

The Hotel 4 Cats Caters To Felines

When Marge and Chris Colas used to take their cats to be boarded, the cats seemed to be stressed when they picked them up to take them home. The couple felt like it was because they had been boarded in the same kennels as dogs were boarded. So, the Colases decided they should open a boarding facility for cats only.

Thus sprang the idea for The Hotel 4 Cats, a new boarding facility the couple has opened in Mooresville strictly for pets of the feline persuasion. Although the facility on East Center Avenue is new to Mooresville, boarding cats is not new to the Colas family. Marge Colas ran a similar boarding facility that was very popular among cat owners in Flemington, N.J. where the couple lived before moving to Mooresville.

At The Hotel 4 Cats, the Colases provide a soothing, comfortable environment for cats. The hotel is a seven-room house, a former doctor's office, which they have remodeled to meet state requirements for boarding facilities. The couple has endeavored to set up the kennel like a hotel, complete with check in and check out times. They refer to the cats as "our guests"

The reason: "We have read that cats become more relaxed when they hear classical music," says Chris Colas.

For the enjoyment of their guests, the condos are located near windows and every window has a bird feeder in front of it.

"Our goal is to earn the animal's trust," says Chris Colas. "We make every effort to try bonding with them. We feel it is very important to have this bond with our guests."

"In New Jersey, we had several cat owners who boarded with us say their cats did not like being boarded, but after leaving them with us, the owners became dedicated customers because their cats got very comfortable, so much so that they did not want to leave. What sets us apart is that we really make the effort. Even cats that are vicious, we make the effort to get to know them."

The facility opened at the end of January and Roger and Sue Marrow of Sherrill's Ford were one of the first customers. The couple applauded the Colas for making the effort to get to know each cat's personalities and likes and dislikes.

"They have stayed in many different catteries over a good



"Check in is 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and check out time is at 10 a.m. like at a hotel," says Chris Colas. "As long as they are picked up by the checkout time at 10 a.m. the next day, the owners are only charged for one day. That works well for business people who may have delayed flights and things like that."

Cat owners have a choice of accommodations for their pets. Single cats are housed in three-level luxury cat condos complete with shelves covered with rubber-backed lambs wool and soft bedding. Cat families can board together in the cat palace – a 6-foot by 5-foot condo with five levels that can house as many as seven cats from the same family. They can choose from three types of dry cat food and one type of wet food or bring their own. Owners are encouraged to bring their cats' toys and bedding to provide a sense of familiarity while at the hotel.

Special classical music – Beethoven and Chopin with cat sounds interspersed – fills the rooms of The Hotel 4 Cats.



number of years and we have never experienced them being so contented," says the Marrows. "For the very first time when we arrived to pick them up, they did not react to our voices or stand up to let us know they were ready to come home. They were extremely happy to be in their surroundings."

Each guest gets lots of attention. Daily brushings and pettings are a part of the routine.

Cleanliness is also a priority.

"People would come in our place in New Jersey and say they could not believe we boarded cats there because there was no smell. We try to keep a very pristine place," says Chris Colas.

If requested, the Hotel for Cats also will take cats in their care to the groomer or to the veterinarian. The Colas also provide pickup service for cats that need transportation to the hotel.

"Our priority is to keep the cats as comfortable and as happy as when they arrive here because we really care about them," he explains. "There is a lot of love involved in this business." ❖