

# the Main Channel

Movers, Shakers, Style, Shopping, Trends, Happenings and More at Lake Norman

## Cats Only

Chris and Marge Colas understand that cats need their own space

by Sam Boykin  
photography by Sarah McGraw

Cats are a finicky bunch, and if they don't like something they'll let you know about it. Just ask Chris and Marge Colas. While living in New Jersey, the couple boarded their cats at a high-end kennel while they went on vacation. They returned a week later to pick them up. "They were not happy," says Chris, who explains that the kennel also had dogs, and that the cats were freaked out over all the noise and commotion. And thus was born the idea for a cats-only kennel.

Chris quit his corporate gig, and along with his wife, opened Simply Cats Hotel in New Jersey in 2004. It was an immediate success. But a few years later the couple sold the business and relocated to Mooresville to be near family. Chris says that after they discovered there were no cats-only kennels in the Lake Norman area, they opened The Hotel 4 Cats in Mooresville in January 2009.

The 1,800-square-foot, feline-only hotel has six rooms, each equipped with spacious, tri-level cat "condos." There's also a five-level "Cat Palace" for a multiple-cat family. The Colases play soothing classical music to keep their guests calm, and they also take the time to pet and brush each cat during its stay. "It's a very tranquil setting," explains Chris.

To keep the cats entertained, there are bird feeders located outside each of the home's windows. The couple also takes cats out individually for "exercise," which Chris says usually involves the cats walking a few steps before plopping down for a nap.

Chris says they can accommodate up to 35 cats at one time, and since they've opened they've boarded such exotic felines as a Bengal and a Savannah.

### THE SCOOP

For details about The Hotel 4 Cats, visit [www.thehotel4cats.com](http://www.thehotel4cats.com).

Cats enjoy a tranquil setting at The Hotel 4 Cats in Mooresville.

