



While many dogs run around all day at Rover Come Over Doggy Daycare, Steak, an English bulldog, enjoys hanging out on a soft couch and sleeping the day away; however, he did take a minute to pause for this picture before resuming his nap.



Owner Sheri Plocek loves the dogs that come to her daycare and it's apparent they love her too. Stopping for a quick neck rub and a few kisses are Sonny (a labrador) and Mazy (a Weimaraner).

MIRROR PHOTOS BY NANCY GAGNET

Rover Come Over Specializes In Pampering Man's Best Friend

BY NANCY GAGNET
MIRROR REPORTER

If Buddy, Max or Bailey need a place to hang out with their fellow canine companions while mom and dad are gone, Rover Come Over, a day care facility for dogs, has just the setup they need to satisfy all of their doggy desires.

The 5,000-square-foot indoor facility is designed with man's best friend in mind. Stocked with "every dog toy imaginable," the facility offers separate areas for puppies, small dogs and large dogs to romp and roll with the best of them.

Owner Sheri Plocek has supplied the facility with balls, ropes and climbing equipment designed for dogs.

"It's funny because even though they all use that stuff, most of them want to run around and play with each other," she said.

The open-air facility does not cage dogs; however, kennels are available to the dogs that want to step inside for a catnap. Old couches and chairs are also strewn about for those sniffing out a comfy spot to curl up or those that want to sit and hang out while watching the other dogs frolic.

Throughout the year the dogs can also play in the 4,000-square-foot outdoor area, and in the summer months pools are set up along with a frisbee area and sand pit for digging.

Plocek touts the benefits of having dogs at her facility to play, even if only for a short time.

"Even coming here for a



Groomer Kimmy Smith helps clients such as Scrapy look their best at Rover Come Over. Other services include a do-it-yourself dog wash and anti-shedding treatments.

half day, they can get exercise and it really tires them out," she said.

Dog owner Grey Schmidt echoed that sentiment and said her samoyed named Diva starts crying as soon as she turns down Albon Road.

"She just cannot control herself once she gets there and she just has a hootin' time," she said. "It is more fun to watch the dogs. It is the best comedy in the world watching the interplay of these dogs."

Plocek says the daycare offers an opportunity for the dogs to socialize and get exercise so when their owners pick them up after a long day, both owner and pet are tired and ready to rest.

Linda Leitner, of Springfield Township, began using the doggy daycare when her pug mix puppy named Maggie need-

ed a place to expend her energy while Linda was at work.

"We found that we could do this on a half-day basis and it would be like us giving up eating out one dinner," she said. "As a puppy, it was perfect because when we would go home at night she would be exhausted; we didn't have to come home at night and play with a rambunctious puppy."

Now that Maggie is 2 years old, she still goes to the daycare to play with her buddies.

"She loves it, and I think it's really good for her for the exercise and all the stuff she can't get at home in the winter time," Leitner said.

The daycare is set up to do just that, care for the dogs while their owners are not at home.

"A lot of our owners are educated and they work and they don't like to leave their dogs home five days a week. Some develop behavior problems or have separation anxiety issues," Plocek explained.

For the pet owners suffering from separation anxiety, Plocek has a Web cam that allows owners to check on their dogs via the Internet at any given time.

Both Leitner and Schmidt have great praise for Plocek and her staff.

"I can't say enough about Sheri, and the staff is just marvelous," Schmidt said. "There is just so much joy. It's pure joy, and for the dogs, it's heaven on Earth."

Owners may begin dropping off their pets at 6:30 a.m. and can leave them until 6:30 p.m. each day. In addition to daily dogsitting, the facility also offers overnight boarding for those leaving town.

Plocek and her staff of 10 also offer grooming services and a self-serve dog wash for those who want to bring their dogs in and wash them without worrying about cleaning up a mess at home.

In February, the facility is holding the "Doggy Olympics," which will take place in conjunction with this year's winter Olympics. Owners who sign up their pets to participate can watch the fun from the Web cam while Fido and Rover compete in events such as the "toboggan run," which tests how long a dog will stay on a sled without jumping off.

Other events include retrieving the most tennis balls in five minutes and a fastest eater competition.

"We try to make sure that even the non-athletic dogs have something to enter," Plocek said.

Following the exciting contest, the top dog's score will be posted on the Web.

"If they win the gold they get a free daycare package," Plocek said.

Throughout the year, she also features fund-raisers to help raise money for dogs in shelters.

In the spring Rover Come Over will offer classes on a variety of dog topics including keeping senior dogs mentally and physically stimulated, a focus on shy dogs and a training class for kids that focuses on child and dog safety.

Plocek is also planning a camp for overweight dogs called "The Biggest Loser," in which hefty hounds may participate in nature walks and a special lean diet.

"Even dogs can become couch potatoes," Plocek laughed.

Plocek, who opened the business two years ago after

working as a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital for 25 years, admits that she rarely, if ever, takes time off.

"It's like getting in the restaurant business. You have to know that you are going to put in a lot of hours," she said.

Her husband Matt helps to maintain the facility, and while two of her children are away at college, her youngest child attends junior high.

Plocek's own three dogs accompany her to the daycare, which is conveniently located adjacent to her home. She says she loves the dogs and their fun-loving approach to life.

"They have such loving dispositions and they are always entertaining us," she said. "They are just a lot of fun."

Rover Come Over is located at 3945 Albon Rd. in Monclova Township. For more information on services or rates, visit RoverComeOverDoggydaycare.com or call (419) 861-9100.

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