

CANINE RETREAT WORTH THE DRIVE FROM ACTON

BRYAN MYERS
bmyers@metroland.com



Bryan Myers/Torstar

Spencer Stubbins and Maddy Smith, owners of PawMates Professional Pet Care. Dogs who stay at the property enjoy plenty of nature and lots of play time with other guests.

new to the concept are quickly coached to follow the pack.

"We've successfully trained about a half dozen to roam off-leash," Smith said. "They stick with the pack. The most interesting thing is happening here with us, so they're not going anywhere."

Though daycare is available, many clients send their pets during their own vacations.

"For daycare it may be too far, but if you're going on vacation, driving 20 minutes isn't too bad," Stubbins said.

The furthest client comes from as far away as New Jersey.

"[A client] called us last year because her sister lives in Brampton in an apartment that doesn't allow dogs," Stubbins said.

"She loves her dog and doesn't want it to be in New

Jersey while she's here."

During her visit, Stubbins said, the client will come up to join the couple for a walk with her dogs a couple of times a week.

"We've got people from Markham and Toronto who make the drive," Stubbins said.

Between Orangeville and Guelph, however, PawMates offers a pickup and drop-off service for a flat fee of \$10.

Rates for care start at \$20 for up to a four-hour visit, up to eight hours is \$25, and up to 12 hours is \$30. Above that, a full 24-hour period is \$35. A second dog is an additional \$15 for an overnight visit.

More information about PawMates Professional Pet Care (5671 First Line, Hillsburgh) is available at www.facebook.com/pg/PawMatesPets or by calling 519-835-9822.



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Q: HOW CAN I HELP MY PARENTS AS THEY AGE?



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A: As the Canadian population ages, children of seniors are increasingly challenged with parents who need support.

In many instances, parents resist this assistance, as it often represents a loss of independence. How can we plan for these changes?

As is the case with most things in life, we can make the most progress with an open honest discussion. Families should include all interested parties in the process – siblings, friends, neighbors. This will ensure that down the road when important decisions need to be made, everyone will feel included.

If it has not been addressed recently, this is a good time to revisit your Will, and Powers of Attorney. In the process of discussing wishes, it can lead to a discussion on current personal needs. Although these can often be difficult discussions to have, a proactive approach will likely help the parent to accept life stage challenges with grace.

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