

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ForSaleByOwner.com Real Estate. Reinvented. Advertise on NYTimes.com

When the Fur Doesn't Fly



Travis Dove for The New York Times

POOL TIME At Pet Paradise Resort in Charlotte, N.C., dogs have a bone-shaped swimming pool, and indoor and outdoor cages. More Photos »

By ELIZABETH OLSON Published: May 4, 2011

Spacious rooms, plush bedding, spa treatments, a large swimming pool and a lively social scene. It sounds like a dream vacation. But these amenities are not for humans; they are for pets left behind when their owners take plane trips.

Multimedia

More than a dozen airports in the United States have pet-stay facilities nearby, and more are planned.

Such pet pampering, said Bob Vetere, president of the American Pet Products Association, "coincided with the front end of the baby boomers. They are still working, but their children have left home, so pets are their second generation of kids."

Resort Living for Pets

BUSINESS TRAVEL A Return to Spending and the Front Rows

The years of trimming costs have given way to a rebound in travel as the economy picks up. This and other stories on business travel in a special section.

And, like any doting parents, travelers want to be able to check at will on their pets through the increasingly popular webcam.

"When parents are away, they can check in on their babies," said Saq Nadeem, who founded Paradise4Paws, which has locations at Chicago's O'Hare and Midway airports. And, like other pet hotels, he specializes not only in the deluxe, but also in convenience, giving customers the

Log in to see what your friends are sharing on nytimes.com. Privacy Policy | What's This?

Log In With Facebook

What's Popular Now

The Unwisdom of Elites



'Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter' Rewrites History



DIGITEK Pet Video Cam



Advertise on NYTimes.com

RECOMMEND

TWITTER

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE

MOST E-MAILED

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

We don't have any personalized recommendations for you at this time. Please try again later.

PRESENTED BY

Log in to discover more articles based on what you've read.

What's This? | Don't Show

[Go to Special Section »](#)**Related**Times Topic: [Pets](#)[Enlarge This Image](#)

Peter Wynn Thompson for The New York Times

NAP TIME Pets can watch TV or sleep, while owners monitor them on a webcam. [More Photos »](#)

option of 24/7 drop-off and pickup, along with discounted or free airport parking.

These pet hotels cater to [business travelers](#) like Susie McIntosh Hinson, who works for a global standards organization. She spends more than 50 percent of her time in the air, traveling from her home base in Charlotte, N.C., to places as diverse as Brussels and Manila.

Finding a kennel for her two-year-old greyhound, Eldyrah, was difficult, Ms. Hinson said, because “every place was 9 to 5, Monday through Friday, and that didn’t work for me.”

When she saw an ad for the Charlotte airport’s newly opened Pet Paradise Resort, the convenience and easy access to the terminal persuaded her to try it. She now

often leaves her dog at the resort because “they are geared around travelers.

“I give them my flight information so if there are delays or problems, there is no gap in care for her,” Ms. Hinson said. “It’s an extended home, like leaving the children with Grandma.”

The Charlotte facility is run by Fred Goldsmith — he calls himself the “chief pooper-scooper.” He decided to “create a Ritz-Carlton brand for dogs” after searching unsuccessfully for upscale lodging for his bichon frisé.

He set up the first Pet Paradise in Jacksonville, Fla., in 2005, and has since expanded to eight other locations in Florida as well as Charlotte, New Orleans and Houston.

“Our client can pull up, leave the pet and then take the bags on our van and go directly to the terminal,” Mr. Goldsmith said. The price is \$34 to \$37 a night, depending on the location — plus extras like special treats, flat-screen televisions, DVDs and pet massages.

Mr. Nadeem, who owns two dogs and two cats, drew up a pet-stay facility plan while he was a business school student at Northwestern. He wanted to meet the sometimes-unpredictable needs of people traveling for work and the growing sentiment among pet owners against crating or caging their pets while they are away.

“Travelers don’t want to add to their stress by dropping off their pet a day early or waiting a day later,” Mr. Nadeem said. His facility has pet suites, flat-screen TVs, large open spaces, a dog bone-shaped pool and real-time webcams. And cats stay in bungalows with window perches, aquariums to watch fish and access to special climbing trees.

Kristine Grudis, a sales manager for a food processing company, boards her yellow Labrador, Leilah, there because of her energy level, which is so high it overwhelmed at-home sitters.

“Now she swims and plays all day,” said Ms. Grudis, who travels weekly for work and leaves Leilah at Paradise4Paws. “It probably costs as much as monthly day care for a child, but I get points for future stays or airline flights.”

Airport authorities welcome the revenue from on-site pet boarding. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, which contracted for pet boarding services with the Animal Humane Society, a nonprofit animal welfare organization in the Midwest, earned \$110,000 last year, almost four times the building’s previous rent, said Eric Johnson, director of commercial development for the Metropolitan Airports Commission. Additional proceeds from the facility, run by the society’s affiliate, Now Boarding Pets, support Animal Humane Society’s programs.

Even with enviable amenities, mixing unfamiliar dogs together can sometimes cause problems. So most pet facilities make a point of evaluating each animal to screen out aggressors or loners.

**New apps to share videos**

ALSO IN TECH »

Take your iPhone to the next level  
Docking your laptop, wirelessly

**nytimes.com**

TECH

ADVERTISEMENTS



Answer to win tickets to a Broadway show.

*The New York Times***Save 50% on home delivery ▶**

Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)**Discount Business Class**

Book the Same Seat For Less.

Save on Biz Airfare w/ Cook Travel

[www.cooktravel.net](http://www.cooktravel.net)

“There is always a degree of biting or aggression,” said Lisa Hinickle, the general manager of Now Boarding Pets. “Any facility that says otherwise isn’t being upfront.”

That is why touring a facility before boarding a pet is essential, said Susan Smith, who operates the Web site [pettravel.com](http://pettravel.com). “The conveniences are wonderful,” she said, “but you have to know the facility is able to accommodate the needs of your pet.”

A version of this article appeared in print on May 5, 2011, on page F3 of the New York edition with the headline: When the Fur Doesn't Fly.

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

---

PRINT

---

REPRINTS

 Get 50% Off The New York Times & Free All Digital Access.

**More Headlines From Around the Web**

Sponsored Links

CAREONE

**Journey Out of Debt: “Shh! It’s used” & other money secrets.**

CARING.COM

**Worried It’s Alzheimer’s? 8 Symptoms to Watch For**

REALSIMPLE.COM

**Surprising Uses for Your Dishwasher**

THE ART OF LIFE MAGAZINE

**Best Hidden Secrets Of The Wine World: Second Labels**

**Get Free E-mail Alerts on These Topics**

Pets

Airports

Travel and Vacations

Business Travel

Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)

**Best Dog Care Franchise**

Dog Daycare, Boarding, Grooming,

Training Franchise with Advertising

[www.wagville.com](http://www.wagville.com)

**INSIDE NYTIMES.COM**



OPINION »



**Room for Debate: Time to Slash the Military?**

SPORTS »



**After a Tornado, Solace on the Ball Field**

THEATER »



**Three Hearts Butt Heads in One Marriage**

U.S. »



**For Some, Helping Is Not Just Aid, It’s a Calling**

OPINION »

**Fish: The Kushner Flap**

Denying the playwright an honorary degree may have been a dumb idea, but it is not a violation of academic freedom.

WORLD »



**Signs of a Putin-Medvedev Rift**

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Autos](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 2011 The New York Times Company | [Privacy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Terms of Sale](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertise](#)