

## Dogwood Acres Pet Retreat

For people who consider their dog or cat a member of the family, Dogwood Acres Pet Retreat provides tender, loving care to four-legged loved ones. Owned and operated by husband and wife Kurt and Audrey Reichardt, the business began just over a decade ago based on the premise that boarding a pet can be a fun and enriching experience for pets and their owners.

"We wanted to do something we were passionate about," says Mrs. Reichardt. "We also wanted to create a place we would feel comfortable bringing our own pets." Combining her experience in the hospitality industry with the couple's fondness for animals, Dogwood Acres soon emerged as the crème de la crème of pet hotels.

Located just minutes from Annapolis, Dogwood Acres is convenient to both Baltimore and Washington D.C. The 10,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility

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includes private guest rooms connected to spacious outdoor patios and acres of enclosed play areas. The facility can house as many as 180 pets with up to 40 staff members attending to the resort's guests.

Choice of room styles range from the "petite classic" guest room to superior 10-foot by 10-foot luxury suites complete with room décor, a couch and cable television. "The TV suites are our most popular rooms," says Mrs. Reichardt. "Many dogs watch television when their owners aren't home so they can hear a human voice for companionship. We provide that same comforting environment."

In addition to the luxurious accommodations, Dogwood Acres offers customized activities. Taking into account an animal's age and personality, activities tap into the full spectrum of needed interaction, ranging from peaceful to very invigorating. For instance, cats

might receive spring water, tuna treats and catnip tea. Dogs can take nature walks, participate in group playtime activities and receive late night "tuck-ins" and storytime.

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In addition to canine and feline lodging, Dogwood Acres provides doggie day care, pet pick-up and delivery, special accommodations for geriatric pets and post-operative care, and an array of pet spa services.

To help pet owners create healthy, lifelong relationships with their canine companions, Dogwood Acres offers Lodge & Learn training programs. Using only positive, reward-based training methods, Dogwood trainers have developed specialized training packages for guests staying just for the day, or overnight. Each day, trainers focus on the overall wellness of their canine students, from exercise and social interactions, to customized training objectives designed for long-term results.

A veterinarian is always on-call and staff members are trained with basic veterinary assistant skills and knowledge to help care for or identify health-related problems.

The Dogwood Acres staff understands how difficult it is for owners to leave their pets, even when the pet is in good hands. Because of that, every Dogwood Acres employee strives to make a visit to the resort an enjoyable experience. Says Mrs. Reichardt: "We take great pride in exceeding the expectations of our guests, and their owners, by providing premium pet care and peace of mind."

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