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Dogwood Acres Pet Retreat, Inc.

For people who consider their dog or cat to be a member of the family, Dogwood Acres Pet Retreat provides tender loving care to four-legged loved ones. Owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Kurt and Audrey Reichardt, the business began a little 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

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D.C. The 10,000-square-foot facility includes private guest rooms that are 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 decorating and color 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 to enrich a pet's visit. 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."

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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 educate pet owners and assist them in training their dogs, the Dogwood Acres Canine Academy provides instruction through positive reinforcement training methods that achieve long-term results. Students can take advantage of group classes, private instruction and "board 'n train" programs.

To ensure that pets are not only happy but healthy, a veterinarian is always on-call, and staff members are trained to have basic veterinary assistant skills and knowledge in order 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 they know 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."

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