

What is PetSuites of America?

By Melissa Woodward

If you go to the PetSuites website (www.petsuitesofamerica.com) and “Take a Peek Inside” you will see pictures of a bright reception room with large, open windows and a park. You might look at it and wonder if the pictures are an accurate reflection of the hotel today; I know I did. I never thought a business that accommodates pets could be so clean. PetSuites proved me wrong.

One sunny day in August I walked into the PetSuites in Sharonville and looked around. Wow; it looked just like the pictures! There was a huge, open lobby with two smiling girls behind a large desk. Off to the left, through a window, was a room with a rocking chair and cat ‘condos’. To the right was another glass-faced room with a large white dog getting a haircut. Through the massive window straight ahead, I could see a park-like setup with a fountain and fire hydrant in front of dogs lounging comfortably on their beds, each with their own TV.

PetSuites Resort and Spa was a dream turned reality about nine years ago when Tracy and Joe Mason created a hotel for their beloved Elvis and his four-legged friends. “It’s like I built a \$2 million dog house for my pet!” Tracy laughed as she was explaining their story.

The Masons returned from their honeymoon one Sunday in 1994 and tried to retrieve Elvis, their Great Dane mix, from the kennel he had been at while they traveled. “The owner was there and he wouldn’t let us have Elvis because he didn’t have business hours that day,” Tracy said.

The Masons couldn’t argue with the owner, but the frustration of that situation gave Joe and Tracy an idea. They knew if they were unhappy with pet boarding options, there must be others that felt the same.

Joe and Tracy knew what they didn’t want at their hotel – dingy kennels, poor business hours or tight quarters. They worked to make it bright and spacious and had a firm commitment to making it clean, safe and a lot of fun! They created a place where I could bring my Lab, worry free, and she could enjoy some canine adventures.

PetSuites, a place where ‘cage’ is a dirty word, is a bright, state-of-the-art-facility that makes it obvious the Mason’s wish was to have the feeling of a hotel, not a kennel. At this resort, your pet is a guest who will come to think of PetSuites as a “home away from home”.

Dogs stay in suites, townhouses or penthouses while feline guests stay in condos. These cat condos are four levels and have an air purification system that removes any trace of odors. I didn’t notice the lack of odor until Tracy asked me what I smelled, and I realized nothing! My favorite part about the cat condos was that each room has a view of outdoor bird feeders or indoor fish tanks.

While your cats are busy watching other animals, the canines are in a separate part of the hotel. The two room suites available for dogs come with soft lamb’s wool bedding and a full-service housekeeper. I loved the penthouses, each with a toddler bed and yes, a television tuned to the Animal Planet®.

PetSuites won't let your dog become a couch potato though (I know my Lab would if she could!). You can choose from a variety of different activities that best suit your dog's needs. Playtimes vary from a high-energy Frisbee® toss to a petting session, known as the "Love Me Tender".

In my family, we board our labs at the vet's office. When I brought this up to the Masons, Tracy asked me one question: "If you go on vacation, do you stay at a hospital or a hotel?" With over nine years of experience, the Mason's are confident that they know your answer to this question.

As a pet owner, the most surprising part about PetSuites was the openness of their tour. Have you ever seen behind the scenes where your pet boards? I know I haven't. As PetSuites says, smelling is believing. I'm glad I smelled it out. What a wonderful place! What peace of mind! The facilities are open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

www.petsuitesofamerica.com