

Living the Good Life at *MoonDoggy Ranch*

For most dog guardians, our first choice for long-term dogsitters is a family member or close friend.

It's so much easier to leave that furry, befuddled little face at your mom's house, where Princess can nap on the sofa and get spoiled with treats at the dinner table, than it is to leave her in a kennel with strangers.

But what if the kennel weren't a kennel at all? What if instead, you could leave your dog in a loving family home on a multi-acre ranch every time you went away on vacation or off to work? Welcome to MoonDoggy Ranch, the dream-come-true for every traveling dog lover.

Founded a year ago by Andrea Vincent, MoonDoggy stretches over three acres, including an enclosed 1.5 acre play area which is fully visible from the house. Doggie guests have lots of space to run, play, fetch, and nap. And on rainy days, dogs who want to be out of the house can hang out in the remodeled garage, featuring a soft couch to nap on and plenty of room to play.

It's the house that's the real attraction for nervous guardians. Dogs live with Vincent, her husband and their two kids in their large home. The family-friendly living space is one of the biggest selling points for MoonDoggy Ranch. Unlike kennels, where dogs are confined to one cell

or guest suite, at MoonDoggy they can roam from room to room, getting love and attention from a four-person family and playing with the other dogs as often as they please.



Vincent's first dog business, MoonDoggy Dog Walking Adventures, was born ten years ago. She provided off-leash hiking services. "It was for people who wanted to get their dogs hiked and out there smelling and sniffing," Vincent explained. "It was an idea I thought of because I grew up hiking with my dog, Dusky. I was inspired by him."

MoonDoggy Dog Walking Adventures was voted Best of Marin in The Pacific Sun in 2006. The company fills a

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niche, Vincent explained. When Vincent and her husband purchased their three acres in Sonoma County, she began filling another niche: dog sitting and doggy daycare for people who want to leave their dogs in a happy, comfortable home.

Vincent ensures that the guests at MoonDoggy get lots of exercise. "It's very adventurous here," she said. "My husband



fetch business profile

Living the Good Life *continued*

and I take turns taking the dogs out and we do laps on our back acre. While we're running, I'll be singing their names, and using the Chuck-it to throw the ball, and kicking the big soccer ball."



When the weather gets hotter, Vincent turns on the sprinklers and fills up baby pools and plays with the dogs in the water to cool them off.

Dog guardians provide their own food for their dog's stay, and Vincent will cheerfully serve anything from kibble dinners to raw food or cooked food diets that take extra time to prepare. "If they just have kibble, I also like to give them Chicken Soup for the Soul," Vincent said. "Or sometimes I make them homemade chicken broth. I also do a really extensive intake procedure and I find out what each dog's needs are in terms of food. I know which ones can't eat other things and only give them their own food."

Vincent spends a lot of time playing with and observing the dogs, and is always aware when a dog isn't feeling well. "People leave us emergency contacts, and we call people if anything comes up," she said. Her long history working with dogs has helped her form several good relationships with local veterinarians. "And my brother-in-law is a vet," she added. "I can call him at any hour."

Leaving dogs at MoonDoggy means leaving them in a comfortable, safe home. And Vincent is careful about which

guests she accepts, so you don't have to worry about your gentle Beagle mix being taken down by a Pomeranian with a nasty temper.

"My goal is safety," Vincent said. "I have people up for a tour and I do an intake screening and watch the dog's behavior. And I have turned people away based on either aggression or issues that are non-aggressive."

"There are no cages here," Vincent explained. "There are no kennels. If people want to bring a crate, that's fine. They bring their own bed and their own food and they have their smell at my house. As long as the dogs are family types and non-aggressive, they fit in just fine."

Vincent accepts small groups of guests at a time. MoonDoggy Ranch provides vacation boarding at \$38 a night with a minimum of \$50, and daycare services for \$25 a day with a minimum required stay of once a week. Vincent will also pick up dogs in Novato Monday through Friday.

"It's like coming to doggy camp," Vincent said. "After the dog leaves, a lot of my customers call to tell me 'My dog is so bummed out that he's home!' Sometimes when a person comes to get her dog, the dog will come to the door and stand by me and not get in the car. They just don't want to leave."

To make an appointment with MoonDoggy Ranch, contact Andrea Vincent and MoonDoggy Ranch by email at andrea@MoonDoggyAdventures.com or by phone at 707-792-9255.



www.MoonDoggyAdventures.com