

Living your best life

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DAY TRIP

You really can't call it a kennel.

The Barkley Pet Hotel and Day Spa in Orange Village is a luxury resort for both dogs and cats.

And you won't believe it.

Located north of Solon, the 15,000-square-foot facility has luxury pet boarding, a grooming salon and spa that offers "pawdicures" (nail smoothing, pad/elbow treatment, and colored "pawlish"), de-shedding treatments and massage — as well as day camp and training services.

"Every blade of grass is pet-friendly," said Howard Perlmutter, a Pepper Pike-born entrepreneur who spent more than two years researching his business before finding investors.

He said he consulted engineers, pet psychologists, contractors and other experts about the concept for the facility.

"Business is phenomenal," he said of the nearly recession-proof business. Owners treat their pets well because pets are members of the family, he said.

He said he has clients who are regular customers, as well as those who save up all year to give their dog a special birthday.

Among the features at The Barkley are the Kitty City Suites, where cats can lounge watching fish in a giant aquarium, bird watch, play on the multiple levels or just nap. Private litter boxes and catnip are included.

Dogs have their choice of the Executive Poolside Suites with up to 140 square feet with nightly tuck-in tummy rubs and biscuits, or the Park Suites with garden views, as well as the petite and standard suites. All

Is this really for pets?

By Lisa Reicosky



THE BARKLEY

27349 Miles Rd.
Orange Village, OH 44022
Phone: (440) 248-BARK (2275)
Visit: www.thebarkleypethotel.com
E-mail: info@thebarkleypethotel.com
Interstate 271 north to the Miles Road exit. Turn left onto Miles Road, heading east. After crossing Richmond Road, The Barkley is about a quarter mile on the left side. Take a left into The Barkley just before the freeway overpass.

provide 24-hour supervision, play-time and human interaction.

They also have Web cams ("Pawparazzi") so you can watch your pet from your home computer or by cell phone.

Perlmutter said that when he opened the facility in February 2007, he had more than 300 people a day for tours.

"We've done nothing but grow," he said.

He plans to open a Beverly Hills location in late fall, and another will follow in Florida. ■