



PAWS'ITIVELY DIVINE!

EDDIE AND BARKUS INSPIRE A BUSINESS JUST FOR DOGS

WRITTEN BY WANDA PERKINS | PHOTOS BY CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPHY



“Dogs ask for nothing but kindness, but they give much love in return.”



The writing on the wall at Eddie and Barkus greets tail-waggers each day (along with their owners) and conveys a simple message to ponder... ‘Try to be the kind of person your dog thinks you are.’ On yet another wall, reads the mission behind Eddie and Barkus ... ‘Where your best friend becomes ours.’

Open for business in August of 2006, Eddie and Barkus has become quite a barking sensation among canines of every breed and size. What are canines barking about? “I believe they’re talking about going to the BFF (that’s Best Friends Forever) doggie daycare, salon, and hotel,” said Marcia Humphrey, the owner and creative inspiration behind Eddie and Barkus.

Named after her two dogs, Eddie and Barkus, Humphrey’s ‘PAWS’itive canine inspirations accompany her to work. After all, they’ll tell you it was all their idea! “Eddie is a free spirit who needs structure,” Humphrey laughed. “His best friend, Barkus, is caring

and sensitive, but really needs to cut loose once in awhile.” It’s a match made in doggie heaven! Two oil paintings of Eddie and accomplice Barkus hang in the entryway, just to remind their canine pals what a bit of doggie inspiration can accomplish. There are even a few doggie cams so owners can check in on their beloved canine pooch, providing relief for parental separation anxiety. Who knew their pooches would be webcam celebrities?

“Yes, we are some of those crazy people who LOVE our dogs, but we operate a bit differently. There’s no stereotyping here ... all breeds are equal! Every day we adhere to making a difference in the life of each dog. They’re all individuals here. This is a place where they’re allowed to express themselves and socialize with new canine buddies in a controlled environment.”

Most of all, dogs just get to be dogs at Eddie and Barkus. This is a business about loyal companions, but don’t be fooled. It’s not just a business or a job for the staff of 18. “There was a need for services for our four-legged friends,”

Humphrey said. “Our loyalty to serving and treating our dogs’ needs comes first.”

“We do not utilize any restrictive aids. Dogs are free to socialize with their own. You’ll hear barking, because we allow dogs to communicate with their own voices (or rather bark). It’s a riot! The dogs love their daycare. They enjoy naptime and breaks at scheduled times each day. We’re a supervised doggie daycare.”

The friendly and knowledgeable staff consists of mostly pre-vets and vet techs, and the staff works closely with local veterinarians. One requirement the entire staff must have parallels Eddie’s and Barkus’s favorite all-time movie, “Must Love Dogs.” “There’s complete peace of mind for owners when they drop off their dogs. Owners entrust us to care for their dog as we would care for our own. From specialized diets and medications to favorite playtime activities, our staff knows our customers needs. The dogs’ needs come first!”

At Eddie and Barkus, the staff realizes dog temperaments and personalities (just like people) are unique. So, if Thor is a bit shy and uneasy and Ollie is spunky and vivacious, while Maverick enjoys herding all his buddies, the staff accommodates with assigned play groups, so dogs can enjoy what they do best – play, sleep, eat, and then play some more! “Our mission is to provide your dog with exceptional care in a safe, fun, and nurturing environment,” Humphrey noted, “and to provide a home away from home and peace of mind for you!”

You won’t notice any nasty doggie smells when you arrive at Eddie and Barkus. Every day there’s a stringent cleaning agenda that is followed from morning ‘til night. “It’s almost like a hospital, only for dogs,” said Humphrey. “We disinfect and sterilize all day long and thoroughly clean at night in addition to using air circulators and de-humidifiers to insure any doggie smells are kept under wraps.”

Every dog is treated the way Humphrey and her staff would treat their very own dogs. In fact, Sally, their gifted groomer, brings her line-backer boxer, Caesar, who stretches out across his personal lounge while his mom tends to beautifying his buddies. First a double dip in a shampoo bath by bather Charles, then a gentle air drying before Sally clips and preens to ‘PAWS’itive perfection! Cleaning and polishing from toenail to ears and parts down under, all canines leave the canine beauty salon feeling frisky, loved, and smelling ‘PAWS’itively ‘DOG’vine!

Some of the more fashion-conscience canines bark up a storm when they see a doggie down jacket they’d like to sport on a winter walk. There are other canine gift shop favorites too, like cozy fleece blankets, comfortable doggie beds and cots, and stylish collars and leashes in colors galore!

Don’t forget the music! During playtime, upbeat country music gives way to canine DOGercize activities, but naptime and nighttime require a more soothing Frank Sinatra.

“Your dog is like your child,” Humphrey noted. “They need socialization too! So often, our canines’ lives are disregarded. Why wouldn’t you want your dog to be happy? Dogs ask for nothing but kindness, but they give much love in return. Eddie and Barkus is their place –their safe zone – and they know it the minute their paws hit the floor. It’s all about them! If it’s true that a dog lives in the moment, then the moment should be every moment.” {awm}

For more information about becoming a new friend of Eddie and Barkus, call 492.9DOG or visit www.EddieandBarkus.com