



PDX Customer Referral Program



Congratulations to Karen Reeves and Patty Becknell! Their German Shorthaired Pointers, Zack and Lulu, each win a free day of daycare fun and frolic, compliments of the new PDX Customer Referral Program. Karen told Patty about how much fun Zack had at PDX, and Patty knew that Lulu would enjoy it every bit as much. Once she passed the initial screening, Lulu was out on the playground leaping and bounding with the best and the rest of them. Do you know someone with a good Play Dog? Send them on in to see Nancy, and YOUR best friend could be getting free daycare too! Here's how it works: when the person you referred to PDX buys a pass, you both get free days. The bigger the pass, the more days you both get!

- 5-day pass (\$90): one free day for each dog
- 10-day pass (\$170): two free days
- 20-day pass (\$300): three free days
- 30-day pass (\$390): five, count 'em, five free days for each dog

New Kids In Town

We are delighted to introduce the newest PDX staffers. Billy Bond hails from right here in Chattanooga, and has brought a sparkle to the place that we didn't even know was missing. He is in the Army National Guard, and served in Iraq. He is married, and has 3 adopted children plus one brand new baby boy as of March 1st. We had some concerns about the feasibility of working a man into the pack hierarchy since several of our daycare dogs come from rescue situations and have fear issues with men. We shouldn't have been concerned:



Billy has a wonderful way with the dogs, whether leaping and cavorting right along with them, or giving them the space and time they need to make up their own minds. We imported Kayla Helm from North Dakota, where she finished up her undergraduate degree in Zoology. Kayla works mornings and some afternoons with the Big Dogs, and also stepped into the cleaning position. So her two part time jobs make her pretty close to full time. Kayla has a gentle and empathetic perspective that draws the dogs to her like the Pied Piper (Pipette?) of Red Bank. Once again, we've been lucky to find such marvelous folks. Please introduce yourself to Kayla & Billy, and give them the opportunity to make your day! (Fair warning, though, Billy's a hugger!)

Down Time – 2007 Holidays

Although we do love coming to work and frolicking with the dogs, we do need some downtime occasionally, if only to wash the sheets and rehome the items in the refrigerator that have developed a pulse. Since most of our dogs stay home with their people on these holidays, we'll take the hint and give it a rest as well. PDX will be closed for daycare on the following days:

- May 28 (Monday): Memorial Day
- July 4 (Wednesday): Independence Day
- September 3 (Monday): Labor Day
- November 22&23 (Thursday & Friday): Thanksgiving
- December 24-Jan 1 (Monday through Tuesday): Christmas week



Doggie Day at the Races!



Calling all dogs! PDX is delighted to host a day at the races... dog races, that is. Or, from the dog's point of view, a dog-gone good time spent chase, chase, chasing a bunny! Don't worry, no small furry mammals will be harmed in the production of this event, although we do anticipate that many plastic baggies will be folded, spindled, and mutilated. All dogs welcome, no training required. We'll show you how! Here's what you need to know:

When: Sunday, April 22 from 10am until 2pm

Where: Prater's Mill in Varnell, GA

How Much: \$4/run or 3 runs for \$10

Bring the family to visit an historic site and enjoy a spring day out. See our web site for registration and more information. [[Doggie Day at the Races](#)]

Saying Goodbye

Steve brought Montana in yesterday for one last visit. They had just come from the groom shop, and Montana's red/gold coat was soft and fluffy, and she was sporting a new green bandana that brought out the color of her eyes. Steve explained that the cancer had returned aggressively, so he and 'Tana were making one final round to all the places she loved to say goodbye. It broke our hearts, but we did so appreciate the opportunity to hug her once again before we had to let her go.



Our dogs don't live nearly long enough. We all know that, and try not to dwell on the day that we'll have to go through what Steve is going through with Montana. But at least there are other people who understand, and more resources than ever to help process though the pain. One internet site, [Petloss.com](#), offers a sympathetic community of folks who are hurting over the loss of a good friend. The site has an active message board where people reminisce, commiserate, and help each other on the road to healing. They have a live chat room, and a candle ceremony every Monday night in memory of pets who have passed on. They also have a large resource library with links to books, counselors, hotlines, sympathy cards, and suggestions on how to deal with grief, guilt, and loss.

The Last Woof



Five years ago, you could not have convinced me that I would become the caretaker of not one, but two rescue dogs: a terrier mix who just earned his Flyball Championship, and a black Shih Poo puppy. Then my oldest daughter came to me, chock full of dreams about opening a dog day care and training center. Kids today. But being the fabulous mom that I am, I said "That's great! Tell me how I can support you in your dream". Three years later, I find myself working like a dog, if you'll pardon the expression. As PDX's Director of First Impressions and Vacuum Cleaner Repairchick, I am learning more each day, and seeing a whole new world of dogs, owners, training, tournaments, education, and practice, practice, practice. But I'm not just a top executive, I'm also a customer! Because of these two little dependents, I have become a great advocate of day care. I go about my important work, and at the end of the day, I get back two happy and tired little dogs, who just want to be fed, snuggled, and put to bed.

What a great deal! It's a fine thing to witness the care lavished on all of the little dogs by Leanne, Carrie, and Julie. They had a lovely Valentine party with decorations, refreshments, games, goodie bags, and gifts for their parents. Now that the days are warmer, they play outdoors then relax in the sun. Watch the [picture galleries](#) for glimpses of them playing tag under the soaker and chasing bubbles. We are truly blessed with this facility where every dog is treated with love and respect, and with a staff whose knowledge and passion runs deep. When we first opened back in December of 2004, someone asked me why I didn't have a dog. My reply was that I was too lazy to take care of one. Fortunately I have folks who not only take care of my doggies, but genuinely care. This is me, doing the Snoopy dance!