



# Pampered Pets

Nestled off U.S. Hwy. 301 near The Villages is a new retreat where clientele are treated like royalty. This unique site offers private, decorated suites, cozy beds and fun-filled daytime activities.

Bedtime stories and belly rubs are plentiful for the pampered guests, who happen to have tails and walk on four legs. At Bedtime Tails Luxury Pet Hotel, pets have the option of running outside, enjoying gourmet cookies, taking a golf cart ride or relaxing as they receive a luxury bath. The hotel was opened in December by Cathy Coppini, a former veterinary technician who also operated a local pet sitting business for 17 years.

Her reason for starting the company was simple: For pet owners going on vacation, she wants to assure them that their furry friends are receiving five-star treatment and enjoying an equally luxurious vacation. Thus, pet owners need not worry while out of town.

"Pet owners hate leaving their pet behind," she said. "They have legitimate concerns about how their pet will be cared for and whether the pet will remain caged throughout the duration of its stay. They won't have to worry about those things here. I understand they love and treat their pets like children, and that's why we go above and beyond to ensure all dogs and cats are comfortable

and pampered during their stay here. I felt this was something we really needed in the area because there's nothing like it around here."

The hotel can accommodate pets of all sizes, ranging from kittens to Great Danes. That's particularly comforting for Villages residents Neal and Sandra Knight, owners of two Great Danes, Ellie and Jackson. They wouldn't hesitate to leave their dogs at Bedtime Tails Luxury Pet Hotel when they visit family members in Maine.

"I'm very particular because my dogs are very spoiled and live like people," Sandra said. "I would never board my dogs at a place where they are placed into small cages and wouldn't be comfortable. That's why I'm excited about this hotel opening. I've never found a place as nice as this, and Cathy is very pleasant and genuinely cares about your pet."

#### FOR PETS, THE ULTIMATE HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The bright, airy 3,600 square-foot pet hotel, which Cathy built adjacent to her home, features separate wings for dogs and cats. There are 20 rooms for cats and 40 rooms for dogs. Standard rooms for cats are 4-by-4-foot areas featuring windows, while deluxe rooms are double that size and have two windows. Standard dog rooms are 5-by-



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7-foot areas, and larger deluxe rooms are also available. The dog rooms open into adjoining rooms, which is ideal for owners desiring additional space for their canine.

Complimentary amenities found inside each room include cozy beds, soft rugs, stuffed animals, sterilized water bowls and private storage for guest luggage.

“At many pet hotels, the owners simply took an existing building and tried to convert it into a pet hotel,” Cathy said. “Ours is a brand-new facility and we built it with the convenience and comfort of the pet in mind. We provide everything from beds to blankets to bowls. The only thing we ask owners to bring is pet food. It’s kind of like sending your child to camp.”

For minimal fees, pet owners can ensure their furry friend enjoys additional pampering, such as 20-minute group play, 20-minute individual exploration time, 15-minute golf cart rides (dogs only), gourmet cookies and doggy ice cream. It doesn’t end there. For \$1 owners will receive a text message from their pet, and for \$3 owners can receive a phone call from their pet. The facility also features a full-service grooming room where animals can enjoy a luxury bath and crème rinse, nail trimming and brushing.

One noticeable feature is the absence of foul odor in the pet housing areas. “There are no drains in the room; hence, there’s no bad smell,” she said.

“We vacuum, mop and wipe down the walls of each room twice a day—just like you do at home. In addition, we tiled the entire building, eliminating the chance of carpet becoming infested with flea or tick eggs.”

While pets will certainly enjoy five-star amenities and cleanliness inside, they’ll also have fun outside. The property features six fenced-in yards, allowing them to receive fresh air and much-needed exercise. Cathy lets the animals out four to five times a day; the last let-out being at 10:30 p.m. That’s hardly an inconvenience considering her home is next door.

“There are few facilities that cater to both humans and pets,” Cathy said. “That’s why I started this pet hotel. People will like the fact we’re less expensive than other companies that advertise being a luxury pet hotel. And we provide special maintenance for all pets, whether that means cooking their food because they are on a special diet or giving them insulin injections at no additional cost.”

Cathy welcomes the public to tour the facility and bring their pet. The hotel is open Monday through Saturday from 7-10:30 a.m. and 3-8 p.m. It’s open on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by appointment.

Bedtime Tails Luxury Pet Hotel is located at 6804 S.E. 144th Place Road in Summerfield. For more information, please call (352) 347-7183 or visit [www.bedtimetailsluxurypethotel.com](http://www.bedtimetailsluxurypethotel.com).



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