

Meet the Merchant

Paws Dog Daycare

BY MARY KLEISS

PORT CHARLOTTE CORRESPONDENT

Port Charlotte is really going to the dogs — with the opening of Paws Dog Daycare. The new shop features day care for dogs, King and Queen private dog suites for overnight guests, air conditioned indoor play spaces, full service grooming, behavior training and a lot of fun time. What more could a dog ask for?

At Paws Dog Daycare, canines get all of the above, with perks, from owners Richard and Maki Witherill.

Richard and Maki recently opened Paws Dog Daycare, a canine's comfort zone, right here in the heart of Port Charlotte. No more taking your furry children out to the country when you desire a vacation. You can instead let them enjoy their own spacious dog suite, right here in Port Charlotte.

Born and raised in Athens, Ga., Richard graduated from high school and joined the Marine Corps in 1995. He met and married Maki in Japan while in the Corps. After leaving the Marines in 2003, Richard and Maki moved to Port Charlotte to be closer to his family.

Growing up with and loving dogs all his life, combined with

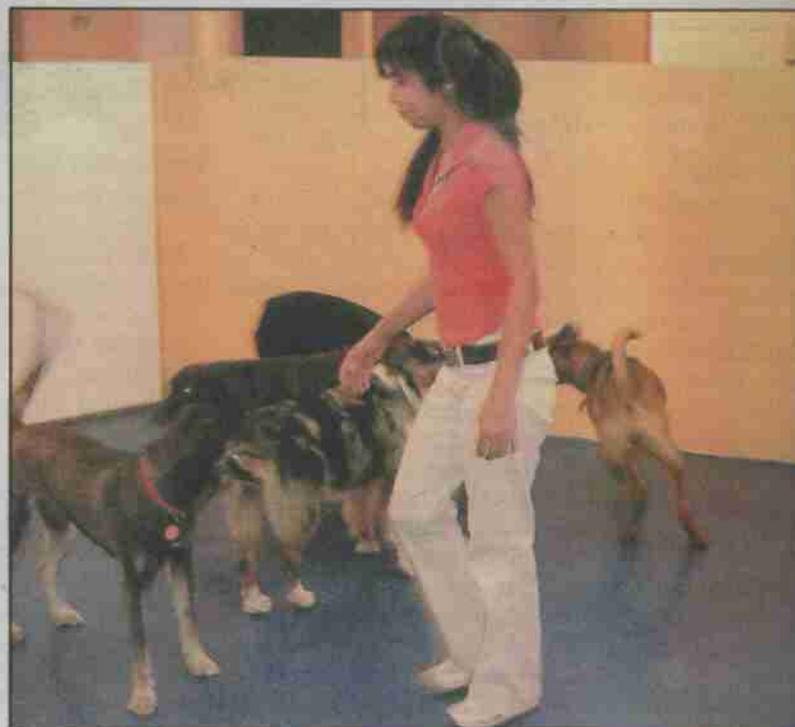
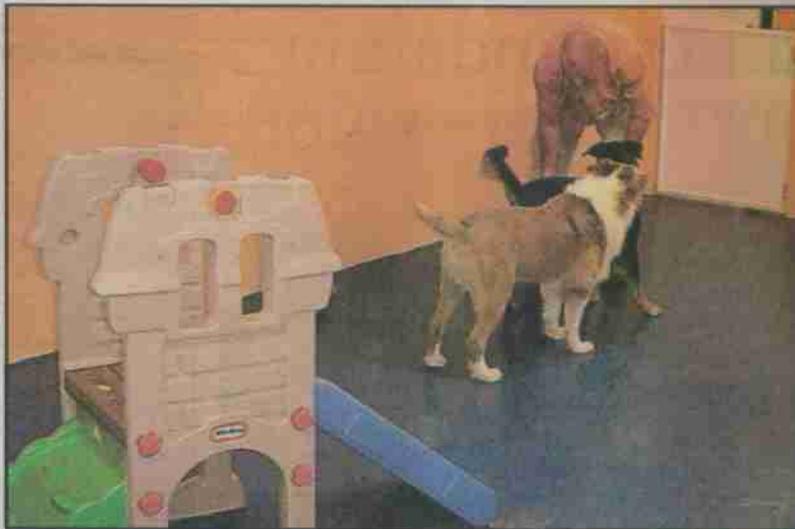
his involvement in the training of military working dogs while in the Marine Corps, and his work as a canine behavioralist and trainer, led Richard to realize that there was a huge gap in luxury services for dogs in Charlotte County. So he and Maki decided to open Paws Dog Daycare, offering full service pampering and playtime for canines.

Months of planning and construction resulted in an air conditioned 2,500 square foot space built specifically with an eye for quality and dog comfort.

"We're the only place in Port Charlotte that offers full services," Richard says. "Pet suites, daycare, grooming and behavioral training. No towel-covered cages here."

Paws Dog Daycare is a safe and secure place for canines. In the application process, a photo of your dog, and of yourself, is taken and attached to the application (via computer), so only the owner can claim the dog. If daycare is required, your dog is slowly and carefully introduced to his new environment. A wide range of canine grooming options are available, from simple nail clips and baths to full

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HERALD PHOTOS BY MARY KLEISS, mkleiss

Top photo shows Richard and Angel dog. Maki is pictured in bottom shot with

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grooms. PAWS is also an authorized FURminator shed-less treatment facility. All services are at competitive prices.

Richard is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program evaluator.

Paws Dog Daycare is locat-

ed at 3681 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, on the west side, immediately south of Easy Street. They're open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone, 941-258-3647.

Richard and Maki invite you to stop in anytime to check out their comfort zone for canines, or visit them on their web site at: www.paws-dogdaycare.com.

Mary Kleiss can be contacted at: mkleiss@msn.com. or by phone at 941-629-5877.



A mural adorns the side of the building housing Paws Dog Daycare, 3681 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte (on the west side, immediately south of Easy Street).

