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# PRIOR LAKE

magazine

## Smile!

*Take the Bite out of Dental Visits*

## LAP OF LUXURY

*Dogs get the Royal Treatment at Paws & Pals Pet Resort*

## Décor Galore

*Accent Your Home for Spring*

*Konrad & Tasha Gastony, Owners  
Paws & Pals Pet Resort*



# Dog-Gone GOOD!

*Paws & Pals Pet Resort  
Dotes on your Pooch*



My family once boarded our yellow Labrador, Leo, for 10 days during an extended vacation. He came back smelly, nervous and skinny, and we felt guilty about having left him there. But, just like two-legged children, there are times in life when others must care for our pets. Considering that nearly 60 percent of American homes harbor pets, it's about time somebody fashioned a dog boarding facility with heart. Paws & Pals Pet Resort is that facility.

Prior to 2005, Konrad Gastony—a former software marketing and sales executive—was about as far from the pet care industry as you could get. He and his wife Tasha

often had to find care for their beloved Dachshund, Daisy, when they traveled for business or leisure. After 15 years in his previous career Gastony says, "I had the itch to do my own thing." He enjoyed the idea of the emotional connection involved with pets and felt that would be meaningful in his work. He researched the dog boarding industry extensively, traveling around the country to do so. Gastony opened Paws & Pals Pet Resort in June of 2005.

## Goodbye Guilt

At this pet lodging facility the guest "suites" are clean, climate-controlled and spacious. They're constructed with open-topped glass walls—not chain links—so guests have a nice view and are provided with comfy cots or toddler beds. Large breeds are kept in a separate part of the facility from smaller breeds to ensure safety for all guests.

Because dogs are pack animals, Paws & Pals proudly provides group play time for all of its guests. Dogs average three or four group play sessions a day—that's six to eight hours of play time in supervised indoor and outdoor play areas. Plus, lonesome or curious dog owners can look in on their pets with the help of indoor/outdoor web cams.

Gastony's employees are all passionate about animals and many are pursuing certification in pet industries, such as veterinary technology. "We care for the dogs as if they were our

own," Gastony explains.

Daycare is the fastest-growing part of our business," Gastony says. That is, dogs that come to stay and play just during the daytime, while their owners are at work. Besides daycare and more conventional overnight lodging, Paws &



Pals also provides grooming and training services and sells unique pet supplies and accessories. Gastony employs two grooming specialists and a trainer who was formerly head of training for one of the largest national pet retailers.

Paws & Pals will celebrate their five-year anniversary this June. Visit [pawsresort.com](http://pawsresort.com) for details on this milestone event and celebration. Paws & Pals Pet Resort is located at 5821 Industrial Lane SE in Prior Lake – across from Triple Play Sports, near Cleary Lake Park.



**"I thought I'd died and gone to heaven when I discovered Paws & Pals. They give Bella the special attention that I do. I've always been pleased with their services."**

*–Karen Miller, owner of beloved chocolate lab mix, Bella.*