

Hot diggity dog! Finally something to pant about



'Bear' having a nail job and hair shampoo with vet nurse Kylee Hinze who owns the Barkroyal Boutique Pet Resort

Picture: Mike Batterham

Pet resorts are all about puppy love

by Nina Merrottsy

THE saying, 'it's a dog's life', has taken on a whole new meaning as our four-legged friends are getting the right royal treatment and are being checked into luxurious hotels faster than they can cry 'woof'.

It seems the five-star treatment is not only for pampered people, but their canine counterparts as well.

Pet lovers around the world seem to be placing as much emphasis on their pets' needs as their own.

People are turning out in droves to their pet hospital or clinic to have their pooch treated with acupuncture, while the traditional kennel is being replaced by a private suite at pet resorts where gourmet treats, swimming pools and grooming services are the classy norm.

Luxury pet resorts have been sprouting up all over the world and hotels such as the Royal Pet Resort, the Doggie Motel and Happy Tails Pet Resort are just some of the most popular in the United States.

Now, the phenomenon has hit our shores, with the opening of the Barkroyal Boutique Pet Resort at Nerang. And the barking guests are loving it.

Zoe, the silky terrier, has been in pooch heaven during the last couple of days while her owners have taken off on a holiday of their own.

Like several other dogs at the resort, Zoe has been treated to day

spas, massages, walks on the beach, room service, an a la carte menu and is lapping up her own TV in her deluxe suite.

Resort co-founders and owners Darryl and Kylee Hinze, said it was all the luxury a pet deserved.

"Your pets are like your children, so it's important to give them the love and attention they deserve by pampering them," said Mrs Hinze, who is a qualified vet nurse.

"I think some people will be shocked to see this sort of thing for dogs but everyone loves luxury and so do our pets.

"People are telling us how excited they are about it because it's the first place like it on the Coast.

"The pet resorts are really big in America and I don't think people are quite used to it here yet but pet lovers think it's great. We are even going to open a Meowriotti section of the resort for cats."

If it all seems way too over the top, there have been no complaints from the dogs so far, or their owners.

Dog owner Adrienne McEachran, from Advancetown, said her ridge-back cross and cattle cross loved their four-night vacation.

"It was like a holiday to them while we went on holidays," she said.

"I wanted them to be in good care and they obviously were because they were really happy when we saw them - the owners were wonderful."



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