

When You're Away, Give Your Pet a Country Stay

at SpringBrook Kennels & Pet Resort

Entrusting the care of a family member to another is something most pet owners do not take lightly. That's why Brenda and Michael Williamson built a business that honors and respects the relationship between pet and owner. Professionalism, care and compassion are the cornerstones of Springbrook Kennels and Pet Resort in Moscow.

Since acquiring the business in 2005, the Williamsons expanded both in square footage and services offered. When all three buildings are filled to capacity, the kennel can house 100 plus dogs and eight cats. A staff of four full time and four part time employees care for the charges. Each staff member is a certified pet care tech-

nician and American Red Cross certified in pet first aid for cats and dogs.



According to Brenda, her affinity for animals was evident early on. She always owned pets and in the late 1970s took home her first Miniature Poodle. She showed her dogs professionally and worked closely with talented groomers. Originally a hairdresser by trade, Brenda soon turned her attention to four-legged customers and became a groomer herself. She

apprenticed with a graduate of the Nash Academy of Animal Arts to learn to care for all breeds and has been working as a groomer since 1984.

She says she had been nurturing the idea of opening a kennel for some time, even purchasing a book titled, "How to Buy, Build and Run a Kennel" in the 1970s. When her husband Michael retired from corporate America the time seemed ideal to

begin a professional venture together. The couple combined Michael's business and marketing background with Brenda's experience with animals to open a kennel. After living in Virginia and Texas, the Williamsons found a property that met all their criteria in Moscow and relocated to Northeast PA. They soon grew the operation, sit-

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uated on a quiet rural road, with the addition of a large year-round indoor kennel that's heated and air-conditioned. The structure was built with the animal's comfort and hygiene at the forefront. The non-contaminated kennels are separated by a solid wall to ensure a dog's security. "Through A Dog's Ear- Music for Anxious Dogs," is played on the building's sound system. Cleanliness is a top priority. The indoor kennel as well as the upper kennel, which features outdoor runs and is operated from Memorial Day through mid-September, are cleaned and sanitized multiple times in one day. Grassy fenced-in areas are available for customers who pre-arrange for their pet to have a little one-on-one playtime with the staff. Add-ons may also include pool time and homemade frozen desserts.

The staff is trained to care for senior and special needs pets. Brenda explains, the staff also takes the time to get to know each pet, its per-

sonality and needs—so its care can be modified to meet those needs.

Brenda and another groomer provide their services in a state of the art salon.

She says she operates her business by the credo that each animal has the right to be treated safely, properly and respectfully. As such, she does not put a time limit on any of her services, opting instead for the animals to remain comfortable and the job thorough. No one is allowed to walk through the bathing or grooming room while in use and pets, who are waiting to be picked up, are kept in a separate room all to maintain a



calm atmosphere. Basic grooming services include a bath, trim, nails and ears. A la carte options are also available.



Feline guests are housed in kitty condos that overlook a yard and birdhouse.

SpringBrook Kennels was the first Furminator authorized salon in Northeast PA. The procedure reduces shedding by 80 percent.

The Williamsons take great pride in operating their business. Brenda says she is continually learning her trade and twice a year attends conferences to learn new skills and keep apprised of changes in the industry. All of their attention to detail was recognized in 2010 when SpringBrook Kennels was named Small Business of the Year by the Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

Springbrook Kennels is located on Swartz Valley Road in Moscow. For more information, call 570-842-4502 or visit www.springbrookkennels.com

—Barbara Toolan