

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Owning a dog is a huge commitment, but the value of the relationship that forms between human and canine is beyond measure. You just can't put a price on it. And when being separated, for a day or a week, becomes a necessity, their care and comfort become paramount.

If you have ever loved a dog, you know how much a part of your everyday life, and regular routines and rituals, your dog becomes. Think, for example, of how many times in the course of a year you might stroke your dog's ears while scrolling through Instagram or reading the newspaper.

Next time you worry about leaving your furry friend alone all day or at home while on holiday with just a pop-in dog sitter, why not consider a doggy day-care facility for weekdays and a doggy hotel for longer periods. If you want to really treat your pup, the five-star experience they get

during a stay at the atFrits Hotel located in the CBD might be just the thing.

The atFrits Hotel has been operating since December 2015 and now has many regular clients who come for spa treatments, day-care or night-care and some even have membership passes. All dogs are looked after with 24/7 supervision and grouped with others of similar size, behaviour and compatibility. There is a salon, a snack bar, gourmet meals à la carte and a retail shop. There are also organised outings to some of Cape Town's best beaches and a concierge service to arrange

for chauffeurs to chaperone the dogs. Vets are on call and you can book in an ailing or recovering dog after surgery who might need special care. Best of all, the facility has webcams installed so you can monitor your pet's stay around the clock.

The hotel suites are state-of-the-art, with Granny Goose duvets and bed coverings, DSTV and custom-designed themes, which range from the downright adorable (Sweetie Paw) to the over-the-top ostentatious (The Dogald Trump room). Each room caters to differing aesthetic preferences (of dog or human) and it is the endearing sense of humour





and attention to detail that will convince you that this is a safe and nurturing place to leave your beloved pet.

Prices range from R130 for a single day pass to R8 000 for a 20-day Platinum Hotel Room package. There are discounts for multiple dogs, and signing up for an annual day pass will get you some lovely extras, like a free monthly wash-and-brush and three nights in the doggy dormitory.

There have been a number of scientific studies that show that dog owners are happier people in general and score higher on measures of subjective well-being than people who own cats or no pets at all. It seems like a no-brainer to be able to give back to your four-legged friend some of the unconditional love you have received.

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