

State-of-the-Art Pet Boarding Facility Made of Arxx Inside and Out

Someday there may be a state-of-the-art “The Perfect Pet Resort” facility in every major city in the United States. Pampered pets across the country will be able to stay Hampton Inn-style in the same temperature-controlled, well-lit, deluxe accommodations that their human counterparts have grown used to when traveling – including luxury suites and television access. When they do, their owners can rest assured that their faithful friends are staying at one of the safest facilities around because every Perfect Pet Resort will be constructed of the Arxx High Performance Wallsystem. The first Perfect Pet Resort facility is under construction in Lothian, MD, south of Annapolis, and both its load-bearing and non-load bearing interior and exterior walls are being built of Arxx to maximize the fire resistance, energy efficiency and sound resistant properties of the building.

“People want to be comfortable leaving their pet and there’s a trend toward luxury boarding,” explains Elizabeth Chaney, owner of The Perfect Pet Resort. “I wanted to build a kennel where I would leave my dogs.”

A dog trainer, Chaney received many requests from clients who wanted to board their dogs with her because of the relationship she developed with the animals during training. When she decided to build the Perfect Pet Resort facilities, Chaney visited kennels across the country and attended seminars of the American Boarding Association to learn what was new in the industry--what worked and what didn’t. She looked at designs of kennels with her architect, Tom Reinecker, and decided to use the Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) method of building. Arxx specifically was introduced to them by Chaney Enterprises, the local distributor in the area.

“I believe ICFs are beneficial for this type of business because of the insulation and energy efficiency that keep utility costs at a minimum,” says Chaney. “Arxx is one of the best ICFs out there. The quality of the block is amazing, you can feel the durability when you just handle it.”

With the exception of outdoor exercise areas, the kennel is in a completely temperature-controlled indoor setting. There are four dog boarding areas, a training wing, a cat room, grooming and daycare areas. The Arxx walls greatly reduce sound between the interior spaces and from the indoors to the outside. This makes the Perfect Pet Resort facility a much more attractive neighbor than the traditional boarding facility from which barking can often be heard outside.

Fire resistance was also important to Chaney when considering Arxx because she knows that people’s animals are members of their family. “Fire resistance was very important to me. We used a steel frame roof structure and metal doors and the Arxx Wallsystem as a very safe, fire resistance type of construction. All interior doors are metal. It makes people very comfortable leaving their pet here,” she says. Arxx has a ULC/UL Fire Resistance Rating (FRR) of two to four hours.

The two-story building is 16,000 square feet with a footprint of approximately 14,222 sq. ft. There is office space on the second floor. According to Chaney, there are 694 linear feet of perimeter walls and 600 linear feet of interior walls that are all constructed of Arxx. The perimeter and load-bearing walls are of Arxx six-inch forms

while the interior, non-load-bearing walls use the Arxx four-inch forms. The building is set on an insulated slab and Chaney is still considering seamless floor finishes. Although heating will be provided using electric heat pumps, Chaney is still researching air quality to ensure the best indoor air quality for the boarders.

The Perfect Pet Resort's reception area is designed so that "dogs won't be walking on top of each other," says Chaney. It will be one and a half stories high with a balcony overhead and "windows everywhere." People will be able to see the cat room and grooming room from the reception area. The luxury suites surround a little park, beds, and television and music is piped throughout the facility. In all there will be six luxury suites and about 70 kennels. Roughly 80 to 90 dogs will be boarded there. In the beginning, the facility will have the capacity for 24 to 30 cats. Chaney says they have not yet built wings that they received approval for so they can later add space as needed.

The Perfect Pet Resort has everything it needs to make it "the cat's meow" for both the animals who stay there and for their humans – who may have trouble convincing them to come home.