

Play, dog, play

Play Dog Excellent offers daycare facilities, obedience training for area canines

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY NEWS

Signal BUSINESS



Trainer Nancy Miller calms down Bev Eitner's Belgium Shepherd, Cris, at Play Dog Excellent.

PHOTO BY CARI GERVIN

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Play Dog Excellent is a home away from home for many a local pup.

Founded in the fall of 2004 by former Signal resident Bev Eitner, PDX offers doggie daycare during the work week for busy dog owners who don't want to leave Spot and Butch at home to chew up the furniture.

But the business has quickly become known as a haven for training even the most irrepressibly spirited pooch, thanks to the work of Nancy Miller.

Known in some circles as "the dog whisperer," Ms. Miller has been training dogs for 25 years. Still, before Ms. Eitner hired her, she had never done it full time.

Let's you think that training was just a hobby during those bygone days when Ms. Miller had a regular 9-to-5 job, she will quickly correct you.

"It's never been a hobby!" Ms. Miller exclaims. "It's a passion!"

"What she's really good at is training people," Ms. Eitner adds.

Ms. Miller says she's never met a dog whose behavior she couldn't improve.

"That's our specialty," Ms. Miller notes. "We don't turn dogs away."

In addition to her seemingly innate talent, Ms. Miller has also

MORE INFORMATION

■ Play Dog Excellent is at 4113 Dayton Blvd. Daycare hours are 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; training classes are held at nights and on weekends. For more information, call 870-7740 or visit their Web site, www.playdogexcellent.com.

spent a lot of time studying, reading and taking classes to be the best dog trainer she can.

But PDX would still fall apart without the rest of the staff, led by Be Hudson, Ms. Eitner's mother, who also occasionally teaches yoga at the Mountain Arts Community Center.

As the number of dogs coming for obedience and agility classes rises, so has the number of trainers. Trained staff members also watch over the dogs in daycare, to make sure no little growl turns into a big fight.

All the large dogs (over 20 pounds) have separate facilities from the small dogs. Like human daycare, pups get snacks, playtime and even naps. Ms. Eitner says that without naptime, dogs go home tired and grumpy, making life harder on their owners.

If only Ms. Eitner could open Play Human Excellent.

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