

## Palm Beach Paw Spa pampers pets

### Jupiter couple offers 24-hour care for dogs

**By Kit Bradshaw**  
staff writer  
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Dogs of all sizes have a new place to call home during the day and for sleepovers at the Palm Beach Paw Spa, located at 715 Commerce Way, Suite 16 in Jupiter's Pennock Industrial Park.

The Paw Spa, which bills itself as an "upscale boarding and day care for dogs," is an all-indoor facility covering 4,500 square feet.

"We can handle about 40 dogs for day care and 25 for overnight stays," said Matt McCord, who owns the facility with his wife, Tracy. "We have between three to five canine coordinators on staff during the day, depending on how many dogs are here, and we have an attendant during the night as well.

"I believe we are the only facility in the area that has someone in attendance during the night for the dogs that are being boarded."

The 2,000-foot dog park area is air conditioned, has rubber flooring and a double gating system for safety. There is even a big screen for favorite pet movies that the dogs may enjoy.

Palm Beach Paw Spa also has donated its indoor spaces to Safe Harbour Animal Sanctuary & Hospital for its evening dog training classes.

"Safe Harbor is such a good nonprofit organization, and they need people to step up and help them," McCord said. "There were no good training facilities in the area — Safe Harbor was using their parking lot, which lost its lights after the hurricanes — and so we offered our facilities to them."

Safe Harbor will be hosting its third annual Strut-a-Mutt Fun Walk/Run fund-raiser Saturday, April 16, from 8 to 11 a.m. at Abacoa's TownCenter.

Both McCords worked for Florida Power & Light Co. before deciding to start Palm Beach Paw Spa. Tracy was an environmental specialist who worked on the impact of FPL on wildlife, while Matt was a mechanical engineer. The couple began looking for an alternative to a 9-5 lifestyle and a place where they could take their dog, Murphy, with them to work. The solution was the start their own business, which they did with the help of Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) in West Palm Beach, and their family and friends who designed their logo, Web site and the interiors of the Paw Spa.

"People in the area love their pets, they're like kids to them," said McCord, "and we wanted to create a place where people could board their dogs and the dog isn't in a cage all day. Our facility gives the dogs social interaction and 'designer' dog houses for overnights or for daytime naps."

Palm Beach Paw Spa is a member of the American Boarding Kennels Association.

**INFORMATION:** (561) 741-0022 or [www.palmbeachpawspa.com](http://www.palmbeachpawspa.com)



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Matt McCord, who owns Palm Beach Paw Spa with his wife, Tracy, gives one of the dogs visiting for the day some extra affection. The "luxury" facility in Jupiter offers both overnight boarding and day care in its air-conditioned building in Pennock Industrial Park.