the day away. Depending on your dog's size and fitness level, the resort's staff can use the indoor pool's jets to make the workout more or less challenging. It's excellent physical therapy for creaky older dogs or good exercise for those that have packed on too many pounds, and it's just plain fun for water-loving pooches whose owners don't want them braving the open waters. Half-hour sessions are \$ 30 to \$ 60 based on the dog's size. For more information, call 703-455-9000 or visit www.oldtownepetresort.com.

4Massage: Rover's rub-a-dub-dub

Animals can't direct masseurs "a little to the left." Luckily, much like human massage therapists, pet masseurs must undergo special training before they can start kneading away. The training helps them tailor treatment for pets who get on the table for a variety of reasons: physical therapy, behavioral therapy, a relaxing treat after a long week. At Perfect Pet Resort in Lothian, canine and feline massage treatments begin with an hour-long intake and massage session (\$ 60); subsequent sessions are about half an hour (\$ 35). For more information, call 301-627-5200 or visit www.perfectpetresort.com.

5Soothing

scent-sations

Aromatherapy aficionados believe that every flower has its own energy or vibration, and that this energy can calm, soothe or energize man or beast on many levels. Using this theory, Cat Faeries has come up with a dozen different essences -- loaded with orchids, exotic wildflowers and, of course, catnip -- for cats, dogs, rabbits and even humans. Selfish cat? Try "Territorial Rescue." Disquieted dog? Try "Calm and Serene." All available at www.catfaeries.com for \$ 19.95 each. Jennifer Miller

Need some pet info? Drop a line to pets@washpost.com. Include your name, city and phone number.

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 2003

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PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Tampa Tribune (Florida)

May 5, 2003, Monday, FINAL EDITION

Pampered Pets

BYLINE: JANE BOKUN , Tribune correspondent

SECTION: BAYLIFE, Pg. 1

LENGTH: 958 words

Dogs and cats are sleeping in designer beds, wearing fancy outfits and relaxing at the spa. Even fish are getting into the act.

PALM HARBOR - Paul Bidetti loved Lola the moment he saw her.

Who cared if Lola has four legs and fits in the palm of his hand?

Certainly not Bidetti, who says he was "struck by a thunder bolt" after setting eyes on the 12-ounce Chihuahua.

"I've never been a pet person, and I've never owned a dog," says Bidetti, 40, who owns Sophisticated Styles hair salon in Palm Harbor. He was accompanying a friend to a pet store when he first laid eyes on the puppy five months ago.

"I ended up putting down a deposit and coming back to claim my Lola," he says.

Since then, the 21/2-pound, 7-month-old dog has become a permanent part of his world and definitely a pampered pet. The pint-sized pooch sports a faux diamond-studded collar, owns get-ups that could match the fashion moods of Madonna and enjoys amenities rivaling pets of the rich and famous.

"I'm getting her the Tiffany matching bracelet next," Bidetti says.

And he's not alone. Americans are spending big on their pets, roughly \$29 billion a year, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association.

We're also treating our four-legged companions more and more like people, with 56 percent of dog owners this year reporting that they bought toys for their pets, up from 46 percent in 1996. The average U.S. household will spend an estimated \$460 on pets this year.

Luxury items are the top trends cited by the association for 2003. They include products with high-end fabrics, gilded apparel and gourmet treats.

Owners are buying all-natural treats and bedding made from environmentally sensitive hemp fibers. Hygiene is being tended with electric toothbrushes and mouthwashes for dogs, pedicure perches for parrots and paw-wipe mats for home entrances. Even fish get the royal treatment, with improved lighting technology, energy-saving pumps and digital tools that signal when an aquarium needs maintenance.

There's herbal tea and massagers for comforting stressed-out pets. There are self-cleaning litter boxes hooked up to the water lines of the family home. And when birthdays and holidays roll around, edible greeting cards are the haute thing to buy.

Boutiques Are Booming

The economy may be shaky, but pet boutiques are booming.

"Christmas was terrific," says Suzanne O'Barr, manager of My Pet's Dream, a store in Clearwater's Northwood Plaza where people can pamper their pets with everything from designer dog beds to haute couture clothing.

At her store, proud dog owners can fulfill their most indulgent fantasies with items including a clothing line called Your Breed, which makes human clothing that is accessorized with designer bags meant for carrying pets.

Cold floor too hard for the pooch? Try a designer dog bed. Some, which are more like miniature lounge chairs topped with elaborate canopies, can retail for as much as \$300.

But you don't have to frequent specialty shops to pick out a bauble for your best animal friend. A stroll along the aisles of such mainstream stores as Bed Bath & Beyond can yield such canine finds as Yip Yap's, a liver-scented, bone-shaped breath mint that's sold next to the Altoids.

Then there's Sniffers, a dog candy that's offered in some hotel minibars.

Good health and longevity also are on the minds of pet owners, who are fueling an emerging pet health industry with the purchase of items such as health food products with antioxidant properties and "interactive" toys meant to stimulate pets and facilitate interspecies bonding.

Many health food stores devote entire sections to pets.

"We carry only holistic and natural food," O'Barr says. "We also refer owners to veterinarians and act as a one-stop source for owners to get info on everything they need."

According to recent census data, 52.9 million dogs and 59.1 million cats live in U.S. homes.

Bowls Of Porcelain

To accommodate this burgeoning group, Internet sites such as www.dogmopolitan.com are selling porcelain dog bowls with 24-karat gold trim, solid sterling-silver collar charms for pets and owners, and chic squeakies. The Web site also is known for its designer dog furniture, which can retail for \$200 and beyond.

In fact, when it comes to their pets, it seems money is no problem for owners.

There are even pet spas and resorts that cater to pampered dogs and cats.

Olde Towne Pet Resort, a new, \$7 million facility outside Washington, D.C., touts a hot hydrotherapy pool for soaking and TVs with a selection of 75 satellite channels. Prices for the rooms start at \$35 per night and can range to \$75 for a club-level room for your dog.

For cats, rooms go for \$25 per night. Animals can even have acupuncture for \$60 and up.

"People want to forget about everything and focus on their best friend," O'Barr says. "It's like a refuge."

The special treatment need not stop when the beloved pet expires. The Eternal Ascent Society in Crystal River offers a patented service for \$1,000 that lets pet owners launch a biodegradable, helium-filled balloon filled with a pet's cremains.

The balloon explodes at an altitude of 28,000 feet after its material shatters as a result of expansion and 40-below temperatures. The explosion releases the cremains into the atmosphere. The service is available for human memorials as well. Details can be found at www.eternalascent.com

"This is the most beautiful closure for owners of pets, seeing the balloon going up to the heavens," Eternal Ascent owner Joanie West says. "Then they can look up and see a sunset or rainbow and think of their precious little companion."

LOAD-DATE: May 7, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (2C)

Photo by DREW SHERMAN

(2C) Joanie West, right, owner of The Eternal Ascent Society in Crystal River, helps Maggie Toon of Palm Harbor launch a balloon containing the cremains of her dog, Miss Bonnie, in 1999. At left, 12-ounce Chihuahua Lola tries out a designer dog bed at My Pet's Dream.

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The Post-Tribune (Merrillville, IN)

January 26, 2003 Sunday
All Edition

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

SECTION: LIFESTYLE; Pg. D4**LENGTH:** 568 words

Lead stories

Upscale pet hotels are open in New York, Hollywood and (based on a December Washington Post report) Fairfax County, Va., where the **Olde Towne Pet Resort** charges up to \$230 a day for pooches' use of a hydrotherapy pool, state-of-the-art exercise room, beauty parlor and suites with satellite TV, classical music and original, color-pleasing artwork (even though dogs are basically colorblind).

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Court of Claims Judge Robert H. Hodges Jr. said the department years ago apparently just declared itself immune from the overtime-pay law for attorneys and has been maintaining two sets of time sheets (one for pay, one to track work on cases).

Bright ideas

In November, incoming Colombian defense minister Marta Lucia Ramirez rescinded the military's policy of encouraging the country's Marxist rebels to defect by airdropping sexy photos, implying that the depicted women were waiting for them upon their surrender. Said Ramirez, "I, as a woman, add myself to (the protests of this policy)." The so-called FARC rebels, mostly men, are not allowed to have sex without permission of their commanders.

In November, the city council of Soap Lake, Wash., a 1,700- population town that did a booming tourist business in the 1950s but has fallen on hard times, voted the first step toward a revitalization that it believes will draw visitors back in droves: A 60-foot-tall lava lamp on Main Street.

The architect of the campaign, Brent Blake, said, "I just, for some reason, thought of (a) lava lamp."

Animals being animals

Among the performers at the International Professional Rodeo Association's show at the Hardeeville (S.C.) Speedway in October: Tim Lepard and his sheep-herding dogs (which is not so novel, in that dogs are bred to herd sheep in some countries, but Lepard's three dogs are ridden during the herding by small, screaming monkeys). Said Lepard, "I wanted to put an act together that people will always remember."

Different from us

Air Force Academy cadet Matt Bayless of Topeka, Kan., was expelled in April for honor-code violations. Among the charges was that Bayless had lied to his colleagues about the reason he kept certain jars in his room, which, it was finally revealed, was so he could urinate in them at night without having to walk down the hall to the bathroom. In December, the academy demoted Bayless to the enlisted ranks for three years.

Least competent

The Merced (Calif.) Sun-Star reported on Dec. 10 that an unnamed man was taken to a hospital in Modesto, Calif., after his head was split open by a brick. Police, called to the scene, were expecting to find foul play, but witnesses said the man was merely trying to see how high up he could throw a brick and, because it was dark (2:30 a.m.), the man lost track of the brick's flight and could not get out of the way when it came down on his head. Police said alcohol appeared to be involved.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or Weird@compuserve.com, or go to www.NewsoftheWeird.com

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Calgary Herald (Alberta, Canada)

January 25, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Pampered pets: Every dog should have its day at the spa

SOURCE: The Washington Post

BYLINE: Fredrick Kunkle

SECTION: Observer; Pg. OS03

LENGTH: 1145 words

You want to pamper her, so you reserve the five-star penthouse suite, replete with expansive views, 24-hour attendants and tasteful decor accented with original artwork.

You schedule time for her to soak in the gentle blue froth of a 90-degree hydrotherapy pool or perhaps engage in a vigorous workout in the state-of-the-art exercise room, followed by a massage and an hour or so in the beauty salon.

You think nothing of spending as much as \$230 a day -- not for your bride but for the family dog.

Luxury such as this awaits far more than 100 dogs -- and not quite as many cats -- at the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#), a two-storey, \$7 million Xanadu for the fur set that opened last month in Fairfax County, Va.

Billed as a day spa and hotel for pets, the facility is fully booked for Christmas. Similar deluxe pet hotels have popped up around the world in New York, Miami and, of course, Hollywood. Britain expects its first swanky pet hotel next year, in Yorkshire.

The [Olde Towne Pet Resort's](#) owners are already shopping in Montgomery County, Md., for a place to open another facility.

"Oh, my God! It's just staggering!" said Merrie Morris, who boarded Molly, her "schnoodle" (half schnauzer, half poodle), for a weekend in the top-flight rooms. "I mean it looks like an elementary school or something!"

Pampered pets: Every dog should have its day at the spa Calgary Herald (Alberta, Canada) January 25, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Morris, 44, who lives in Alexandria and works for the city, said the resort is expensive. But, then, she and her husband have no children and no other creature except a deaf cat to pamper. So they splurged.

"And this is something I see in my circle of friends," she said. "When I was growing up, a dog was just an add-on to the family, but it really wasn't like a person. But now, with many people, dogs have become much more like a member of the family. Just like you want to send your kid to a good private school or whatever, you want to send them to a good place."

To pet fanciers, the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) is another sign of progress toward viewing animals as equals, as measured by the most indisputable standard of status: money. But to others, the new resort -- arriving at a time when humans struggle to find affordable housing -- symbolizes sheer decadence.

"I think what it suggests is that people . . . are lacking some priority of values," said Fred Guy, who teaches at the Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics at the University of Baltimore.

"Basically, it's showing off, just like a guy with a new BMW," he said.

Steven Wise, an animal rights specialist and author, said he sees nothing wrong with looking after animals' care.

"There are many people for whom their companion animals are the most significant relationship in their lives," he said. "Should people be spending all that money on Fido when there are people starving? The answer is: If they don't, people are still going to starve."

Recent surveys of pet owners offer a snapshot of the trend to humanize one's pet: 55 per cent call themselves "mom" or "dad." Eleven per cent say they feel closest to their pets while exchanging kisses; five per cent talk baby talk to their animal friend. Nearly one in five carries a pet's picture in the wallet.

More than half of all dog owners will buy the canine a Christmas present, one in five will buy a toothbrush, and about eight per cent might buy a casket for their dog when it dies.

"Even in this depressed economy, the veterinary industry and the pet industry is holding its own," said Jeff Werber, a California veterinarian and former host of *Petcetera* on the Animal Planet channel. "Why? Because pets are kids."

With agrarian life and up-close contact with animals a distant memory for most, animals have become more exotic. As the nation grows ever more urban and faceless, people turn to pets for warmth and understanding. At the same time, pets can enhance community life, Werber said.

"Certainly, in the bigger cities, we've sort of lost our trust in people. And one thing I think an animal does, it truly breaks down that barrier," Werber said, pointing to how many times strangers approach a person with a dog and strike up a conversation.

Or, picture Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, a client of Werber's, sweating because one of his shoe-size Pomeranians seems to have a limp, Werber said. In sum: We love them because they love us. Unconditionally.

"I can leave my house for 30 seconds to go take my garbage out to the curb, and I can come back and my Labrador will greet me as if he hasn't seen me in a month. I only wish my kids would get half that excited after not seeing me for a month," Werber said.

Peter Singer, an Australian often viewed as the father of the animal rights movement, cautioned that pet excess is not necessarily proof that people have deepened their regard for animals, except superficially.

"If people are still sticking a knife or a fork into a pig or calf while they spend thousands of dollars on medical care for their dog," he wrote in an e-mail interview, "it doesn't do much for animal rights, nor for an ethic of equal consideration for all."

Even Werber said some people go a little overboard, sometimes sparing no expense on cancer treatments despite little or no hope.

"In other words, it's only going to buy you an extra three months," he said. "They don't bat an eye."

Neither do some customers at the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#). Push beyond the reception desk and the lobby with its bronze sculptures, past the boutique, where owners can set up allowances for their pets to purchase toys during their stays, and the doors open to a state-of-the-art kennel.

Pampered pets: Every dog should have its day at the spa Calgary Herald (Alberta, Canada) January 25, 2003 Saturday
Final Edition

Energetic staff, in a person-to-pet ratio that would be the envy of most schools, play and fuss with a motley collection of dogs in the resort's doggy day-care section. Even the paint scheme -- mustard hues of "Wood Thrush" and pale olive "Sudan Sand" -- was chosen to please a dog's eye (never mind that dogs are virtually colour blind).

Pet Industry Thriving

- In North America, some estimates put pet ownership at 62 per cent of all households, up from 56 per cent in 1988, says the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association Inc. Owners will spend more than \$30 billion US this year on their pets -- or about twice the gross domestic product of Costa Rica -- compared with around \$17 billion in 1994.

- All-natural gourmet food, heated dog beds in designer fabrics, infant-style chest carriers for puppies, car seats, pet massage, acupuncture, chiropractic treatments, herbal flea collars, water bowls with built-in purifiers and "Take Your Dog to Work Day" are all part of the pet-owning culture these days.

- The pet fashion industry alone (Salvatore Ferragamo and Gucci leashes, cashmere sweaters, fleece jackets, handmade ceramic Italian food dishes) rings up about

\$500 million US a year,

according to marketer Euro RSCG Worldwide.

The Washington Post

LOAD-DATE: January 26, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Colour Photo: Carol Guzy, Washington Post; Loki, a terrier, gets a little direction while Franny lounges on the couch at the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#). Pets can watch television -- Animal Planet is popular -- or the family's home movies, in case homesickness sets in.; Colour Photo: Carol Guzy, Washington Post; Jo, an energetic young Labrador, gets a workout at the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) with Victoria Wright, as Laurie Bolish, seated, tends to other pets. Even in the slumping economy, the pet industry thrives, as owners spare no expense for canine or feline family members.

TYPE: News

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The Augusta Chronicle (Georgia)

[January](#) 12, 2003 Sunday, ALL EDITIONS

DOG DAYS ARE FILLED WITH ALL THE CREATURE COMFORTS AT POSH RESORT

SECTION: YOUR LIFE, Pg. G02 Chuck Shepherd

LENGTH: 382 words

Upscale pet hotels are open in New York, Hollywood and (based on a December Washington Post report) Fairfax County, Va., where the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) charges up to \$230 a day for pooches' use of a hydrotherapy pool, state-of-the-art exercise room, beauty parlor and suites with satellite TV, classical music and original, color-pleasing

DOG DAYS ARE FILLED WITH ALL THE CREATURE COMFORTS AT POSH RESORT The Augusta Chronicle
(Georgia) January 12, 2003 Sunday,

artwork (even though dogs are basically color-blind). (Products and services elsewhere on the pet-care market include gourmet food, heated dog beds, acupuncture and chiropractic treatments, herbal flea collars, water bowls with purifiers, and, according to a December Reuters dispatch from Tokyo, therapeutic mud packs for dogs, using mud from the Dead Sea.)

Bright ideas

In November, the city council of Soap Lake, Wash., a 1,700-population town that did a booming tourist business in the 1950s but has fallen on hard times, voted the first step toward a revitalization that it believes will draw visitors back in droves: a 60-foot-tall lava lamp on Main Street. The architect of the campaign, Brent Blake, said, "I just for some reason thought of (a) lava lamp."

Least-competent people

The Merced (Calif.) Sun-Star reported Dec. 10 that an unnamed man was taken to a hospital in Modesto, Calif., after his head was split open by a brick. Police, called to the scene, were expecting to find foul play, but witnesses said the man was merely trying to see how high up he could throw a brick, and since it was dark (2:30 a.m.), the man lost track of the brick's flight and could not get out of the way when it came down on his head. Police said alcohol appeared to be involved.

Thinning the herd

A 32-year-old motorist, waiting at a crossing until a southbound train had passed, drove across those tracks but was struck and killed on a second set of tracks, by a northbound train (Santa Ana, Calif., November). And a 30-year-old man was killed by a freight train Oct. 12 when he walked across the tracks in Hermann, Mo. According to the coroner: "The engineer (blew the whistle) hoping he'd stop but . . . he just kept walking. He was talking on a cell phone, and . . . stepped right in front of the train."

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or Newsweird@aol.com, or go to www.NewsOfTheWeird.com.

LOAD-DATE: January 13, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Shepherd mug

TYPE: COLUMN

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North Bay Nugget (Ontario)

January 11, 2003 Saturday
Final Edition

Dog's life getting better

BYLINE: Chuck Shepherd, The Nugget

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENT; News of the Weird; Pg. B7

LENGTH: 1172 words

(CORRECTIONS: Whew! The Dallas Morning News has retracted as bogus its story about the thief who inadvertently made off with containers of dog poop (on which I based an item two weeks ago). And the report on the British man who sells hotel decor accessories (on which I based an item four weeks ago) apparently was published as a joke in London's Independent, and I apologize for my personal lapse in judgment on that one. -- Chuck)

Upscale pet hotels are open in New York, Hollywood and (based on a December Washington Post report) Fairfax County, Va., where the Olde Towne Pet Resort charges as much as \$230 a day for pooches' use of a hydrotherapy pool, state-of-the-art exercise room, beauty parlour and suites with satellite TV, classical music and original, colour-pleasing artwork (even though dogs are basically colour-blind). (Products and services elsewhere on the pet-care market include gourmet food, heated dog beds, acupuncture and chiropractic treatments, herbal flea collars, water bowls with purifiers, and, according to a December Reuters dispatch from Tokyo, therapeutic mud packs for dogs, using mud from the Dead Sea.)

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READERS' CHOICE

Taiwanese national Shuo Shan Wang, 29, pleaded guilty in December in Oak Park, Mich., to practicing surgery without a license, specifically the kitchen-table castration of a 48-year-old man who had found Wang's "service" on the Internet. Wang told police he had 50 such surgeries under his belt, but this patient began to bleed uncontrollably after bursting out laughing while eating a post-operative piece of pie at Wang's house. Police recovered two testicles in a Tupperware container in Wang's refrigerator.

BRIGHT IDEAS

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ANIMALS BEING ANIMALS

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- In November, the Longchi Scenic Area in southwestern China, apparently bowing to public pressure, canceled plans to put to sleep the five monkeys that had been terrorizing the park's visitors. According to the Commercial Daily newspaper in Chengdu, the park had become so exasperated by the marauding monkeys that it had been planning on a formal execution by firing squad. The park decided instead on faraway exile.

PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US

Air Force Academy cadet Matt Bayless of Topeka, Kan., was expelled in April for honor code violations. Among the charges was that Bayless had lied to his colleagues about the reason he kept certain jars in his room, which, it was finally revealed, was so he could urinate in them at night without having to walk down the hall to the bathroom. In December, the academy demoted Bayless to the enlisted ranks for three years.

LEAST COMPETENT PEOPLE

Dog's life getting better North Bay Nugget (Ontario) January 11, 2003 Saturday

The Merced (Calif.) Sun-Star reported on Dec. 10 that an unnamed man was taken to a hospital in Modesto, Calif., after his head was split open by a brick. Police, called to the scene, were expecting to find foul play, but witnesses said the man was merely trying to see how high up he could throw a brick, and since it was dark (2:30 a.m.), the man lost track of the brick's flight and could not get out of the way when it came down on his head. Police said alcohol appeared to be involved.

RECURRING THEMES

A November 2002 News of the Weird item reported that a U.S. Immigration official whose "visa express" program might have made it easier for some of the Sept. 11 terrorists to enter the United States, received a \$15,000 "outstanding performance" bonus for his work including Sept. 11. In December, FBI official Marion "Spike" Bowman received an FBI "exceptional performance" award (and five-figure cash bonus) for his work that included Sept. 11; Bowman is in charge of the headquarters office that whistleblower Colleen Rowley blamed for impeding the Minneapolis FBI office's pre-Sept. 11 investigation of so-called "20th terrorist" Zacarias Moussaoui.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Springfield, Mass., firefighter John S. Marrero, 25, was fired in October, and superiors said it had nothing to do with the charges of possession of crack cocaine and Oxycontin filed against him (in that he is innocent until proven guilty of those charges). Rather, he was fired because he was caught smoking a cigarette when the state trooper arrested him, and cigarette-smoking, on or off the job, is a violation of state law for any firefighter or police officer hired since 1988. (A Plymouth, Mass., police officer was fired for the same reason in 1993, and a court upheld the firing.)

ALSO, IN THE LAST MONTH . . .

Freya McDonald, 15, and her family said they would soon file a lawsuit against the Speyside High School (Morayshire, England) for violating the European Convention on Human Rights by giving her 11 after-school detentions in nine months. And following an exhaustive four-month search by Florida's child-welfare agency to find the 393 kids entrusted to it but whom it could not locate after an August crisis, Gov. Jeb Bush proudly announced it had found all but 88. And the head of a government health agency in Thailand proposed a leading oil company offer massages to tired motorists at its gas stations, to help reduce traffic accidents.

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679 or WeirdNews@earthlink.net or go to www.NewsoftheWeird.com.)

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

December 28, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

Every dog has his day spa

SOURCE: The Washington Post

BYLINE: Fredrick Kunkle

SECTION: FAMILY; Pg. B05

LENGTH: 1187 words

You want to pamper her, so you reserve the five-star penthouse suite, replete with expansive views, 24-hour attendants and tasteful decor accented with original artwork.

You schedule time for her to soak in the gentle blue froth of a 90-degree hydrotherapy pool or perhaps engage in a vigorous workout in the state-of-the-art exercise room, followed by a massage and an hour or so in the beauty salon.

You think nothing of spending as much as \$230 a day -- not for your bride but for the family dog.

Luxury such as this awaits far more than 100 dogs -- and not quite as many cats -- at the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#), a two-storey, \$7-million US Xanadu for the fur set that opened last month in Fairfax County, Va.

Billed as a day spa and hotel for pets, the facility is fully booked for Christmas. Similar deluxe pet hotels have popped up across the country in New York, Miami and, of course, Hollywood. Britain expects its first swanky pet hotel next year, in Yorkshire.

The [Olde Towne Pet Resort's](#) owners already are shopping in Montgomery County, Md., for a place to open another facility.

"Oh, my God! It's just staggering!" said Merrie Morris, who boarded Molly, her "schnoodle" (half schnauzer, half poodle), for a weekend in the top-flight rooms. "I mean it looks like an elementary school or something!"

Morris, 44, who lives in Alexandria and works for the city, said the resort is expensive. But, then, she and her husband have no children and no other creature except a deaf cat to pamper. So they splurged.

"And this is something I see in my circle of friends," she said. "When I was growing up, a dog was just an add-on to the family, but it really wasn't like a person. But now, with many people, dogs have become much more like a member of the family. Just like you want to send your kid to a good private school or whatever, you want to send them to a good place."

To pet fanciers, the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#) is another sign of progress toward viewing animals as equals, as measured by the most indisputable standard of status: money. But to others, the new resort -- arriving at a time when humans struggle to find affordable housing -- symbolizes sheer decadence.

"I think what it suggests is that people ... are lacking some priority of values," said Fred Guy, who teaches at the Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics at the University of Baltimore.

"Basically, it's showing off, just like a guy with a new BMW," he said.

Steven Wise, an animal rights specialist and author, said he sees nothing wrong with looking after animals' care.

"There are many people for whom their companion animals are the most significant relationship in their lives," he said. "Should people be spending all that money on Fido when there are people starving? The answer is: If they don't, people are still going to starve."

Recent surveys of pet owners offer a snapshot of the trend to humanize one's pet: 55 per cent call themselves "Mom" or "Dad." Eleven per cent say they feel closest to their pets while exchanging kisses; 5 per cent talk baby talk to their animal friend. Nearly one in five carries a pet's picture in the wallet.

More than half of all dog owners will buy the canine a Christmas present, one in five will buy a toothbrush, and about 8 per cent might buy a casket for their dog when it dies.

"Even in this depressed economy, the veterinary industry and the pet industry is holding its own," said Jeff Werber, a California veterinarian and former host of *Petcetera* on the Animal Planet channel. "Why? Because pets are kids."

Every dog has his day spa Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) December 28, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

With agrarian life and up-close contact with animals a distant memory for most, animals have become more exotic. As society grows ever more urban and faceless, people turn to pets for warmth and understanding. At the same time, pets can enhance community life, Werber said.

"Certainly, in the bigger cities, we've sort of lost our trust in people. And one thing I think an animal does, it truly breaks down that barrier," Werber said, pointing to how many times strangers approach a person with a dog and strike up a conversation.

Or, picture Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, a client of Werber's, sweating because one of his shoe-size Pomeranians seems to have a limp, Werber said. In sum: We love them because they love us. Unconditionally.

"I can leave my house for 30 seconds to go take my garbage out to the curb, and I can come back and my Labrador will greet me as if he hasn't seen me in a month. I only wish my kids would get half that excited after not seeing me for a month," Werber said.

Peter Singer, an Australian often viewed as the father of the animal rights movement, cautioned that pet excess is not necessarily proof that people have deepened their regard for animals, except superficially.

"If people are still sticking a knife or a fork into a pig or calf while they spend thousands of dollars on medical care for their dog," he wrote in an e-mail interview, "it doesn't do much for animal rights, nor for an ethic of equal consideration for all."

Even Werber said some people go a little overboard, sometimes sparing no expense on cancer treatments despite little or no hope.

"In other words, it's only going to buy you an extra three months," he said. "They don't bat an eye."

Neither do some customers at the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#).

Push beyond the reception desk and the lobby with its bronze sculptures, past the boutique, where owners can set up allowances for their pets to purchase toys during their stays, and the doors open to a state-of-the-art kennel.

Energetic staff, in a person-to-pet ratio that would be the envy of most schools, play and fuss with a motley collection of dogs in the resort's doggy day-care section. Even the paint scheme -- mustard hues of "Wood Thrush" and pale olive "Sudan sand" -- was chosen to please a dog's eye (never mind that dogs are virtually colourblind).

Over in doggy day care, Victoria Wright, a former manager at US Airways, flings a ball for Josephine, a white hound. Jo being a very young Labrador retriever, Wright keeps tossing the ball -- again, and again, and again. Fritz the dachshund roams back and forth, like a sausage performing a sine wave, looking to be babied.

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Chief executive Carlos Mejias, 52, said he expects the pet resort to turn a profit in three years -- and he knows a little about the pet business. When he and his wife, Sandy, opened the Olde Towne School for Dogs in an Alexandria florist shop, people chuckled at the notion of doggy day care.

Today, it's a \$2-million-a-year business.

LOAD-DATE: December 28, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Carol Guzy, the Washington Post; Josephine gets a little exercise while Fritz the dachshund wanders in search of a little petting at the [Olde Towne Pet Resort](#). Pets can watch television, Animal Planet is popular, or the family's home movies, in case homesickness hits.

TYPE: News

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The Washington Post

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The Washington Post

December 22, 2002 Sunday
Final Edition

A Swanky Spa Where Fur Is de Rigueur; Deluxe Fairfax Resort Offers Dogs, Cats Creature Comforts

BYLINE: Fredrick Kunkle, Washington Post Staff Writer**SECTION:** A SECTION; Pg. A01**LENGTH:** 1378 words

You want to pamper her, so you reserve the five-star penthouse suite, replete with expansive views, 24-hour attendants and tasteful decor accented with original artwork.

You schedule time for her to soak in the gentle blue froth of a 90-degree hydrotherapy pool or perhaps engage in a vigorous workout in the state-of-the-art exercise room, followed by a massage and an hour or so in the beauty salon.

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A Swanky Spa Where Fur Is de Rigueur; Deluxe Fairfax Resort Offers Dogs, Cats Creature Comforts The Washington Post December 22, 2002 Sunday

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"There are many people for whom their companion animals are the most significant relationship in their lives," he said. "Should people be spending all that money on Fido when there are people starving? The answer is: If they don't, people are still going to starve."

More than 62 percent of all U.S. households include a pet, up from 56 percent in 1988, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association Inc. Owners will spend nearly \$ 30 billion this year on their pets -- or about twice the gross domestic product of Costa Rica -- compared with \$ 17 billion in 1994.

All-natural gourmet food, heated dog beds in designer fabrics, infant-style chest carriers for puppies, car seats, pet massage, acupuncture, chiropractic treatments, herbal flea collars, water bowls with built-in purifiers and "Take Your Dog to Work Day" are all part of the pet-owning culture these days.

The pet fashion industry alone -- Salvatore Ferragamo and Gucci leashes, cashmere sweaters, fleece jackets, handmade ceramic Italian food dishes -- rings up about \$ 500 million a year, according to marketer Euro RSCG Worldwide. La Petite Maison, a custom builder of children's playhouses in California, whips up doghouses that can resemble mansions or mini French chateaux or whatever le chien might desire. Price: \$ 4,500 and up.

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The quarters -- at about eight feet by seven feet -- and windows supply enough sunshine to compensate for the dreary scenery of Alban Road.

Chief Executive Carlos Mejias, 52, said he expects the pet resort to turn a profit in three years -- and he knows a little about the pet business. When he and his wife, Sandy, opened the Olde Towne School for Dogs in an Alexandria florist shop, people chuckled at the notion of doggy day care. Today, it's a \$ 2 million-a year business.

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November 26, 2002 Tuesday
Final Edition

The Cat's Pajamas; Richmond SPCA Opens Its Deluxe Animal Shelter

BYLINE: Don Oldenburg, Washington Post Staff Writer

SECTION: STYLE; Pg. C01

LENGTH: 1750 words

DATELINE: RICHMOND

When you walk into the Richmond SPCA's Robins-Starr Humane Center -- an animal shelter -- instead of hearing pained howls and barks, you get soothing strains of Mozart or New Age music. Instead of the stench of hapless animals, the air smells outdoor fresh. Instead of depressed dogs and cats killing time in cramped cages, these potential pets are bright-eyed and ready to go in their "living rooms."

With its stylish interior painted bold yellows, blue-violets and mauves, the new "state-of-the-art" shelter, which opened last month, looks more like a fancy hotel. Natural light pours down from huge skylights. Bronze sculptures and paintings lend the feel of an art gallery. And the canine living rooms and cat cotillions are unmistakably homelike.

"Oh, my gosh!" says first-time visitor Katherine Gregory, from South Riding in Loudoun County. In Richmond visiting her mother, Gregory stopped by the center with her sons, Andrew, 10, and Matthew, 7, in search of a kitten. "I'm amazed. I recently went to the Loudoun shelter and the Fairfax shelter, and they aren't anything like this!"

Pound for pound, this 64,000-square-foot center -- currently housing about two-thirds of its capacity, which is 150 dogs and 150 cats -- is not like any animal shelter you've ever seen. The facility, located in a warehouse district off the Boulevard exit from Interstate 95, is among the largest nationwide. But size isn't everything: The center was designed to defy preconceptions, the theory being that a cheery environment will foster a higher rate of adoption.

That's critical, since the motive for this \$ 7.2 million shelter was the Richmond SPCA's decision to "go no-kill." The group is also committed to making the whole city no-kill by 2008.

"What keeps people from walking in the door of a shelter? It's noisy, it's depressing, it's scary, it's smelly," says Denise Deisler, the Richmond SPCA's associate executive director. "This place is bright and friendly."

The building is a 78-year-old red-brick tobacco warehouse with a verdigris seamed roof. Beyond the lobby are 11 glass-doored "dog living rooms." About the size of a small bedroom, each is furnished with a stylish blue metal bench and chairs and a puffy dog bed. A large Labrador-mix named Old Bay sits eagerly at the door of one. On his windowsill is this personal publicity: a can of Old Bay Seasoning and a note, "I like lots of love and need to take long walks on the beach."

"They will allow you to go in these rooms and actually sit with the dog, and play with the dog, get to know the dog, walk the dog outside," says Tony Zimmer, the contractor who oversaw the renovation but kept returning after it was done.

A "lifelong dog person," Zimmer says he kept coming back because the people, the place and the pets left him feeling good. "It's not like looking at dogs in cages. You actually get to know the dog." A couple weeks ago, he took home a 4-month-old red chow.

The public can also visit dogs in the less flashy kennel rooms. The 22 "kennel runs," each four feet wide and 14 feet long, are significantly larger than standard shelter cages.

At the opposite end of the shelter are the individual cat "condos" and three cat "cotillions" -- large rooms with open drawers, cubbyholes and climbing poles, where as many as 10 cats live and people can visit.

All details are designed to bring out the best in the animals. The floors are soft, waterproof epoxy-finished surfaces and the ceilings are sound-absorbent. The cacophony typical of kennels not only is unpleasant for people but also hurts the animals (dogs can hear frequencies more than 20 kHz higher than humans; cats, more than 45 kHz higher).

"When a dog is in pain from the sound, that elevates the stress level," says Emerson Hughes, owner of Holiday Barn Pet Resorts and former chairman of the Richmond SPCA board, who oversaw the project.

Although the creature comforts are as much for visitors, Deisler says Mozart really does soothe the savage beast -- or confused puppy. In a study conducted at Queen's University in Belfast, psychologists found that heavy-metal music increased anxiety in dogs and caused barking, while classical music alleviated stress and quieted barking.

The shelter's classical music is digitally altered to put a damper on the ultrahigh and low frequencies. "If they are too stressed out, that reduces their immune system and that leads to them being sick, and if they are sick we can't adopt them," says Deisler.

But what an adoring public sees and hears in the adoption area is just a small part of the center. Only about a quarter of the animals are available for adoption at any one time. The rest are being rehabbed.

Behind the scenes, every animal gets a physical and behavioral checkup. Dogs with contagious diseases -- like Raspie, a 4-year-old Sheltie with kennel cough -- are confined to the Physical Rehab Room for treatment. Staff experts work with personality problems in the Behavioral Rehab Room. Even healthy animals get a three-day adjustment period to acclimate to shelter life.

Zephia Scarborough adopted a black-and-white kitten she named Steinway a few weeks ago. Because he had been trapped inside a wall for several days before being rescued, the kitten was traumatized. Before taking Steinway home, she had to wait for him to come out of rehab. "Ten days later, he was fat and happy and purring," the Richmond resident says.

Also hidden are the shelter's command centers for its centrally controlled, high-pressure hydro-cleaning system that borrows from car wash technology, and its advanced air-exchange system that sends fresh air throughout the building every six minutes. "It's good for reducing the spread of disease and the odors in the building, and it has the side benefit of not collecting as much dust and hairballs," says Deisler.

Near the entrance is the spay-neuter clinic. Each year, 18,000 "companion animals" end up here or in one of the city or county shelters in the greater Richmond area; in the past, half of those animals were euthanized. Now the center spays or neuters every animal when it arrives and offers those services at low cost to the public.

Pet overpopulation is a nationwide problem, of course. Accurate numbers aren't available, but the Humane Society of the United States estimates that 8 million to 10 million dogs and cats enter U.S. shelters each year and that half are euthanized. Locally, the Montgomery County Humane Society shelter, the only one in the county, took in 6,650 dogs and cats in the year that ended in July and euthanized about 2,600. The D.C. Animal Shelter took in 9,284 and euthanized 65 percent of them.

Deisler mentions a statistic. How many dogs and cats would every person in the United States have to own to empty all of the shelters? "It just blew my mind," she says. "Six cats and two dogs."

On the second floor is a "humane library," a large auditorium that seats 300 people for educational programs and benefit events, and a spectacular rubber-padded jogging track and training arena where all dogs are exercised and obedience classes are held.

"Part of making this community no-kill is you've got to provide good educational programs for people to understand how to do it," says Robin Robertson Starr, executive director of the facility, who expects the center to help 6,000 to 8,000 animals get adopted annually -- twice as many as the old shelter.

At the forefront of a revolution in the pet care industry, the Richmond center is attracting international attention. Since opening, it has received 250 job and volunteer applications. (Besides 150 volunteers, it employs 50 kennel workers and staffers whose annual salaries range from \$ 20,000 to \$ 36,000.) People from other SPCAs nationwide call for tours. Starr has participated in an "international chat" online and a conference in Atlanta. The Mayor's Alliance for Animals in New York has contacted the Richmond SPCA about how it is working with the city to solve the animal overpopulation problem.

The center's no-kill policy means it does not kill animals due to overpopulation. It takes in only animals that it can physically and behaviorally rehabilitate to an adoptable condition. All animals at the shelter stay there until they are adopted. "We control admissions so as never to exceed our capacity," says Starr.

Even private kennels are upgrading facilities in what the American Pet Products and Manufacturing Association calls a \$ 31 billion industry: This month, **Olde Towne Pet Resort** opened in Springfield. Billing itself as "The Ultimate Pet Care Facility," it offers services such as an indoor hydrotherapy pool and an indoor walking track and agility course.

"It's more than just the building, it's the no-kill policy. No-kill is the real trend toward significant change," says Starr, after whom the center was named, along with patron E. Claiborne Robins Jr. In the first 10 months of this year, 1,200 fewer animals were euthanized by the Richmond SPCA than in the same period the year before.

The Cat's Pajamas; Richmond SPCA Opens Its Deluxe Animal Shelter The Washington Post November 26, 2002
Tuesday

Some of the interest is in how the Richmond SPCA raised \$ 14.2 million in three years during an economic downturn. Half of that went to build and half to operate; the operating budget, derived from donations, is \$ 2.5 million a year, twice that of the old shelter.

"You work really hard," says Starr, an attorney who worked full time those three years raising donations -- nearly all of them coming from the Richmond community.

Outside her second-floor office, playing with her own 3-year-old shaggy mutt named Nibblet, one of the four dogs and two cats she has adopted, Starr says people "care a lot about the humane cause, but people don't care a lot about continuing to throw their money at something that never changes."

What worked in Richmond, she explains, "was presenting them with a problem that can be licked, telling them how it can be licked."

But whenever an animal shelter upgrades beyond concrete floors and clanky cages, Starr says, someone always questions treating animals so well when homeless people are sleeping on the streets.

"I have trouble with that comparison," she says. "If we wanted to say that human homelessness is the cause that matters the most, then that could also be said of the money that goes to art museums, or the money that goes to botanical gardens, or the performing arts.

"All of those are valuable things that improve the quality of our lives. So do pets. They enormously improve the quality of our lives."

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1 of 3 DOCUMENTS

Tampa Tribune (Florida)

September 29, 2007 Saturday
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While You're On Vacation, Pets Can Go To Camp

BYLINE: KRISTEN LEVINE, The Tampa Tribune

SECTION: BAYLIFE AT HOME; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 885 words

By KRISTEN LEVINE

The Tampa Tribune

If holiday plans will take you out of town in December or January, now is the time to arrange for pet care. It's not unusual for pet sitters and lodgings to book solid well before the holidays.

While You're On Vacation, Pets Can Go To Camp Tampa Tribune (Florida) September 29, 2007 Saturday

"By October, most of my regular clients have already called to schedule holiday services," says Miriam Lindley, owner of Wags and Wiggles Inc., a Tampa pet-sitting business.

Some businesses don't like to take on new clients during the holiday rush because they're so busy with their regulars, according to PetsitUSA .com.

"Our newsletter goes out this week to remind existing clients to book now for services needed November through January," says Mary Beth Albright, owner of Happy Camper Doggy Day Camp in Clearwater. "We already have dogs with reservations for anywhere from a three-day to a three-week stay during Christmas."

If you don't already have a care provider, now is the time to start looking.

Sure, some cats I know could pull off a McCaulay Culkin "Home Alone." But to ensure your pet's safety, a quality pet care provider is your best bet. To find one, follow these tips from Lindley and Albright, along with reliable online resources.

Choosing Pet Care In Your Home

Invest time in seeking out reputable, qualified professionals.

"I'd recommend people start by looking for pet sitters in business for at least two years," Lindley says. "That weeds out the professionals from those just trying to make extra money pet sitting on the side."

Reputable sitters will insist on an in-home interview prior to providing services. They should ask lots of questions and complete a profile on each of your pets, including veterinary information and emergency procedures.

"Observe how they interact with your pets, and be sure to ask about their backup plan in case they are unable to fulfill services while you're away," Lindley suggests.

Petsitusa.com is a good place to start looking. The site has a directory of pet sitters throughout the country and information on what to expect from a sitter, how to prepare pets and home for the owner's absence and a list of topics to discuss with potential pet sitters during the interview. Those include:

- *Qualifications and experience
- *References
- *Insurance and/or bonding
- *Emergency pet care procedure
- *Procedure if the pet sitter is unavailable to care for your pet
- *Key security
- *Contract and other forms
- *Cost.

Pet Care Away From Home

For some people and pets, the better option is staying away from home. And pet owners have more choices than ever.

Traditional kennels continue to offer safe boarding, but popular day cares and camps provide a bit more.

"Our guests get social and treat time seven times a day and up to six hours of play on weekends," Albright says.

Some facilities offer monitored, controlled environments in which groups of friendly dogs from multiple families can play throughout the day in buildings or yards. For dogs with active social lives or those that need stimulation, the day care camp may be best.

Albright offers these tips for those seeking a camp for boarding purposes:

While You're On Vacation, Pets Can Go To Camp Tampa Tribune (Florida) September 29, 2007 Saturday

*Make sure the facility is approved by the American Boarding and Kennel Association, the nonprofit trade association for more than 3,000 pet care service businesses.

*Staff should be trained in pet CPR and first aid.

*Pet care technician training, offered by the kennel association, is a plus.

*Staff should let pet owners know it's OK to call daily, if they wish, to check on their pet.

The kennel association offers a free publication, "How to Select a Pet Care Facility," at www.abka.com. It covers finding and evaluating a facility and how to prepare your pet for the stay.

Kristen Levine can be reached at Kristen@fetchingcommunications.com

(CHART) CRITTER CALENDAR

SPCA Photo Days

SPCA Tampa Bay's Pet Photo Days continue today, Sunday and Oct. 6 and 7 at the shelter, 9099 130th Ave. N., Largo. Pet owners can choose a holiday theme and one nonseasonal setting for photos. All proceeds benefit the SPCA.

To schedule a time or for information, call (727) 586-3591 or go to www.spcatampabay.org.

Prayers & Pets Picnic

Join the fun at the Prayers & Pets Picnic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 6 at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1700 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. The St. Francis of Assisi blessing of the pets will take place for a \$5 donation.

There will be games, crafts, prizes, food and refreshments, including treats for pets. For information, go to www.allsaintstarpon.com.

Paws In Ybor Expo

Paws in Ybor Pet Expo, featuring pet adoptions and photographs, contests, paw painting and more, runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 6 at Ybor City's Centennial Park, on Eighth Avenue between 18th and 19th streets.

The Tampa Area Animal Rights Meetup Group is holding the event.

For information, call (813) 932-5795.

Pets About Town

Your friendly, leashed dog can take part in Pets About Town from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 7 at MacDinton's Irish Pub, 405 S. Howard Ave., Tampa.

For information, go to www.sohotampa.com.

Photo credit: Washington Post file photo by CAROL GUZY (2002)

Photo: Pets can watch TV channels such as Animal Planet or home movies at the [Old Towne Pet Resort](#) in Virginia. In the Tampa Bay area, owners can choose from in-home pet sitters and pet camps.

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LOAD-DATE: October 4, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

NOTES: PET CETERA

While You're On Vacation, Pets Can Go To Camp Tampa Tribune (Florida) September 29, 2007 Saturday

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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2 of 3 DOCUMENTS

Washingtonian

March 2006

SECTION: LETTERS; Pg. 19-21

LENGTH: 710 words

HIGHLIGHT: Pet owners liked the February cover story and added more information about animal organizations

Bringing In The Pets

Thank you for your mention of People Animals Love's pet-loss hotline in February and for identifying PAL as one of the charities that will receive proceeds from your "Put Your Pet on the Cover" opportunity.

Dr. Earl Strimple, a Washington-area veterinarian who established People Animals Love in 1981, recognized the power of the human-animal bond to provide healing and joy.

We are continually looking for volunteers for the Pet Therapy Visiting Program, which brings animals to 15 nursing-care facilities, mental-health facilities, and hospitals. PAL Club and Camp provide children the opportunity to care for and bond with animals.

For more information about PAL, visit peopleanimalslove.com.

Kimberly Chester

Washington, DC

Bush Hates Washington

After reading Fred Barnes's January piece, "George W. to Washington: Drop Dead," I'd like to tell Barnes that the feeling is mutual. Many of us in Washington don't like Mr. Bush any better than he likes us. We'll be happy when he departs for Midland, Crawford, Cross Plains, or wherever, the sooner the better.

Glen Wester

Alexandria

Washington's Coin Toss

Congratulations to Ernest B. Furgurson for correcting a Parson Weems story that has been mistold for centuries.

Because I was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, I am particularly aware that each February, rather like the movie Groundhog Day, repetition has made the tale more and more entrenched. Any proud native of Fredericksburg would wince to see once again in the media that the Potomac River was the site of Washington's "silver dollar" toss when, in fact, it was a stone thrown across the Rappahannock River, which flows between Ferry Farm, where Washington lived as a boy, and the town of Fredericksburg.

When I started reading "About That Cherry Tree . . ." in the February issue, I thought, "Oh, no, not again!" However, the author is not only a terrific writer, he is also a terrific researcher. This article was so fascinating that I look forward to reading Furgurson's book about Washington during the Civil War.

Joan Timberlake

Washington, DC

Washington's other lawyers

I was pleased to see "How the Law in Washington Became a Very Big Business" in February. However, a portrayal of the legal landscape in Washington should include in-house counsel. There are now a couple thousand in-house attorneys in the DC area.

In the post-Sarbanes-Oxley world, which often requires sophisticated counsel coupled with deep organizational knowledge, a company's decision to "make" or "buy" appears to favor using in-house counsel.

At the area's larger companies, compensation for in-house lawyers is becoming much more competitive than it was just a few years ago. And as Mr. Kester correctly points out, for attorneys less tenured than himself, law-firm life often includes work on monotonous discovery matters from "the big case"-matters that in-house lawyers can hire temporary attorneys to handle or merely farm out to firms.

Eric D. Reicin

President

Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association

Bethesda

Art In the City

I commend you for Larry Van Dyne's December article on the National Gallery of Art's senior curator of prints and drawings, Andrew Robison.

Washington's art world is far more active than is generally known. Moreover, it is the working stiffs of that world—our curators, artists, print publishers, and gallery directors—who keep our cultural wheels turning. Thank you also for Susan Davidson's informative and well-illustrated piece on the NGA's important Cézanne show.

Marion F. Houstoun

Washington, DC

Corrections

In the February article on pet services, Happy Hounds in Arlington (703-553-0555) was listed under pet daycare. It is a pet-sitting and pet-walking service.

A February Where & When article on art donor Tom Klarner misstated the artists whose works appear in the National Gallery's "Dada" exhibit. Among Klarner's donations on view in that exhibit are works by Hans Arp, Kurt Schwitters, Marcel Janco, and Tristan Tzara.

In the February books article, the title of Michelle Singletary's new book should have been *Your Money and Your Man*, not *Your Money or Your Man*.

In the February issue, the answer key to January's crossword puzzle, "DC's Bubble Trouble," contained several errors. The correct answer key is below.

LOAD-DATE: March 21, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Olde Towne Pet Resort in Springfield (oldtownepetresort.com), a luxury kennel for dogs and cats, should have been listed under good pet boarding in February's issue. It also offers daycare and grooming and sells pet products.

Photograph courtesy of [Old Towne Pet Resort](#)

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Magazine

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3 of 3 DOCUMENTS

Calgary Sun (Alberta, Canada)

May 7, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

PET OWNER PAMPERING

BYLINE: BY SUN NEWS SERVICES

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. F3

LENGTH: 263 words

Seeing a beloved animal go through surgery or illness can be as heartbreaking and anxiety-provoking as dealing with health problems of a human family member.

The Center for Specialized Veterinary Care and the Compassionate Care Center, which opened on Long Island in March, is the first veterinary hospital in the world to provide pet owners with private rooms, so they can stay with their pets during the animal's hospitalization -- even overnight.

There is also a veterinary dentist and a swimming pool with an underwater treadmill for rehabilitation therapy.

Emergency service is available 24 hours a day -- not only for house pets, but for exotic animals, as well.

Add to that state-of-the-art technology for cancer therapy and specialists in cardiology, dermatology and ophthalmology.

There is even acupuncture for pets.

But the facility claims its main goal is to attempt to minimize trauma to both animals and owners.

"The Center offers the compassion and attention to the human-animal bond that is sensitive to the needs of both the animals and the people who love them," says Diane Levitan, the founder and a veterinarian.

Another spot in Washington, D.C., is just as decadent when it comes to pampering pets.

The \$7 million [Old Towne Pet Resort](#) and day spa for dogs and cats has doggie day care (owners can view their pooch on-line from work,) overnight suites, an indoor track, hydrotherapy pool, as well as grooming and massage therapy.

Pet-care is an estimated \$31 billion industry in North America which has sprouted up almost overnight.

LOAD-DATE: May 7, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Supplement

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1 of 4 DOCUMENTS

The Washington Times

Dogs' best friend ; Canine companion turns day camp into a pet party The Washington Times May 21, 2004, Friday, Final Edition

May 21, 2004, Friday, Final Edition

Dogs' best friend ; Canine companion turns day camp into a pet party

BYLINE: By Chris Baker, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECTION: BUSINESS; WASHINGTON AT WORK; Pg. C09

LENGTH: 895 words

Shawn Gibson is one lucky dog - not to mention Top Dog - at the [Olde Town Pet Resort](#), a "day spa and hotel" for canines and cats in Springfield.

He spends most of each workday running, wrestling and playing catch with his charges. "I'm with them eight hours a day. I get to know them better than their owners do," he said.

The resort is located off Interstate 95. There is a "salon" where dogs - and cats, too - can get fluffed and buffed and have their claws trimmed. And there is an indoor pool. And there are spacious cages where the guests eat and sleep.

The staff includes a "veterinarian acupuncturist" and a masseuse.

"This is kind of a flipped world. It's 'The Twilight Zone.' You almost expect the people to be in the cages and the animals to be walking around the building," said Mr. Gibson, a dog lover who has worked at the resort about a year.

The resort charges \$35 a day for its popular "doggie day camp" service, where Mr. Gibson and one or two assistants spend the day playing with the dogs while their owners are at work.

It charges \$30 for a 30-minute swim for the dogs, \$30 for a canine massage and \$20 for a 20-minute one-on-one "play date" between a staffer and a pet.

Dog owners pay \$50 a day to kennel their pet in one of the resort's basic "hotel suites," a 31/2-foot by 51/2-foot cage. The cost includes three 20-minute walks; a cage near one of the building's big picture windows costs \$5 extra.

The most luxurious suite, a 5-foot by 12-foot cage, costs \$110 a night, including the cost of three 20-minute walks and a 20-minute playtime.

The grooming costs vary depending on an animal's breed and coat condition.

The resort's owners spent \$5 million building the three-level facility, which they bill in its brochure as "the most innovative pet resort in the nation." It opened in October 2002; the owners are scouting Montgomery County for a second location.

"The demand is there. There's no getting around that," Mr. Gibson said.

He arrived at work one day last week at 6:30 a.m. and reviewed his schedule. The resort opened a half-hour later, and Mr. Gibson began greeting the dogs as their owners dropped them off for day camp.

"As soon as they see me, they break off from their owners and run to me. It's a riot every morning," Mr. Gibson said.

He spends an hour or so calling potential clients to set up appointments, then evaluates dogs whose owners have signed them up for doggie day camp. When evaluating a pet, Mr. Gibson gauges an animal's friendliness, how well it interacts with people and whether it is aggressive or not.

Come 10:30 a.m., it's playtime.

Dogs' best friend ;Canine companion turns day camp into a pet party The Washington Times May 21, 2004, Friday, Final Edition

Roughly 30 dogs have shown up for day camp on this day. The bigger animals are assigned to a room in the building's second floor; the smaller puppies stay in a room on the ground floor.

Mr. Gibson likes the big dogs best.

"Go deep, Tucker. Go deep," he calls out before throwing a slobber-coated rubber ball to an Australian shepherd.

"Good boy. Good boy."

Playtime is an exercise in controlled chaos - 15 big dogs, some racing around the room, others growling and nipping each other, all competing for Mr. Gibson's attention.

He doesn't ignore any of them.

"You want to wrestle Taylor? You want to wrestle?"

"That's a no-no Gina. You better hide from me."

"Tanner."

The room has big picture windows and a shiny tile floor. Mr. Gibson keeps a mop and bucket on hand in case one of the dogs has an accident.

The barking never stops.

"I can see their personalities come out of their eyes. I just like to understand how they communicate. It's like a hidden language going on in here."

Shortly before noon, Mr. Gibson decides to take the dogs outside to the "agility field," where they can romp around on brightly colored equipment designed especially for them.

Mr. Gibson moves his slender frame down a flight of steps and props open the door to the yard, then calls upstairs to a colleague in the playroom where the dogs are being held.

"Let 'em rip."

Fifteen dogs come barreling down the stairs, past Mr. Gibson, out the door and onto the field.

Mr. Gibson, 24, grew up in North Carolina and Alexandria alongside his grandmother's Siberian husky.

His mother had a pet cat but he never took much of a liking to it.

"Cats are just naturally sneaky," he said.

Mr. Gibson owns two dogs: a 13-year-old Labrador named Ebony and a 2-year-old pit bull named Kiko.

He was working a security job at Washington Dulles International Airport when he stumbled across an online news article about the construction of the Olde Towne Pet Resort. At the time, he was trying to find a trainer for his own dogs.

He contacted the resort's owners, who took a liking to him and hired him to be a canine swim instructor. Eventually, he was promoted to run the doggie day camp.

James McManaman, the Olde Towne Pet Resort's general manager, said Mr. Gibson has found his calling in working with animals.

He calls him "the dog whisperer" because he knows how to connect with the animals one on one.

In his spare time, Mr. Gibson dabbles in the local hip-hop music scene. He hopes to one day work full time as a record producer.

For now, though, he's having a ball running the doggie day care.

"It's like a different party every day."

LOAD-DATE: May 21, 2004

Dogs' best friend ;Canine companion turns day camp into a pet party The Washington Times May 21, 2004,
Friday, Final Edition

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: While Fernando Lobo [background] helps out, Mr. Gibson plays with other dogs. Playtime is controlled chaos with several large dogs racing around the room, competing for his attention. [Photo by Daniel Rosenbaum/The Washington Times] ; Shawn Gibson, supervisor of a day care for dogs, hugs Cassie, while working at Olde Towne Pet Resort in Springfield. When evaluating a pet, he gauges an animal's friendliness, how well it interacts with people and whether it is aggressive. [Photo by Daniel Rosenbaum/The Washington Times] ; Shawn Gibson greeted Rina Guerra and her dog, Hercules, at Olde Towne Pet Resort in Springfield May 13. "I'm with them eight hours a day. I get to know them better than their owners do." [Photo by Bill O'Brien/The Washington Times]

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The Washington Times

May 21, 2004, Friday

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BYLINE: By Chris Baker

LENGTH: 909 words

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He spends most of each workday running, wrestling and playing catch with his charges. "I'm with them eight hours a day. I get to know them better than their owners do," he said.

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To see more of The Washington Times, or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to
<http://www.washtimes.com>

LOAD-DATE: May 21, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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JOURNAL-CODE: WT

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 28, 2003 Thursday Five Star Late Lift Edition

AT KAMP K-9 IN MAPLEWOOD, EVERY CLIENT CAN PUT ON THE DOG; DAY-CARE CENTER PAMPERS POOCHES AND CATERS TO OWNERS WHO NEED SOME HELP

BYLINE: Renee Stovsky Of The Post-Dispatch

SECTION: SOUTH POST; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 1131 words

Dog days of summer?

No sweat.

At least not for Molly, Gus, Annie, Jessie and the rest of the gang hanging out recently at Kamp K-9.

That's because every day is dog day at Kamp K-9, owned by Stacy Dempsey, 30, of Fenton, and her mother, Pat Sinclair, 50, of Dittmer. Kamp K-9 is at 3126 Laclede Station Road in Maplewood.

There are the wading pools in the outdoor yard, where Ashes, a 4-year-old black Labrador retriever, likes to hang out to keep her cool, for example. Or the plastic Little Tykes furniture in the huge indoor playroom, which provides Ricky, a frisky chow-mix puppy, with the perfect platforms for playing king of the hill. Or the comfy old couches that suit Sadie, a 4-year-old golden-retriever mix, just fine when it's time to stretch out for a noon nap.

But Kamp K-9 offers more than just four-legged creature comforts. It also caters to pet owners looking for care for their dogs while they are working or running errands.

There's the observation window that looks into the playroom - brightly painted with paw prints, bones, fire hydrants, trees and doghouses - so that you can sneak a peek at how Fido is interacting with his peers in the pack. And the bulletin board plastered with pictures of K-9 Kampers attending Gus' recent Bachelor's Last Night Out shindig, a pre-neutering party complete with hats and a cake specially catered by Three Dog Bakery in Ladue.

And the monogrammed plastic cubicles, where you can drop off personal items for your pampered pooch - leashes, individual treats, medications - each time you visit.

Kamp K-9, which opened in mid-May, is the latest entry in the area's small but growing industry of doggie day-care facilities. Unlike others, most of which are either offshoots of established grooming and kennel businesses or are private, home-based businesses, its sole purpose is to provide socialization and stimulation for pets who would otherwise be left home alone for long stretches of time in the work week.

"This is part of a trend that began a few years ago on the West Coast," says Dempsey.

Dempsey acknowledges that her business appeals most to childless clients who think of their pets as surrogate sons and daughters: Kamp K-9's motto, in fact, is "dog day care - because dogs are just kids with fur." But she also has received referrals from veterinarians who see it as a way to modify undesirable animal behavior, such as destructiveness, shyness, separation anxiety and other pet neuroses.

AT KAMP K-9 IN MAPLEWOOD, EVERY CLIENT CAN PUT ON THE DOG; DAY-CARE CENTER
PAMPERS POOCHES AND CATERS TO OWNERS WHO NEED SOME HELP St. Louis Post-Dispatch
(Missouri) August 28, 2003 Thursday Five Star Late Lift Edition

And though Kamp K-9 doesn't yet offer the same level of pampering that, say, Olde Town Pet Resort in Springfield, Va., does, with limousine service, sports massages, TLC cuddle time or personal shoppers, it does emphasize a totally interactive setting for dogs, complete with temperament screenings, placement in appropriate play groups, supervised socialization, nap times to modify over-stimulation, holiday parties and the like.

Kamp K-9 is a member of the North American Association of Dog Daycares, a new group that sets standards for best practices in facilities, including the specification of a 10-to-1 ratio of canines to humans in all play settings.

The price for all that attention? Fees range from \$16 to \$23 daily, and care is available from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information check www.kampk-9.net or call 314-644-2275.

Dempsey, who did a stint in the retail pet and grooming business in California, toured pet day cares in various cities before she decided to open Kamp K-9 in an empty warehouse owned by Sunnen Products Co. here. And though she dreams of eventually adding training and grooming services as well as a retail center to her business, she said she came by her profession naturally - she just loves animals.

"Right now, I've got two adopted stray dogs at home, Samantha and Tara, plus Rico, my parrot, a few nameless geckos, two tropical fish tanks and one native fish tank full of catfish and bass," she said.

And that's nothing compared to Sinclair, who lives on a farm with a menagerie that includes five large dogs - Atty, Sweetie, Buddy, Rocky and Big Guy - five quarter horses and "numerous barn cats."

Though Dempsey can be dogmatic when discussing Kamp K-9 policies - no crates are used except in emergency situations, a careful introduction of new animals to the pack and so on - her affection for Kampers is obvious.

She speaks with pride about helping Morgan, a Weimaraner, overcome his separation anxiety, and how Ashes, who once suffered from hip problems, has become more limber because of the exercise she gets playing chase and fetch with her newfound pals these days.

And Kamp K-9 clients seem to be equally enthusiastic about the arrangements.

Erin Jackson, 36, of Cool Valley, says she has been taking her Australian blue heeler, Brett, to Kamp K-9 a few times a month to help "calm him down."

"Brett is like a border collie - he likes to herd animals, so he has a tendency to nip at people's heels and bark a lot; the socialization he gets at Kamp K-9 has been great for him," says Jackson.

Day care is not really an issue - though Jackson and her husband both work full time, their flexible hours allow one of them to keep Brett company for at least part of the day - but she still finds Kamp K-9 an essential resource.

"Brett loves it, especially the wading pools, and we love the break we get while he's there," she laughs.

Judy Musick, 46, of Creve Coeur, sees Kamp K-9 as a good way to make sure her basset hound, Molly, gets enough exercise during the day.

"Molly used to stay in a crate all day while we worked; when we came home, we were tired, but she was just starting her day," she says. "Now she's as tired as we are at night. It works out well for everyone's sanity."

Adds Musick: "Molly got into mischief chewing things, ripping up newspapers, but our vet told us there was no such thing as a bad dog, just an underexercised dog. We were considering getting a second dog to keep Molly company, but sending her to Kamp K-9 is a much better, and cheaper, solution."

Town and Country's Chris Roemer, 47, owner of Gus, an 11-month-old golden retriever, laughingly admits she is a prime client for dog day care.

"I don't have children, so Gus is my son," she says. "I want to do everything right with this puppy, and I know socialization is important. But I wouldn't leave my baby with just anyone. At Kamp K-9, they love animals, and they take their responsibility seriously; they even have a fire-escape plan."

AT KAMP K-9 IN MAPLEWOOD, EVERY CLIENT CAN PUT ON THE DOG;DAY-CARE CENTER
PAMPERS POOCHES AND CATERS TO OWNERS WHO NEED SOME HELP St. Louis Post-Dispatch
(Missouri) August 28, 2003 Thursday Five Star Late Lift Edition

"Gus has really learned how to interact with other dogs there; he's learned that he can play rough and tumble with other puppies, but he needs to just hang out with the older dogs," she said. "Sending him to Kamp K-9 really is like sending him to camp - or actually, preschool."

LOAD-DATE: August 28, 2003

LANGUAGE: English

NOTES: Reporter Renee Stovsky;; E-mail: rstovsky@post-dispatch.com; Phone: 314-863-6205

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; Photos by KAREN ELSHOUT/POST-DISPATCH; (1) At Kamp K-9, Gus, the golden retriever, and Annie, a Rotweiler mix, play tug of war with a toy until they drop from exhaustion. Kamp K-9 lets dogs play all day in an open environment.; (2) Chris Roemer of Town and Country gets a warm greeting from all the dogs when she arrives to pick up her golden retriever Gus. Kamp worker Stacy Dempsey tries to hold back his enthusiastic playmates, Jessie, the German shepherd, and Ashes, the Labrador.; (3) The gang at Kamp K-9 takes turns romping in the pool. Ashes, a Labrador, shakes the water off as Jessie, Ricky and Sadie wait behind her. Gus, in foreground, isn't about to wait his turn.

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 31, 2003 Thursday Five Star Late Lift Edition

KAMP K-9: PUTTING ON THE DOG; DAY-CARE CENTER FOR DOGS OFFERS PETS A FUN, SECURE,; CAREFREE ROMP WHILE THEIR OWNERS TAKE A BREAK0

BYLINE: Renee Stovsky Of The Post-Dispatch

SECTION: WEST POST; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1134 words

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There are the wading pools in the outdoor yard, where Ashes, a 4-year-old black Labrador retriever, likes to hang out to keep her cool, for example.

Or the plastic Little Tykes furniture in the huge indoor playroom, which provides Ricky, a frisky chow-mix puppy, with the perfect platforms for playing king of the hill.

Or the comfy old couches that suit Sadie, a 4-year-old golden-retriever mix, just fine when it's time to stretch out for a noon nap.

But Kamp K-9 offers more than just four-legged creature comforts. It also caters to pet owners looking for care for their dogs while they are working or running errands.

There's the observation window that looks into the playroom - brightly painted with paw prints, bones, fire hydrants, trees and dog houses - so that you can sneak a peek at how Fido is interacting with his peers in the pack.

And the bulletin board plastered with pictures of K-9 Kampers attending Gus' recent Bachelor's Last Night Out shindig, a pre-neutering party complete with hats and a cake specially catered by Three Dog Bakery in Ladue.

And the monogrammed plastic cubicles, where you can drop off personal items for your pampered pooch - leashes, individual treats, medications - each time you visit.

Kamp K-9, which opened in mid-May, is the latest entry in the area's small but growing industry of doggie day-care facilities.

Unlike others, most of which are either offshoots of established grooming and kennel businesses or are private, home-based businesses, its sole purpose is to provide socialization and stimulation for pets who would otherwise be left home alone for long stretches of time in the work week.

KAMP K-9: PUTTING ON THE DOG; DAY-CARE CENTER FOR DOGS OFFERS PETS A FUN,
SECURE, CAREFREE ROMP WHILE THEIR OWNERS TAKE A BREAK St. Louis Post-Dispatch
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"This is part of a trend that began a few years ago on the West Coast," says Stacy Dempsey, 30, of Fenton, who co-owns Kamp K-9 with her mother, Pat Sinclair, 50, of Dittmer.

Dempsey acknowledges that her business appeals most to childless clients who think of their pets as surrogate sons and daughters: Kamp K-9's motto, in fact, is "dog day care - because dogs are just kids with fur!"

But she also has received referrals from veterinarians who see it as a way to modify undesirable animal behavior, such as destructiveness, shyness, separation anxiety and other pet neuroses.

And though Kamp K-9 doesn't yet offer the same level of pampering that, say, [Olde Town Pet Resort](#) in Springfield, Va., does, with limousine service, sports massages, TLC cuddle time or personal shoppers, it does emphasize a totally interactive setting for dogs, complete with temperament screenings, placement in appropriate play groups, supervised socialization, nap times to modify over-stimulation, holiday parties and the like.

Kamp K-9 is a member of the North American Association of Dog Daycares, a new group that sets standards for best practices in facilities, including the specification of a 10-to-1 ratio of canines to humans in all play settings.

The price for all that attention? Fees range from \$16 to \$23 daily, and care is available from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information check www.kampk-9.net or call 314-644-2275.

Dempsey, who did a stint in the retail pet and grooming business in California, toured pet day cares in various cities before she decided to open Kamp K-9 in an empty warehouse owned by Sunnen Products Co. here.

And though she dreams of eventually adding training and grooming services as well as a retail center to her business, she said she came by her profession naturally - she just loves animals.

"Right now, I've got two adopted stray dogs at home, Samantha and Tara, plus Rico, my parrot, a few nameless geckos, two tropical fish tanks and one native fish tank full of catfish and bass," she said.

And that's nothing compared to Sinclair, who lives on a farm with a menagerie that includes five large dogs - Atty, Sweetie, Buddy, Rocky and Big Guy - five quarter horses and "numerous barn cats."

Though Dempsey can be dogmatic when discussing Kamp K-9 policies - no crates are used except in emergency situations, a careful introduction of new animals to the pack and so on - her affection for Kampers is obvious.

She speaks with pride about helping Morgan, a Weimaraner, overcoming his separation anxiety, and how Ashes, who once suffered from hip problems, has become more limber because of the exercise she gets playing chase and fetch with her newfound pals these days.

And Kamp K-9 clients seem to be equally enthusiastic about the arrangements.

Erin Jackson, 36, of Cool Valley, says she has been taking her Australian blue heeler, Brett, to Kamp K-9 a few times a month to help "calm him down."

"Brett is like a border collie - he likes to herd animals, so he has a tendency to nip at people's heels and bark a lot; the socialization he gets at Kamp K-9 has been great for him," says Jackson.

Day care is not really an issue - though Jackson and her husband both work full time, their flexible hours allow one of them to keep Brett company for at least part of the day - but she still finds Kamp K-9 an essential resource.

"Brett loves it, especially the wading pools, and we love the break we get while he's there," she laughs.

Judy Musick, 46, of Creve Coeur, sees Kamp K-9 as a good way to make sure her basset hound, Molly, gets enough exercise during the day.

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"Molly used to stay in a crate all day while we worked; when we came home, we were tired, but she was just starting her day," she says.

"Now she's as tired as we are at night. It works out well for everyone's sanity."

Adds Musick: "Molly got into mischief chewing things, ripping up newspapers, but our vet told us there was no such thing as a bad dog, just an underexercised dog.

"We were considering getting a second dog to keep Molly company, but sending her to Kamp K-9 is a much better, and cheaper, solution."

Town and Country's Chris Roemer, 47, owner of Gus, an 11-month-old golden retriever, laughingly admits she is a prime client for dog day care.

"I don't have children, so Gus is my son," she says. "I want to do everything right with this puppy, and I know socialization is important.

"But I wouldn't leave my baby with just anyone. At Kamp K-9, they love animals, and they take their responsibility seriously; they even have a fire-escape plan.

"Gus has really learned how to interact with other dogs there; he's learned that he can play rough and tumble with other puppies, but he needs to just hang out with the older dogs," she said. "Sending him to Kamp K-9 really is like sending him to camp - or actually, preschool."

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NOTES: Reporter Renee Stovsky;; E-mail: rstovsky@post-dispatch.com; Phone: 314-863-6205; ; This story also appeared in the Jefferson County Post on Page 1.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; PHOTOS BY KAREN ELSHOUT / POST-DISPATCH; (1) Color Photo - Dog owner Chris Roemer (right) of Town and Country is greeted by the dogs at Kamp K-9 as she arrives to pick up her golden retriever, Gus. Kamp worker Stacy Dempsey tries to hold back the other dogs. The day-care center for dogs at 3126 Laclede Station Road in Maplewood has been open since May.; (2) Color Photo - At Kamp K-9, Gus the golden retriever and Annie, a Rottweiler mix, play tug of war with a toy. The dogs play all day at Kamp K-9 in an open environment with pools and jungle gyms.; (3) Photo - ABOVE: The gang at Kamp K-9 take turns romping in the pool.; (4) Photo - RIGHT: Pat Sinclair strokes Gus while they wait for his owner, Chris Roemer. Gus' playmates have collapsed for their afternoon nap.