

THE PLAIN DEALER

BREAKING NEWS: CLEVELAND.COM

★ ★ ★

42¢ HOME DELIVERY | 50¢ NEWSSTAND

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2007

Spa puts guest pets in lap of luxury

DOUGLAS TRATTNER
Special to The Plain Dealer

During the five years it took to conceive The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa, President Howard Perlmutter completed a statistical analysis of the industry, visited 200 pet-care facilities, conducted multiple focus groups and consulted with pet psychologists and pet-specific architects. Judging by his guests' reactions, the research paid off.

"The pets pull their owners through the front door," Perlmutter says.

And why wouldn't they? With perks like daily linen service, group play, dips in the heated pool and a nightly tuck-in tummy rub, these pooches have it better than at home.

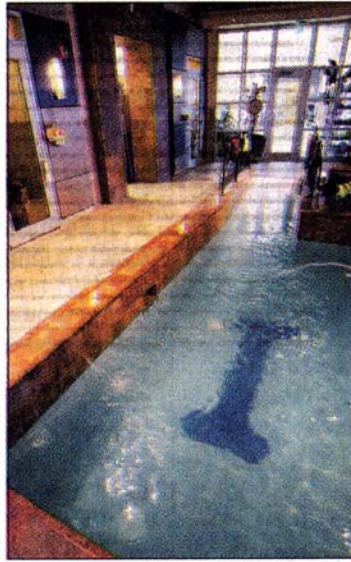
The 15,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art complex employs 42 staffers and can comfortably lodge 150 dogs and 18 cats. Accommodations range from park-like suites with wrought iron fencing and faux grass to pool-side villas boasting plasma TVs and outdoor views. Even the "standard" suites feature glass privacy doors and plush sleeping cots. Owners can watch their "babies" 24 hours a day via Web cams.

In addition to the overnight accommodations, The Barkley offers cage-free doggie day care, grooming and spa services, and health and wellness treatments such as hydrotherapy and acupuncture.

"I studied all the statistics," adds Perlmutter, who is scouting new locations. "Heck, I am the statistic. I can't believe how much money I spend on my pets without thinking."



Marc Price's standard parti poodle, Mardi Gras, catches a whiff of the Barkley's fancy doggie treats.



A dog bone image decorates the bottom of the Barkley's pool. Accommodations overlooking the pool include plasma TVs.

NAME: The Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa

ADDRESS: 27349 Miles Road, Orange

VITALS: Pet hotel, day care center and spa

IN YOUR SPACE



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROADELL HICKMAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

The homey accommodations at the Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa include "suites" with glass doors and plush cots for sleeping.