



Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey...

By Candace T. Botha

When does 3 + 4 = 5?

Only when talking about Bayside Pet Resort's three locations that have been developed in the past four years and equate to five-star amenities for animals lovers and their beloved, four-legged companions in Southwest Florida.

It was four years ago—in August 2012—when the flagship facility, Bayside Pet Resort & Spa, first opened its doors, offering doggy day care, overnight boarding and grooming at its location at 8154 North Tamiami Trail in Sarasota.

The following year, in December 2013, Bayside Pet Spa, located at 8405 Honore Avenue in University Park, officially opened for business, providing top-notch grooming and doggy day care in Parisian-style surroundings, just minutes from the University Town Center mall on University Parkway.

As they saying goes, the third time is a charm, and this certainly holds true at Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey, located at 718 South Tamiami Trail. While this may be the third Bayside location, it is the first facility that was designed and developed from the ground up, and no detail was spared in providing the most luxurious accommodations and attentive service that pet owners could wish for or want for their dogs and cats.

"Undoubtedly, our Osprey location is the most creative of all of our facilities," says Bob Huff, the entrepreneur and animal lover behind the development of the Bayside family of pet resorts. "It is the epitome of the concept I created and what I originally had envisioned a pet resort to be."

When asked what impresses him most about the layout and design of the new Osprey location, Mr. Huff says, "The most impressive aspect of the newest addition to Bayside Pet Resorts is that the entire complex was designed and developed in a very conscious way to provide an environment that is conducive to the safety, wellness, comfort and enjoyment of each of our guests.

"I really want to emphasize that a stay at Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey is fun," Mr. Huff continues. "Even guests who are here just for a couple of hours can enjoy the full environment and participate in a range of activities. Each time I visit, it brings me such happiness to observe our guests at play.

"The Osprey pet resort is not only a beautiful area with luxurious accommodations for our canine and feline guests, but it also was designed to be visually appealing to their owners," Mr. Huff adds.

Above: Photo of Bayside Pet Resort in Osprey by ????
Photo, opposite page: Elwood enjoys a dip in the pool after the cover photo shoot. Photo by Doreen Birdsell

“Even more importantly, the facility functions well, providing positive and easy transitions from one area to the next for the comfort of our guests and the convenience of our staff.”

Many of the successful attributes incorporated into the design of the first Bayside Pet Resort in Sarasota have been included—and improved on—at the new Osprey location. Once again, you’ll find separate indoor and outdoor play areas for large and small dogs, equipped with colorful play equipment and plenty of toys, and always under the watchful eye of Bayside’s professional staff.

It is, however, the design of the canine suites at the Osprey pet resort that has seen the most dramatic improvement. Each of the deluxe doggy suites offer canine guests private areas for play and elimination that can easily be accessed by individual dog doors.

Manufactured by Pet Doors USA in Bradenton, the dog doors are BiteGuard KennelPlex energy-efficient, saloon-style doors that are used worldwide and chosen by architects when designing LEED-certified buildings.

As a leading manufacturer of energy-efficient dog doors for 30 years, Pet Doors USA offers both the KennelPlex line of kennel doors, as well as the PlexiDor line for residences.

In addition to the “Petite Suites” that are specially designed for the tiniest pups that come to visit and play, Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey also offers the Palm Room Suites that are 4 x 6 feet and 5 x 6 feet in size with private indoor and outdoor lanais. Canine siblings that visit for an overnight or extended stay can share adjoining suites in this area of the pet resort.

The most luxurious accommodations can be found in the Promenade Suites, where guests lounge in their own “living rooms” atop above-ground Kuranda dog beds while enjoying closed-circuit



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plasma televisions.

As in the Sarasota location, select suites in Osprey are also equipped with 24/7 “Online Doggy” webcams that enable pet owners to virtually check in on their pets around the clock via cell phone or computer.

The comfort of feline friends certainly was not overlooked in the design of Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey. A spacious, free-roaming room lined with sunlit windows and furnished with climbing towers, a virtual aquarium and both individual cubbies and 4 x 6-foot rooms give cats plenty of room to explore and snooze.

By far, it is the outdoor courtyard that is home to the water park and in-ground pool that has made the new Osprey pet resort most like a true vacation destination for canine guests.

The outdoor play area is well-shaded and environmentally controlled for the comfort of the dogs, as well as the staff.

“We installed a large canopy to shade the play area, as well as state-of-the-art misting systems that reduce outside temperatures in the courtyard by up to 20 degrees, providing more comfortable play zones for all of our guests,” Mr. Huff says. “Our Sarasota pet resort also uses misting systems to keep guests well hydrated and cool.”

Of course, the salt-chlorinated, in-ground swimming pool with a large poolside palm tree is the focal point of the fenced-in court-

yard at Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey, offering a refreshing place for canine guests to romp and splash during playtime.

No need to worry—each member of the staff is certified in pet first aid and CPR for the safety and protection of all of the dogs.

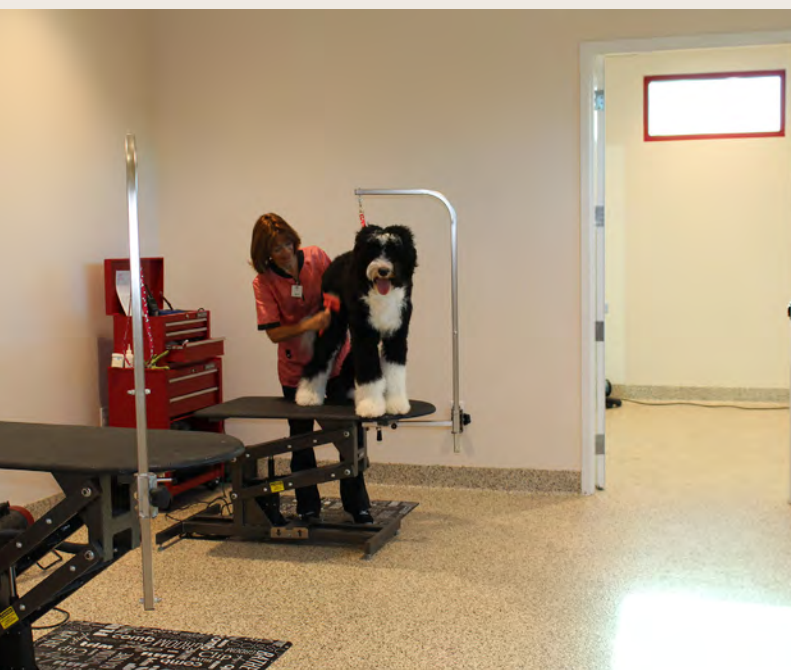
“One of the things we take great pride in is the training we provide our staff,” Mr. Huff says. “Each member of our team is giving ongoing opportunities to learn about animal care, behavior and safety.

“Of course, attention also is given to teaching temperament training to all staff members, so that new dogs are cautiously introduced into the pack without incident,” Mr. Huff continues. “Even dogs that have had minimal opportunities to socialize with other dogs are welcome here; we can still provide excellent care for these animals in a safe, controlled environment that limits their interaction with other dogs until we have had a chance to work and play with them so they are comfortable joining the pack.”

Of special interest at Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey is a new 20 x 18-foot public community room that is available for educational seminars and wellness programs hosted by different animal groups or individuals in the local community. The room seats 20 people comfortably and can be reserved for special events. The room is



The reception area overlooking the swimming pool and courtyard



Above: The spic-and-span, spacious grooming room



Below: The free-roaming cat playroom with kitty towers

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located near the front of the building, away from overnight and extended-stay accommodations, so that canine and feline guests will not be disturbed.

The outdoor courtyard also is available for community events and fund-raisers. In fact, on Sunday, May 22, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey is hosting “Bow-Wow Luau,” a Hawaiian-themed fund-raiser to benefit Satchel’s Last Resort Sanctuary in Sarasota. The festivities will include hula dancing lessons for attendees and their pets, a pineapple toss game and animal communication readings, along with lite bites and beverages.

Tickets are priced at \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, can be purchased online at bowwowluausrq.brownpapertickets.com.

Following in the tradition of excellence in grooming that has been established at Bayside Pet Resort & Spa in Sarasota and Bayside Pet Spa in University Park, the new Osprey location also offers professional, full-service grooming services on site.

Another amenity enjoyed by pet owners in both Sarasota and Osprey are the canine birthday and holiday parties offered at both locations. The atmosphere is festive, the birthday cake and treats are plentiful and dogs and their best buddies enjoy a special celebration that rivals any gathering hosted for children.

Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey also joins the Sarasota location in offering indoor and outdoor dog training. A variety of obedience, agility and Canine Good Citizen classes, coordinated by Director of Training Jeff Boyer and Joan Maud, are available for dogs of all ages and skill levels.

Naturally, the convenient services and amenities that community pet owners have enjoyed at Bayside Pet Resort’s Sarasota location, including one-click online reservations and pickup and drop-off transport, also are available in Osprey.

While Mr. Huff is clearly the innovator behind the development of Bayside Pet Resort’s newest location in Osprey, the physical interpretation of his vision for the property was realized by Sivitz Innovative Designs of Sarasota and JE Charlotte Construction Corp of Venice.

With more than 30 years’ experience in the commercial building industry, JE Charlotte Construction is the firm responsible for converting the shuttered bowling alley that houses Mr. Huff’s first venture into the pet resort business—Bayside Pet Resort & Spa in Sarasota—into a premier facility.

Unlike the flagship pet resort that conveniently is located in close proximity to the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, the Osprey location—which officially opened its doors in December 2015—was built “from scratch” on property that previously was an eyesore in the community, littered with literally tons of rubble, along with 19 dilapidated and abandoned trailers.

Of his experience working with Mr. Huff, Jeff Charlotte, owner of the construction firm says, “Bob Huff and I share a common bond; we are both from Ohio. He and Lynne (Mr. Huff’s wife) are good people; they are awesome to work with.

“Not many communities have pet resorts like Bayside, and this area is lucky to get a guy from Dayton, Ohio, who has the vision and the willingness to bring these premier pet services to the Suncoast,” Jeff adds.

Working closely with Mr. Huff on both of Bayside’s Tamiami Trail pet resorts has been an eye-opening experience for Jeff.

“I learned a tremendous amount about the pet industry and what animal owners want and need in a pet resort; it has been an invaluable experience.”

Of the Osprey pet resort, Jeff says he is most proud of the fact that the job was completed sooner than was originally expected after

experiencing rezoning approval delays that held up construction.

"We worked at an accelerated pace with no less integrity or additional cost to our client," he says. "My staff did an exceptional job."

And, as evidence of a job well done, Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey, Jeff says, has become the prototype for all of Mr. Huff's future pet resort endeavors.

"Establishing a successful prototype is the most difficult step," Jeff says. "The next project we complete will only be an improvement on the groundwork that already has been established in Osprey."

In addition to work completed on Bayside Pet Resort's Sarasota and Osprey locations, JE Charlotte Construction also recently renovated the Humane Society of Manatee County's new 10,000 square foot wellness clinic.

"With four animal care facilities under our belt, we have become pet industry experts," Jeff says. "Our construction team now has the skill set to make this industry one of the market segments in which we specialize."

Since first opening the flagship pet resort just four years ago, Mr. Huff has clearly made a dramatic impact on the local animal community, not only by providing five-star amenities at three Southwest Florida locations for dogs and cats, but also by supporting local animal groups and area nonprofit organizations with special programs and generous donations.

"Bayside Pet Resort is a long-time supporter of Easter Seals," Mr. Huff says. "We have sponsored Easter egg hunts and held picnics for children involved in the organization."

"We also have supported Bridges of America, a Florida-based re-entry organization that provides resources for people transitioning into new lives," Mr. Huff adds.

"My life and my purpose extends beyond just owning a business to providing services that touch the hearts of other people," he continues. "And that has become the mission of Bayside Pet Resort. We are creating a total family environment that creates opportunities for others. We are utilizing the skills with which we have been gifted, so others also can use their gifts in helping others. Our purpose simply is to touch the lives of others."

"I truly believe that Bayside Pet Resort is a family business," he continues. "I consider each member of our staff to be a part of our family, and we all are here to serve the animal-loving families in our community."

Will there be another Bayside Pet Resort in the near future? Plans are currently underway to scout out property in the northern part of Lakewood Ranch, near SR 64, where new residential communities are now in development and increased business growth is projected. And with an excellent prototype from which to work, Mr. Huff and his team of designers and developers are ready to navigate their way to begin a fourth Bayside location in Southwest Florida.

"I want Bayside to be the very best it can be," Mr. Huff says. "My family and I will be growing the business and looking for other communities that need the exceptional services and the excellent continuum of care that has now become synonymous with the name 'Bayside Pet Resort.'" 🐾

Located at 718 South Tamiami Trail in Osprey, Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. by appointment. For more information, call 941-244-4930, or visit www.baysidepetresort.com.

Grooming photo by Ashley Sweeney of Bayside Pet Resort of Osprey; all other photos by Doreen Birdsell



Above: Cooper enjoys the indoor/outdoor freedom of his deluxe Promenade suite



Above: The swimming pool & canopied courtyard with refreshing misters

Below: Luxurious accommodations with private patios for pups

