

# Indulgences

## No Bones About It: Dogs Get the High Life, Too

By LAURA HINSON-MILLER

What is heaven to a pet? If you are a dog, a bone shaped swimming pool would certainly qualify. Or perhaps hanging with your best dog buddies while getting to play, have special treats and snooze. Santa Barbara has no shortage of heavenly services for our favorite furry friends.

Take, for starters, Dioji K-9 Resort and Athletic Club ([www.dioji.com](http://www.dioji.com)). Dioji offers a full service Canine Club with 10,000 square feet of pure play space. And yes, this includes a bone shaped swimming pool.

Jeannie Wendel, owner of Dioji, says that not only is the swimming pool a playtime hit, but a therapeutic tool as well for older, arthritic dogs. "We offer Aqua Fitness for the dogs whose joints are hurting. The pool enables them to exercise without hurting their joints."

For those dog owners who hate the idea of cages, Dioji has a large "evening suite" complete with a caretaker who sleeps with the dogs. "We call them Doggie slumber parties," says Wendel. "We have big leather couches, futons, various sizes of cushy doggie beds but the most popular place in the suite is in the bed with the caretaker!"

There are benefits for the dog owners as well. Dioji offers a 24/7 webcam. One owner told Wendel that productivity came to a halt when it was time for all the office workers to gather around the owner's computer to watch the dogs play. She also got a call from owners who were away in Europe and asked Wendel if she would put their dog

in front of the cam so they could see her.

The benefits of having the dogs at Dioji can even extend to keeping one's job. Wendel says that a client had the opportunity to take her dog to work. However, problems started to occur when the dog began growling at other employees. After taking him to Dioji once a week, the dog learned to play nice not only with other dogs, but with humans as well and developed such self confidence that when taken back to the owner's workplace, the dog even gave the boss a kiss on the lips!

And, of course, pet heaven

would not be complete without a party! The Loose Pooch Social Club ([www.loosepooch.com](http://www.loosepooch.com)) is a 3600 square ft. indoor/outdoor facility complete with a Party room that can be reserved for those special occasions that need to be celebrated. Shannon Rodgers, owner of Loose Pooch says they book between three to five special parties a month.

The club also offers full daycare services and caters to about 42 dogs a day, so they see what the owners often miss. Shannon says they have cameras snapping constantly and capture all kinds of moments the pet owners would never

have a chance to see.

Take Ollie and Schroder for example. Ollie is a massive 145-pound León Berger Shepard. He's sort of a big baby Huey-type dog. Schroder is a tiny teacup yorkie who might weigh all of three pounds. Schroder is still young, and has yet to be neutered. So he is feeling his oats and has chosen Ollie as his first serious crush. That crush comes complete with all the romantic entanglements you might expect from a puppy.

Loose Pooch also has photo themes for their window gallery each month. July is the month to show patriotism and

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## Pool

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the dogs are quite willing to do their part. Three leading candidates have stepped up in support of the upcoming presidential election.

For a more rustic experience, dogs can try Camp Canine ([www.campcanineinc.com](http://www.campcanineinc.com)). Lake Splashmore, located in the camp, caters to those who prefer a bit of wet fun. Roscoe's Retreat, another camp favorite, has relaxing warm water HydroSurg for the fur campers after a hard day of play.

Of course, what the kids do at school is often quite different from what they do at home! For that reason, there are those that prefer the pet sitter come to them.

Take Critter Sitters' Kami Williams

([www.sbcrittersitters.com](http://www.sbcrittersitters.com)). Having worked in the greater Santa Barbara area taking care of pets at home for nearly 24 years, Williams goes the extra mile with service. Whatever a pet needs, she is there to assist. Once she was pet sitting a boa constrictor that had a few problems with his teeth. The snake needed treatment that involved coating his fangs with iodine. Williams sat the snake on her lap and stroked him until he relaxed enough to open his mouth and let her apply the iodine.

"I really liked that snake, he was nice," she said.

She has also been known to care for exotic birds, potbellied pigs, iguanas, and once even cut up fresh fruit for a pet road runner.

If you're an animal lover, you'll appreciate the extra care and affection that these services offer our BFF's, (Best Furry Friends). And if you're one of our lucky animals, you're in for a slice of pet heaven from Santa Barbara's pet services.

Life is good when you are furry! ■



The Loose Pooch Social Club patrons play dress up with their July window gallery theme. Can you guess the presidential hopefuls?



Doiji K-9 Resort and Athletic Club's bone-shaped swimming pool is a puppy playtime favorite but also a hit with older dogs. "We offer Aqua Fitness for the dogs whose joints are hurting. The pool enables them to exercise without hurting their joints," says Doiji owner Jeannie Wendel.