

SOPHISTICATED LIVING AT ITS BEST

Lake Minnetonka

MAGAZINE

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KSTP's early morning traffic reporter serves it up with a smile



Owner Jean Beuning with a few of her canine companions.

Hound Haven

A Club Med-style getaway for your pooch

Feeling guilty about leaving Mimi at home while you visit Maui? Don't worry. Your best friend will be happy on a vacation of her own at the Top Dog Country Club in Excelsior.

With faux-stone heated floors, air conditioning and continuous music, Top Dog (952.353.2600, www.topdogcountryclub.com) offers only the finest accommodations for its guests.

Amenities include constant interaction, group playtime, an 18,000-square-foot outdoor AstroTurf® play yard, heated swimming pool and Yappy Hour featuring homemade apple-cinnamon biscuits and Frank Sinatra serenades. Bedtime stories and hugs help doggies settle down at night as they snuggle into wrought iron beds

with tapestry-covered orthopedic mattresses in private or family suites. Top Dog also offers grooming, bathing, massage, photography and pick-up/delivery services.

Former Marriott executive Jean Beuning opened her "Club Med for dogs" in 2000 as an alternative to traditional kennels. "Here the dogs are on vacation," she says. "They fly through the door when they arrive, and sometimes they don't want to leave."

Beuning runs Top Dog like the first-rate hotels she previously managed, employing professional staff, experienced vet technicians and superior service and quality to create a remarkable retreat for her canine customers. —CK

Going to the DOGS

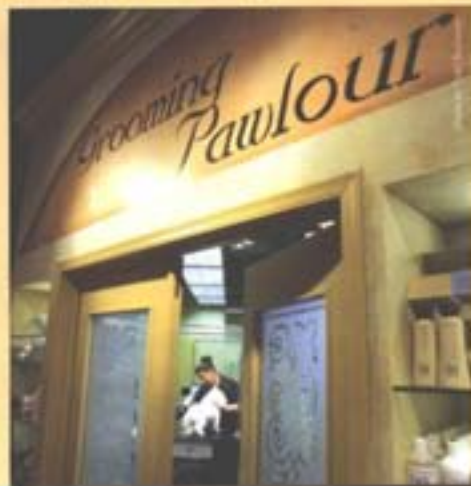
Outings for your pampered pet

At the Lulu & Luigi chic new pet boutique in Wayzata, you'll love the glam goodie galore: Burberry plaid walking coats, plush toys, gourmet treats that look tasty enough for humans, animal-themed home accessories and the store's own line of LL Pet custom collars and beds. And your pet will love the sleek Grooming Pawlour with the latest in luxe spa services such as hand-scissored haircuts, exfoliating therapy and hydromassage baths.

Whether your kitty needs a "furrinator" to tame that mangy mane or your doggie needs an up-do for a special occasion, the pet stylists at Lulu & Luigi (952.929.5858, www.luluanaluigi.com) will customize a package for your pet. There are treatments to relieve arthritis pain, remove tear stains and soften nails to minimize problem scratching. Haircuts can be tailored to a dog's breed, personality or show coat. Non-toxic tinting eliminates gray hairs. Sparkles brighten white coats. And what posh pet doesn't appreciate a Paw-A-Cure with polish? Each visit is accompanied by soft music, lavender aromatherapy and a soothing waterfall.

Mother-daughter owners Karen Howe and Liz Sand believe that pets deserve to be pampered in

Take your pampered pet to Lulu & Luigi for a day at the Grooming Pawlour.





returns for the unconditional love and joy they bring to their owners' lives. "We've created an experience as wonderful as a human spa to help pets rejuvenate and relax," Sand says. "It's a wonderful way to show them how much we appreciate what they bring to our lives."

So the next time your fur-coated companion is having a bad hair day or seems a bit stressed, book an appointment at Lulu & Luigi's Grooming Pawlour. Or ask the mobile grooming van to bring the services to your home. — CATHY KRUSE



Doggie Notes

After your pooch returns from her excursion, send a custom thank-you note with Pup Prints stationery (952.473.7230, www.pup-prints.com). Located in Wayzata, Pup Prints features your choice of 20 silhouette-purebred breeds on white stationery with coordinating light blue envelopes. A set of eight cards retails for \$13 and is available online or at Lulu & Luigi.



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