

Pets lavished with loving care at Original Kennel of Kingwood

By SUSAN MCFARLAND

Tribune Correspondent

Back in 1979, Linda Colmenares was busy breeding Lhasa Apso dogs when she, along with her husband Carl, decided to open up a kennel to house the pets of traveling owners. Almost 40 years later, Carl and his son, Rome Colmenares, and a staff of six continue the tradition of looking after pets at the Original Kennel of Kingwood.

The kennel, which can accommodate over 100 pets at one time, sits on 2-and-a-half acres of land in Kingwood.

“We have a country setting; people are surprised when they first visit us. The animals really love the trees, grass and fresh air. We are right in the heart of Kingwood and still manage to have plenty of space for our pets,” said Rome Colmenares.

Kennel sizes range from the regular dog kennels, which are 4-by-4 feet on the inside and 4-by-10 feet on the outside, to the large dog kennels, which are 6-by-4 feet on the inside, and 6-by-10 feet on the outside, to the Top Dog Suites, which are 8-by-8 feet inside and 8-by-10 feet outside (144 square feet in total). The kennels are built with solid 4-foot walls between each run, to ensure the safety and security of pets in different runs and reduce fence fighting or cross contamination. The top dog suites have a bed, TV and a webcam so owners can view their pets 24 hours a day. All kennels have central heat and air conditioning in the indoor unit. Pets receive outdoor playtime and personal play two times a day.

Cats are also welcome at the Original Kennel and receive top treatment in cat condos made by Shor-Line. The Top Cat Suite provides 64 square feet of comfort and luxury, including a multi-level cat tree, and covered litter pans. The Top Cat



Suite also comfortably accommodates multiple pet families.

The kennel provides other services, including grooming, obedience training and pet CPR training. Pet owners can also have their pets “Furminated” to reduce pet hair at the kennel. Using a special Furminator shampoo, which loosens the pet’s undercoat, kennel groomers are better able to blow and brush out a pet’s fur and reduce shedding.

Rates for boarding dogs begin at \$25 per day for the regular run and graduate to \$35 for the large run and \$50 for the Top Dog Suite. Second pets are boarded for between \$16-19 per day depending on the run, and additional pets are boarded for \$13-16 per day. Rates for boarding cats range from \$10-50 per day, with discounts for additional cats in the same family being boarded. Doggie day care is available for \$15 for a half day and \$20 for a full day. The kennel provides discounts for stays of 21 consecutive days or more. Police, fire and active military personnel receive a 10 percent discount off of boarding rates.

The Original Kennel of Kingwood also manages the United airport facility for traveling pets. Pets who are connecting to different flights and have a layover are brought to the airport pet center where they are cared for by a separate Original Kennel team of six. Colmenares said they have seen some interesting animals travel through Houston over the years, including an anteater, a baby lion and tiger headed to a zoo in South America. During Hurricane Harvey, the kennel team cared for many pets whose families were evacuated at no charge, including several bunnies.

The Original Kennel of Kingwood is located at 623A Lakeville Drive. To make a reservation at the kennel, email reservations@originalkennel.com.

The kennel is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.



Owner, Rome Colmenares and kennel manager Anthea Fuller



OPENED DOORS:

1979

FAVORITE QUOTE:

“The Most Fun Your Pet Can Have Without You”