

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Sit, stay: homes-away-from-home for pets

By Cathy Dausman



Walterrock Pet Ranch owner Candace Harper greets a dog play group at her kennel.

Photos Cathy Dausman

It's nearly summer, and time to plan vacations for you and your pets. Cats and dogs in particular have a variety of home-away-from-home options. The Lamorinda Weekly visited three area kennels and asked a veteri-

narian what to expect before boarding Fifi or Fido. Here's the scratch:

Canyonwyck Kennels is ramping up for the high season, which extends from Memorial weekend through Labor Day, says co-owner

Carol Beasley. "Then a couple calm months, and it starts over again at Thanksgiving." The kennel near Rossmoor first opened in 1947 and Beasley has worked there since high school when she learned to groom, then

manage, the kennel she now co-owns. She lives onsite and employs a niece and nephew. Beasley and her sister, co-owner Maureen Beasley, take in "large, rambunctious, very active dogs," and customers know to expect that. Their dog guests can swim, play and hike the property's back acreage, leaving them well exercised, dirty and tired.

If that's not enough, they offer daily dog-training sessions. Maureen says running the business has given her sister "invaluable" medical knowledge about the pets who board there, adding "we recognize you, but we know your dog!"

Kennel experiences vary greatly, Maureen says, and there is nothing other than a land use permit or business license required, so she tells potential clients "go ahead and look at everybody."

North Main Pet Lodge is a surprisingly large facility, given its downtown Walnut Creek location. It is a second-generation, family-run owned and operated for the last 25 years by Chris and Colleen Prouty. Chris Prouty's parents raised and showed standard poodles and cats; they travelled extensively before designing and building Pet Lodge.

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