

A luxury resort for your family dog

If you really love your pet, Paws & Pals is the place for boarding, day camp and grooming

Konrad and Tasha Gastony will accept only the best of care for Daisy, their 5-year-old longhaired miniature dachshund.

They've raised her from a pup and never left Daisy at a traditional kennel when they were away.

Now the Burnsville couple is opening a deluxe dog-care center in Prior Lake for people who pamper their pets as much as they do.

Scheduled to open in June, Paws & Pals Pet Resort is the only facility of its kind south of the Minnesota River. It is conveniently located just minutes from the I-35 SuperTarget in Lakeville.

Located in a brand-new, 8,000-square-foot building in the Deerfield Business Park, Paws & Pals is a labor of love for Tasha, a Physician Assistant at the Park Nicollet Clinic in Eagan, and Konrad, who spent 15 years in sales and marketing.

"We've always considered Daisy as our fur baby," Tasha said. "When we travel, we just don't feel comfortable leaving her at a traditional kennel. We always feel a little guilty asking our friends and family to take her. We've talked to a lot of people that are in the same boat as us. I guess you could say Daisy is a big part of the inspiration behind starting Paws & Pals."

The Gastonys have been planning the business for more than a year, visiting Denver, Portland and St. Louis to view some of the best dog-care facilities in the country.

Paws & Pals will offer overnight lodging, day camp services and dog training in a caring, fun, safe and cage-free environment.

"I compare it to an upscale hotel or resort, except it's for dogs," Konrad said.

Guests stay in "luxury suites" instead of cages, the largest of which are nearly 50 square feet in size. All the suites are big enough to accommodate any breed of dog.

"They're spacious, with plush bedding, and some even have color TVs," Konrad said. Each clean, climate-controlled suite has a glass front, giving guests an excellent view.

Paws & Pals will have six play areas inside and outside the building. The property includes a very large outdoor play space. During the day dogs will be divided into play groups.

"The dogs for most of the day are out playing in these groups, which are divided by size and personality," Konrad said.

Play groups will be supervised by employees educated to the standards of the American Boarding Kennels Association. All employees must pass the ABKA Pet-Care Technician Certification, as well as complete rigorous pack behavior training.

Employees will even tuck the dogs in



Paws & Pals is a state-of-the-art facility being built in Prior Lake near Cleary Lake Park



at night.

"By the time they're ready to go to bed, they're tired out and ready to relax in their private suites," Konrad said.

The staff will be supervised by dog trainer Jen Severud, whose business, Canine Discovery, is based in Shakopee. Severud will also offer training services at Paws & Pals.

"We're excited to be partnering with Jen Severud of Canine Discovery," Konrad said. "In addition to sharing our love of pets, Jen is a professionally certified dog trainer. She truly understands the intricacies of dog behavior, care and nutrition. Having Jen on our team will help to ensure the health and safety of our four-legged guests."

Owners will never be far away from pets staying at Paws & Pals. Webcams will be placed throughout the facility so owners can log onto the Paws & Pals Web site and see the animals live.

Paws & Pals will also offer a day camp for busy people who don't have time to properly exercise their dogs.

A full-service salon will offer grooming services as well as a line of specialty pet products. Paws & Pals will offer the



Konrad and Tasha Gastony of Burnsville love to pamper their own pet, Daisy, a long-haired dachshund. "I guess you could say that Daisy is a big part of the inspiration behind starting Paws & Pals," Tasha said.

relaxing, warm-water HydroSurge system for bathing.

For more information about Paws &

Pals, call (952) 447-3644 or visit www.pawsresort.com.