



Bethany Bosch, Jennifer Fredreck, Mitch Frankenberg, Nathan Whitehorn (left to right) and dog Brooklyn sit in the living room at the Paw House in West Rutland. CASSANDRA HOTALING / RUTLAND HERALD

Pet project

Paw House plans \$1.5 million renovation to facility

By BRUCE EDWARDS
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WEST RUTLAND — This place is really going to the dogs.

Hoping to build on their success as the only lodging establishment in the country that caters to man's best friend and their owners, The Paw House bed-and-breakfast is planning an expansion that includes up to 10 cabins.

Owner Mitch Frankenberg said he's working with the town to obtain the necessary permits for the project which could cost \$1.5 million or more. He said additional land would be acquired and the project would need town water and sewer.

"Mostly of what we're really looking to do with the expansion is to double the size of our overnight capacity," Frankenberg said.

Each three-bedroom cabin would have its own dog room where guests could leave their pets in safety. Plans also include a 7,000 to 9,000-square-foot indoor training facility.

"It's going to be a complete state-of-the-art training facility," he said. "I would even call it a doggie recreation center."

If the necessary approvals are forthcoming, construction could begin



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within six months.

Wife and partner, Jennifer Fredreck, said the couple should have the answers to a lot of the zoning issues by the end of the month. Both said that to date town officials have been supportive of their plans.

Formerly the Silver Fox Inn, the couple purchased the eight-room 18th century inn on Clarendon Avenue six years ago. But they weren't content to simply run a bed-and-breakfast. As dog lovers, they banked on the knowledge that many dog

owners were reluctant to board their pets at a kennel.

With Fido in mind, each of the eight guest rooms has a doggie bed. One room even has a posturpedic bed for canines with hip problems. All rooms have dog-related reading material. Doggie reminders are scattered throughout the inn. Vermont canine artist Stephen Huneck's prints and artwork are on display. Place settings in the breakfast room feature "dog" plates.

Frankenberg said it's not uncommon to have 12 to 15 dogs at the inn on a given night.

But there's more bite than bark to the inn's commitment to its canine guests.

A dog not only shares its master's guest room, but are truly considered part of the family. Pets routinely joins at meals and in other activities.

There's a more serious side to Paw House as well.

In addition to Bethany Bosch, who serves as innkeeper to its human guests, The Paw House has taken on Nathan Whitehorn, a dog training expert, to work with pets and their owners.

Whitehorn, a Rutland native, who learned his dog training skills in Boston.

The goal, Frankenberg, added is to educate owners to socialize their dogs, something that many pet owners don't do.

Fredreck said the training facility isn't just for guests, but also for "dog owners around town who are looking for an outlook to get their dogs trained."

Contact Bruce Edwards at bruce.edwards@rutlandherald.com.

Whitehorn said training goes beyond obedience and agility lessons. "My main focus is really making sure that the owners of these dogs understand how they communicate with their dogs and how their dogs communicate with them," said