

CHALLENGING TASK FACING CAMPBELL— TO PROVIDE 892 NEW HOUSING UNITS

City is working on the
housing element update

By CHRIS VONGSARATH

The city of Campbell will have to show it can provide 892 new housing units through the year 2014, a task that may prove quite challenging given a fairly built-out city and the current housing market crisis.

City officials are working on the housing element update, a state-mandated policy that requires Campbell to show it can provide its share of new housing units between 2009 and 2014. The units are broken down into several income categories: above moderate, moderate, low and very low.

With much of the city built out, finding adequate areas to build high-density units could be a problem.

Sharon Teeter, Campbell's housing coordinator, said city officials have been able to find several locations in the city that have potential for redevelopment.

The city could look into purchasing high-density rental developments and rehabilitating them, Teeter said, citing Sharmon Palms Apartments as an example.

The downturn in the housing market has also been a concern, Teeter said.

Although it is too early to tell exactly how much impact the crisis will have on the city hitting its numbers, Teeter said, the effect has already been seen around the city.

She pointed to the stalled Charities Housing project on the corner of San Tomas Expressway and W. Campbell

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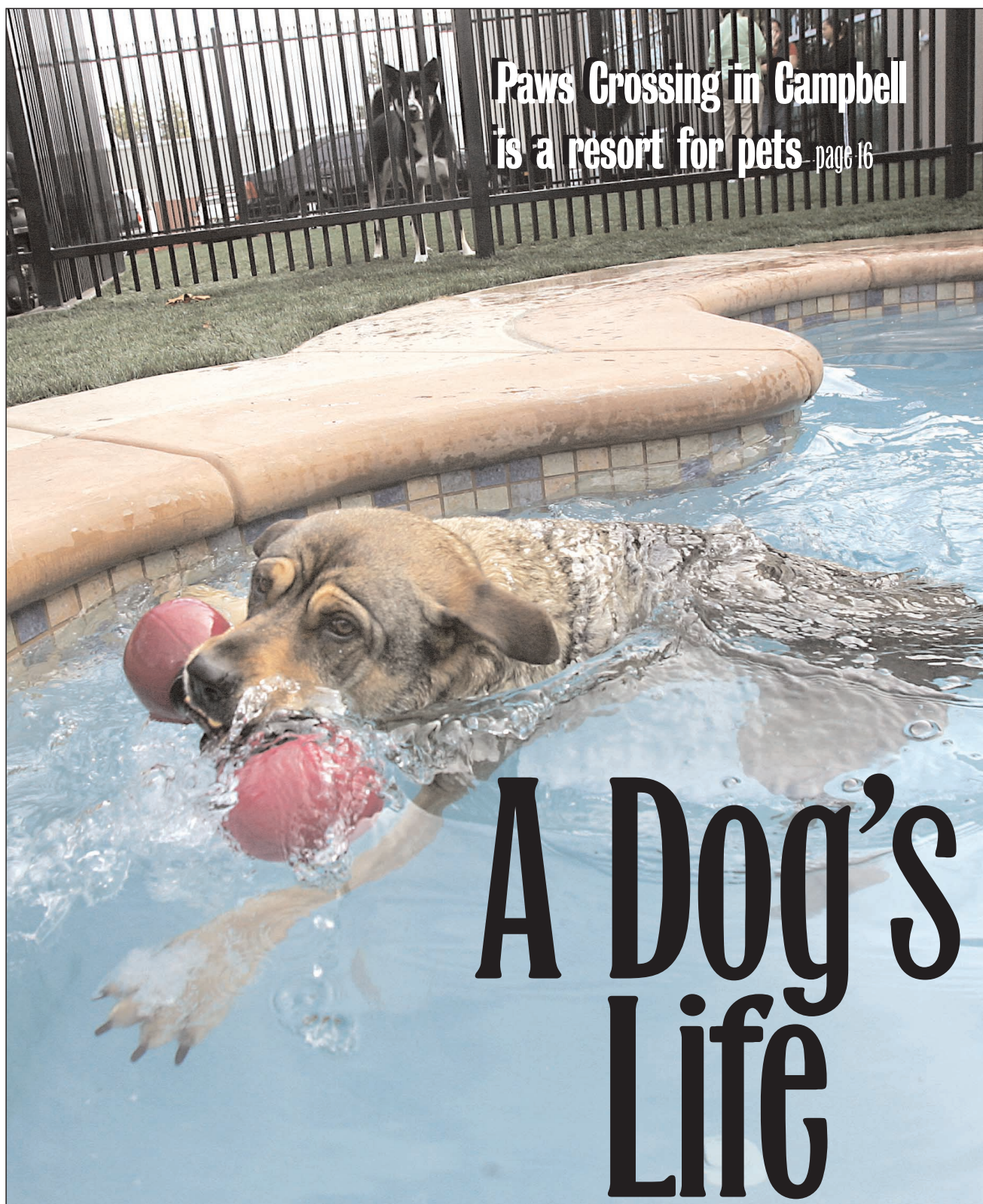


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**Paws Crossing in Campbell
is a resort for pets** page 16

A Dog's Life

Photographs by George Sakkesrad

Pet Crossing client Wayla has fun swimming in the bone-shaped pool at Campbell's newest pet resort.



General manager Jennifer Lundgren of Paws Crossing Pet Resort and Spa gives a little love to Mickey as they stand in front of a row of high-end dog suites at the new Campbell facility.

Pet Resort

Now dogs and cats have a place to get away from it all—at Paws Crossing

By CHRIS VONGSARATH
Photographs by GEORGE SAKKESTAD

The phrase “sitting in the lap of luxury” may be a gross understatement when it comes to the newest pet resort in Campbell.

From flat-screen TVs to a bone-shaped pool, Paws Crossing Pet Resort and Spa has just about everything to make it the premier pet center in the Silicon Valley.

Open since Nov. 13, the 10,000-square-foot facility can accommodate dozens of dogs and cats for boarding, day care and

grooming needs. Pet owners have already made reservations through January for their furry friends.

Owners usually have to visit several different locations to get top-notch care for their pets, but the idea behind Paws Crossing is to become a “pet hub,” says general manager Jennifer Lundgren. The goal is to excel in all areas, providing a one-stop shop for high-quality pet service.

Highlighting the amenities at

Paws Crossing are the cottage-style rooms for dogs.

The “Creekside Cottages” spare no expense. Dogs can watch their favorite TV shows on a flat-screen monitor while sitting comfortably in beds complete with headboards. All the while, owners will be able to watch their furry one online via webcams installed in the rooms.

And if there are multiple canines in the family, the rooms are connected by a doggy door,

allowing the pets to play with one another.

What may look excessive at first boils down to how the Paws Crossing brass have positioned the facility.

Customer service is a No. 1 priority, so owners decide how their pets will be cared for throughout the day. Some prefer the cottages for their home-like setting, while others are fine with conventional cages, which the center also offers. Owners also determine

how their pets will interact, either with other animals or just with the staff.

After searching for suitable pet services for her three dogs, Ellen Gilbert of San Jose said she was impressed with the attentiveness and quality service at Paws Crossing.

“Dogs are members of our families. They’re not just animals,” Gilbert says.

Thanks to color-coated collars printed with each individual



Mario Demetriou leads Crues into one of the brand-new kennels at Paws Crossing. Demetriou's job includes socializing the animals.

pet's information, Paws Crossing keeps everything organized.

"The key is a balancing act to provide top quality while keeping it safe for the pets," Lundgren says. "One of the challenges of [opening] a new facility is learning how the animals behave and interact."

This is perhaps one of the more important responsibilities of the Paws Crossing staff. The staff comes from all sorts of animal care backgrounds, Lundgren said.

Mario Demetriou's job is to socialize the animals, gauging which ones interact best with each other. The 22-year-old "dog whisperer" says making the animals comfortable, especially in a new environment, is an important part of the job.

In fact, he hopes to one day start a program that allows people to have a canine companion a couple days a week.

"I've always had a good [rapport] with dogs and have been able to understand them," Demetriou says. "I remember being a kid and going up to barking dogs in cars in a parking lot and just petting them."

The dogs have plenty of room to play outside on the artificial turf and in the bone-shaped swimming pool. If the weather's not cooperating, they also have an indoor play area.

Cats, meanwhile, have their own playspace in "Kitty Garden Terrace." The cats stay in compartments fitted with their own



It truly is a dog's life for Mickey, who almost appears to be smiling while enjoying a little relaxation on a dog bed in one of Paws Crossing's deluxe suites.

separate litter boxes. The glass windows are vented, since cats prefer not to breathe the air of other cats, Lundgren says. There's also a play structure in the shape of a tree for exercise and a saltwater reef tank that adds to the aesthetic appeal.

But it's not all just fun and games at Paws Crossing.

The facility on Dell Avenue is situated next to Animal Eye Specialists and United Emergency Animal Clinic, and although there are no formal partnerships among them, it bodes well for Paws Crossing to have those services nearby. In fact, the back rooms of the facility are connected to the clinic in case of a need for after-hours emergency care.

Paws Crossing also has a state-of-the-art grooming facility and is starting up a master grooming

training program. Dogs and cats have their separate tubs and stations and soon will have dryers.

Down the line, Paws Crossing is entertaining the idea of having a quick drop-off area for owners who want their pets groomed. Perhaps there will also be an espresso bar for patrons as they're waiting.

Lundgren says the possibilities are numerous, just so long as Paws Crossing continues its mission to become the pet hub of Silicon Valley.

"This is really what we wanted: top-quality service and folks that excel in all areas," Lundgren said.

For more prices and more information on Paws Crossing Pet Resort and Spa, visit www.pawscrossing.com or call 408.879.0300.