

You Get to Play with Dogs All Day!

By Nancy Secrist, Easdale: the best pet care

Well, not quite but we're not complaining, either! When your life's work is to care for companions and pets, it's really not the same job that some people think it is. First, and foremost, remember that every pet that walks through our door for grooming and/or boarding services is dead broke--no pockets on our furry friends, no credit card, and no bank accounts. So, we need to be good with people too! Every pet's person wants to know that when they return, their pet will be as good or even better than when they arrived--cleaner, cuter, more entertained. So we need to be intuitive and flexible in our attitude to everything.

Intuitive because obviously, these guests can't tell us what exactly they need. Fresh water? Check. Walk in the woods? Check. Cushy bed? Check. A little reassurance? "Who's a good puppy!?" Convincing a 100 plus pound dog to do anything is like debating a two-year-old human, "How about I crawl in there with you, then will you come out?" Why is it that the bigger the dog, the bigger the baby? For example, a beautiful English Mastiff nearing 200 pounds couldn't be walked if anyone in the entire neighborhood was using a lawn mower--he did NOT like that sound!

Flexible because we have learned many interesting life lessons from our four legged gurus. We can make being dragged by Great Danes look like an extreme sport! Scratches, bruises, and calluses are badges of honor. We dead-lift 80 pound Labs almost daily just because it's faster than the hydraulic table. Fashion statements are made by wearing dog hair during shedding season, "Is that a hair extension? No, it's a Siberian Husky and the shirt is by three Labs and a Collie."

We really get to know our clients; one yap and we know to tell Reginald to calm himself while the yip-yip is Chester getting frisky. Philly can't do steps and Pasha at only six pounds doesn't like to be picked up at all! Anna needs her special diet and Maggie gets five meds--no problem. We meet the most amazing pet personalities and their people are great too! When your pup jumps up on the counter, we don't correct, we just help him check in, "Put your John Paw Hancock right here!" At Easdale, some customers have started with us decades ago and now their kids come in with the next generation of pets!

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