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COVER IMAGE: STUDIO\_G/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

# 'Residents' come in many breeds

BY **BONNIE SMETZER,** CPM, HCCP JMG REALTY INC.

partment managers have come a long way in how we view pet owners. Years ago, it could be a challenge to find an apartment that allowed pets. Today, it is very unusual to find an apartment that does not allow pets.

According to a recent article in *Forbes*, the pet industry has been experiencing unbelievable growth. Over the past 30 years, pet ownership has increased to 68 percent of all households. Millennial and Gen Z consumers are reported to account for 62 percent of pet ownership, while baby boomers make up 32 percent. It's no wonder that apartment owners, managers, and developers are rolling out the red carpet for

pets as a way to increase occupancy and increase renewals.

As a pet owner, I think it is smart business to cater to residents who love pets. What better way to make residents feel at home and want to stay and renew their lease than to make our apartments welcoming for animal lovers, while also creating a great environment for residents who don't own pets. Impossible task, you ask? We actually do it every day.

As a pet owner, I think it is smart business to cater to residents who love pets.

As a dog lover, I look forward to going home and having a nice place to walk my dogs and to see them get to play outside after having been inside all day. Our pet-loving residents have that same feeling. If you create a great environment for pets, residents will be more inclined to renew their lease because they will not want to move from the atmosphere you have created. After all, it's pretty hard to explain to your dog that you are moving and taking them away from their park and play pals. Sounds like kids, right? Absolutely!

As I tour properties, I am amazed at all the new pet amenities. I love to see the well-lighted pet parks where dogs can be taken off a leash and allowed to run. Some communities offer pet parks specifically for small or large breeds. There are double gates, creating a holding area so that a dog can't get out when another dog enters the park. Pet parks provide water for the dogs, fake fire hydrants, and other items for fun and exercise. Some even have artificial turf that is specifically designed so that it can be cleaned daily. Many properties offer pet spas and even pet pools!

As demand for pet amenities grew, managers had to find ways to offset the cost to install them and to maintain the grounds. Additional security deposits along with pet fees and pet rent are the only logical choice for helping to offset the costs. After all, it's not fair to charge residents without pets for something that only benefits residents with pets.

We have come a long way from just offering dog treats in the leasing office. I anxiously await the next great pet amenity, maybe even one that will top the pet pool. ▲

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## Building Organizational Goals with Your Team Is SMART

BY **JOSH GOLD,** CAE, CMP FAA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

he first session of each new FAA Leadership Lyceum class includes a team-building activity where teams of five or so students build towers using only spaghetti and marshmallows. Each team must decide on an approach and then execute the task. After a set period of time, the students must step away from the table while the towers are measured. Each member of the team with the tallest tower receives a gift card. While prizes are nice, of course, the purpose of the exercise goes well beyond winning.

Team-building exercises, by definition, have a common end goal for the activity itself, whether that's solving puzzles to "escape" a fictional disaster, cooking a meal together, or building a spaghetti-marshmallow tower. There are more meaningful goals as well, even for groups that team up only for the duration of the exercise. Specifically, individuals can learn about their strengths and weaknesses as leaders, problem-solvers, and team players.

Longer-term teams, such as members of a staff, can improve collaboration and communication and identify new ways to work together. Having fun together as a team can balance some of the stressful times that are inevitable in any workplace when deadlines loom or a project doesn't go quite as planned.

Other stressful situations in the workplace, however, may have something to do with how goals are established.

Naturally, different departments and specific staffers will have their own objectives, generally established in conjunction with management. But when the only goals are by department or individual, the result can be a silo effect with more conflict than cooperation.

Similarly, when management establishes an organization's goals and simply tells staffers where to spend their time and focus their energy, staffers may feel less valued and undermotivated.



Perhaps most importantly, neither of those scenarios make the most of the talents of the individuals — or the strength of the team. Instead, a team approach to goal-setting can enable individuals to shine while also ensuring that the overarching objectives of the organization are met.

As with individual goals, it's helpful if team goals are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely.

Here are some additional suggestions for team goal-setting:

- Clearly communicate the mission and overall objectives of the organization. This may seem like it goes without saying, but keep in mind that these goals may evolve over time, with differences in the economy or changes in management, for example.
- Discuss as a group how each individual's or department's goals support the organization overall, and how those separate goals fit together. If there is overlap, are there ways to avoid redundancies and increase efficiencies?

- Encourage each team member to look for ways to help and be helped. No one individual can be good at everything. Are there specific aspects of projects that can be traded off?
- On the other hand, challenge team members to stretch beyond their comfort zones. Team-based goals are a great opportunity for growth, especially if individuals know they can reach out to a colleague if they get stuck.
- Establish milestones and meet periodically to evaluate progress. It's not enough to have measurable goals if you never measure them.
- Reward accomplishments. One of the best reasons to share goals as a team is the sense of accomplishment when goals are achieved. And while it's true that feeling of accomplishment is a reward in itself, celebrating a common victory not only can be fun, it can also be a way to make a good team even stronger.



# WHAT'S MY NAME/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

# Apartment Life with Pets

BY RANDA GRIFFIN

ost Americans love pets, with surveys showing that more than two-thirds of American households have at least one pet. And those pet owners are willing to put their money where their heart is, spending a whopping \$72 billion last year on pet food, toys, medical supplies, veterinary bills, grooming, and more, according to the American Pet Products Association. That number has doubled since 2005.

It's no wonder that apartment communities are transforming their pet policies and community culture not only to allow pets but to go a step further and welcome them as residents.

#### **AMENITIES**

Today's apartment communities are as likely to offer pet amenities as they are to provide a community pool or gym.

Among the most popular are dog play parks or open, fenced-in fields. These exercise areas are essential for an animal's health and temperament, said Erin Toung, owner of



ET&T Distributors, an outdoor furniture supplier. A large open area is great for dogs to run around in, but installing an obstacle or agility course will enhance the experience for the animal and owner, said Toung, who has dogs of her own.

"The benefit is that the owner and the dog can work together, and it's a bonding experience for them," Toung said. "When you take them to the dog park and play with them on these apparatuses, it stimulates their brain."

Some communities with less open outdoor space have opted for putting dog treadmills in their clubhouse or gym.

Palm Bay Club, a Fort Family Investments community in Jacksonville, Florida, has a pool designated for dogs. The distinctive pool is shaped like a dogbone and even has a red fire hydrant fountain in the middle.

"We probably have more dogs come to that pool than people to the resident's pool," said Camy Bermudez, community manager of Palm Bay Club. "They absolutely love it."

Bermudez said about 75 percent of residents in the community own some type

of pet, with dogs being the most popular. Palm Bay Club is able to maintain such an open pet policy by requiring their residents to have pet insurance in case of any damage to the apartment.

"The growth for pet ownership is on the rise, so we want to make sure to accommodate people," said Jody Mayor, director of property management at Fort Family Investments.



Pets at Palm Bay Club in Jacksonville have bath facilities (top), a pool, and a playground.









After a long day of playing outside, bathing a pet is essential. However, it can be difficult for residents to bathe their pets in a small bathtub inside the apartment, and pet hair can potentially cause damage to the apartment's plumbing. Pet spas or pet grooming stations are becoming more and more popular in communities as a way for residents to pamper their pets conveniently.

Palm Bay Club has a dog wash area right next to their play park that has hot water, pet shampoo, and a dryer.

"We even have pet towels that have little paw prints on them," said Mayor.

Some communities take their pet accommodations to another level by offering pet-sitting, walking, and feeding services.

Toung said pets aren't the only ones who benefit from these amenities. They have huge curb appeal for communities and show prospective residents that the community cares for their pet as much as they do.

#### **EVENTS**

Community events are a common way to get residents interacting with each other and build a community culture — so why not include cats and dogs?

Patty Morgan-Seager, founder of Seager marketing, said a lot of communities have begun hosting pet photo shoots, which gets the residents more involved and gives them a chance to meet other pet owners. She said a lot of communities offer photo shoots around the holidays so residents can bring in their families or their pets to take pictures with Santa or the Easter bunny.

Palm Bay Club does a lot of social community events that involve pets. They host "Yappy Hour," a pet version of happy hour, have pet costume contests, and have even done pet interviews they posted on social media. The community also has a bowl of dog treats in the leasing office so residents can come in and get a treat for their pet anytime.

Morgan-Seager said creative and personal touches can have a huge impact on residents.

"I know many of my clients are now not only sending birthday cards to the residents, but also making sure they send birthday cards to the pets as well," she said.

#### **POO PRINTS**

One of the side effects of an increased number of dogs in an apartment community is an increased amount of pet waste throughout the community. While pet stations around the community that provide waste bags and garbage cans may help combat this problem, some communities take a different approach to incentivize residents to pick up after their pets.

PooPrints is a company that works with BioPet Laboratories to perform DNA tests on pet waste in order to identify which animal the sample came from. That way, when a resident doesn't pick up after a pet, the pet can be identified, and the resident can be fined.

When animals move into the community, their mouths are swabbed, and the DNA sample is sent off to the lab. Then the pet's DNA is registered in a database, the DNA World Pet Registry, so it can be tested against waste samples sent in by apartment communities.

Palm Bay Club, a Fort Family Investments property, has been using PooPrints for a while, and Jody Mayor, director of property management, says it's been extremely effective.

"We participate in the PooPrints pet DNA program, which is more for the community to keep it clean," Mayor said. "We love pets, but we don't want the pet waste."

Mayor said that from a corporate standpoint, pet waste is one of the major complaints she hears about. Since enacting the PooPrints program, she said there's minimal pet waste around the community. Palm Bay Club requires pets to be registered for an \$85 fee and fines owners \$250 for their first offense.

"It's a pretty hefty fine," Mayor said. "So that helps with the effort to keep the community clean as well."



Some communities are even sending out get-well cards to pets when they hear about an animal who has recently had an illness or surgery.

#### **MARKETING**

Having a pet-friendly community is important, but it's even more important to get the message across to future residents that your community will welcome them and their furry friends. Morgan-Seager said even doing small things like posting signs around the community and including photos of pets on your website can send an inviting message to potential residents.

Morgan-Seager added that she works with a community that puts signs at every entrance that read, "We love pets!"

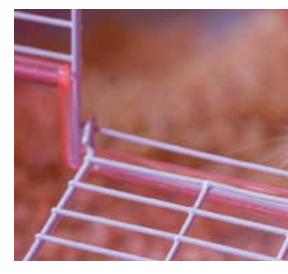
"That way when people drive by, even before going in, they know the community welcomes pets, which is a great marketing idea," she said.

Morgan-Seager said communities will often give out move-in swag, like T-shirts or sweatpants, to new residents as a marketing tool to welcome them into the community.















#### SERVICE ANIMALS, THERAPY DOGS, AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

When is a pet not just a pet? These days, it may seem like there are so many different categories of animals that it can be difficult for multifamily professionals to keep them all straight. While property managers and owners should always consult with an attorney if they have legal questions, here are some distinctions that might be helpful.

#### **SERVICE ANIMALS**

When it comes to accommodating pets, there is one class of animals that is in a category by itself: service animals. A service animal is, by definition, specifically trained to perform a service for an individual who has a disability. For example, a dog may be trained to guide a person who has vision loss or to detect physical changes that indicate low blood sugar in someone with diabetes. Federal law gives specific protections to individuals with service dogs and limits the questions that the owner or manager of a rental property can ask.

#### **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS**

Most pet owners will tell you that they receive emotional rewards from having a pet, whether that's the joy of coming home to a tail-wagging pup or the calm of stroking a cat curled up on a lap. Sometimes, animals provide an important benefit to someone who has a mental health problem such as depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder. These are not the same as service animals, in that they are not trained to perform a task. However, in the case of mental health benefits, the animal may be considered an "emotional support animal" or ESA, and the owner may apply for accommodations such as exceptions to no-pet policies, pet rent, or fees.

#### **FAA'S POSITION**

The Florida Apartment Association strongly supports the rights of individuals with legitimate needs to receive accommodations for service animals and emotional support animals. Unfortunately, there has been a rise in online providers that offer false ESA certification documentation in exchange for a flat fee. These online providers often do not have a license to practice in the State of Florida and lack an established health care relationship with the patient. As a result, an individual who does not qualify for a reasonable accommodation under the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) can easily obtain fraudulent documentation online without interacting face-to-face with a medical professional.

FAA is asking the Florida Legislature to pass HB 721 (Rep. Killebrew) and SB 1128 (Sen. Diaz) to require ESA accommodation documentation to be completed by a licensed provider who has a medical or therapeutic relationship with the patient. This legislation will also codify a property owner's right to verify the authenticity of such documentation upon receipt of the ESA request.

**Editor's note:** As of press time, the Florida Legislature had not yet acted on ESA legislation. *Multifamily Florida* will provide an update on the status of HB 721 and SB 1128 in a future issue.

#### PET SCREENING SERVICE OFFERS ASSURANCES

Property managers can get a sense of who their prospective renters are through credit reports, rental references, and background screenings. Now, they can get a preview of the pets those prospects might bring along to their new apartment home.

PetScreening.com helps protect property managers from liability through a standardized process for screening pets in apartment communities. John Bradford, founder of PetScreening.com, said he recognized that there had to be a better way to help the apartment industry handle pets — and to help owners of legitimate service and emotional support animals.

PetScreening.com offers three different digital pet profiles: a no-pet profile, a pet profile, and an animal profile. A no-pet profile is for residents who do

not have a pet or live in a pet-free community. Essentially, it holds residents accountable by requiring them to formally acknowledge the community policies, and it puts them on the record as not having a pet.

A pet profile compiles information and documentation gathered from the pet owner and makes it available to property managers. Pet owners submit a pet

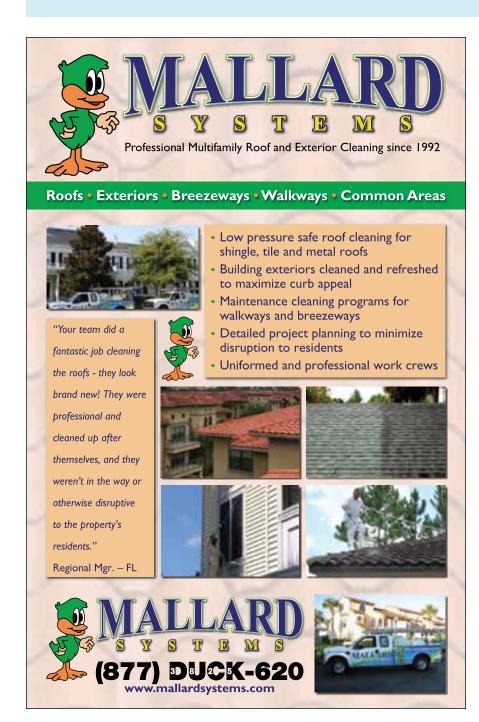
> application along with a final legal attestation to confirm the validity of the information.

> "We know that just having a pet adds additional risks to the property manager," Bradford said. "What we do is collect information on the pet and ask the pet owner questions about their care of the pet, the pet's behavior, and the owner's understanding of pet policies."

> PetScreening.com analyzes the information and data provided using an algorithm, which then generates a FIDO score. The FIDO score, along with the information on the pet profile, gives property managers an idea of what kind of pet and pet owner want to move into their community. The FIDO score takes into account factors such as breed, weight, size, whether or not the pet is up-to-date on vaccinations, and incidents with people or other pets.

There is no cost to property management, or to owners of service or emotional support animals. For these animals, the pet profile doesn't generate a FIDO score, but rather verifies the documentation asserting the pet is an assistance animal. PetScreening.com uses a legal team and third-party verifier to review the documents and then issues a recommendation on the validity. This takes the liability and responsibility off the property managers, who often don't have the time or resources to verify the legal information.

For other residents, pet profiles are \$20 for the first pet application and \$15 for each additional application.



"Now they're doing things for the pets like a personalized water bowl or personalized leash," she said.

Photos taken at pet-themed events, like "Yappy Hour" or pet costume contests, make great posts for social media, Morgan-Seager said. It's a way to have fun with residents and then share that fun with others while driving traffic to your community's sites.

One marketing avenue communities might not have considered is animal rescue organizations. The Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando, for example, was seeing too many pets surrendered by owners who couldn't find pet-friendly housing. Owners who can't find an apartment that will welcome them and their pets will face a difficult decision.

"This can force owners to either lie, move outside of where they need to live, or go through the emotional turmoil of facing the decision to get rid of their companions," said Heather Papoulis from the Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando.

In order to help residents find accommodating homes and promote pet-friendly communities, the Pet Alliance started an apartment registry of pet-friendly apartments, which are listed on the organization's website. Papoulis said this is beneficial not only to pet owners, but to apartment communities as well.

"Pet owners remain in their rental twice as long as those without pets," she said.

Dwell Luxury Apartments in Maitland has found a way to promote its pet-positive attitude by posting local veterinary clinics on its website.

"Most pet owners, especially if they are new to the area, want to know if there is a vet close by should they need one, as their pets are family to them," said property manager Nikki Cannatelli. "It is just one more way of offering customer service to our potential future residents, just as we would tell them the local schools we are zoned for and the closest shopping areas."

Morgan-Seager said to some people their pets are their babies, which is why personalization and going that extra step to cater to residents' pets are so important.

"When you embrace pets, you're sending a message to your new residents and current residents that you care," Morgan-Seager said. "If you care about their pet, you care about them."





# **FAA Members**

#### BY RANDA GRIFFIN

ecord-breaking attendance at the 2019 FAA Legislative Conference in Tallahassee was inspired in part by last year's legislative win on behalf of the doorstep trash industry. Some first-time attendees said that last year's victory proved the power of advocacy and demonstrated the strength of the multifamily industry's collective voice. Nearly 180 FAA members gathered to learn about

the issues affecting the apartment industry and how to articulate those issues to Florida legislators.

The conference, which took place Feb. 5-6, began with a series of association meetings, including the FAA board of directors, Legislative Committee, Executive Committee, APAC board of directors, Association Executives' Council, Editorial Advisory Committee, Product/Service Council and the Masters Steering Committee.

The final meeting on Tuesday was a legislative briefing, which educated members on

FAA's four 2019 legislative priorities (see www. faahq.org/news/faas-2019-legislative-priorities for details):

- Support full funding of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the passage of Senate Bill 70.
- Support the passage of House Bill 721/ Senate Bill 1128 to reduce emotional support animal fraud and abuse.
- Support the passage of legislation to prohibit mandatory inclusionary zoning practices.
- Support the passage of Senate Bill 144 to clarify the impact fee process.



#### **LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING**

Attendees learned about FAA's 2019 legislative priorities to prepare for meetings with legislators the following day.





FAA lobbyists Ron Book and Kelly Mallette of Ron Book PA

The briefing began with a welcome message from FAA President Bonnie Smetzer, followed by a brief presentation from the evening's sponsor, Rapid Response.

Jimmy Chestnut, FAA's 2019 APAC vice chair, emphasized the importance of supporting APAC and recognized individuals and companies who have donated to the PAC in 2019.

"The purpose of APAC is simple — to raise funds and elect candidates who not only understand but support our interests, regardless of party affiliation," he said.

Exemplifying the impact APAC can have on the industry, FAA Secretary Katie Wrenn presented awards for the 2018 FAA Legislator of the Year to Sen. Manny Diaz (R-36) and Sen. Aaron Bean (R-4) to recognize and thank them for their support of the apartment industry. Both senators were key leaders in passing last year's HB 529, the doorstep trash bill, and graciously accepted the awards in person. Bean spoke to the "apartment family" and praised members who want to be involved because it takes an army — not just one person — to bring about change.

In 2018, HB 529 cleared up ambiguous language in Florida's Fire Code and helped protect the doorstep trash industry, allowing companies to continue business as usual. Kelsey Davis of the Apartment Association of Greater Orlando said last year's legislative win motivated her to come to this year's FAA Legislative Conference.

"I work for Valet Living, so last year was a big deal," Davis said. "It made me want to be more involved."

Recently appointed Clerk of the House Jeff Takacs gave attendees an overview of his job keeping records at the Capitol and shared pieces of the Florida legislature's history — mainly multiple failed attempts to move the Capitol out of Tallahassee. Andrew Wiggins, senior director of campaigns and elections for the Florida Chamber of Commerce, gave an update on how the recent midterm elections have shaped the composition of the Florida House and Senate.

Davis said the speakers at the briefing were informative and demonstrated the process of getting these important bills passed.

Amanda Gill, FAA government affairs director, told attendees about the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund and concerns about mandatory inclusionary zoning policies. Lee Steinhauer, government affairs and legal counsel for AAGO and president of The Steinhauer Group LLC, discussed the impact fee process, followed by Josh Gold, FAA executive vice president, who discussed the emotional support animal fraud and abuse priority. Animated videos explained the issues and the impact the legislation could have on the multifamily industry.

#### LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

FAA thanked two legislators who were instrumental in the passage of the 2018 doorstep trash legislation. Sen. Aaron Bean (R-4) and Sen. Manny Diaz (R-36) were presented with their awards by Katie Wrenn, FAA vice president, and Amanda Gill, FAA government affairs director.



Amanda Gill, Sen. Aaron Bean (R-4), Katie Wrenn



Katie Wrenn, Amanda Gill, Sen. Manny Diaz (R-36)

#### APAC SILENT AUCTION AND NETWORKING RECEPTION

Following the legislative briefing and caucusing with local affiliates, attendees networked at a cocktail reception and bid on auction items to support APAC.













Carol Lehnert with Matrix Residential attended the FAA Legislative Conference for the first time this year as a way to become more involved while supporting the industry.

"The best part has been learning about these issues that affect our industry and ways we can help make a change," Lehnert said.

The briefing concluded with a Q&A session with lobbyists Ron Book and Kelly Mallette, who answered questions about the priority legislation and eased attendee worries about interacting with legislators. After the briefing, local affiliates caucused with their members to plan for the next day's legislative appointments before heading to the cocktail reception and APAC silent auction, which raised more than \$2,600.

Christina Inglis of Affinity Waste Solutions said that aside from the legislative importance of attending the conference, it's also a great time to reconnect with old friends and co-workers. "This industry really is like a big family so it's nice getting to catch up with members from across the state," she said.

Early Wednesday morning members met at the Capitol to speak with legislators and put the information they learned at the briefing to the test. Members went into their meetings equipped with fact sheets about FAA's priorities and leave-behind pamphlets to pass onto legislators.

Inglis has attended the Legislative Conference the past eight years and said she keeps coming back because she knows how important it is to have a presence in Tallahassee.

"We have to let legislators know we're an important industry," Inglis said. "I don't think people realize how important it is to bring their attention to issues that affect us."



Members of the Space Coast Apartment Association meet with Rep. Randy Fine (R-53).

#### STATEHOUSE VISITS



Members of the Bay Area Apartment Association meet with Rep. Sam Killebrew (R-41).

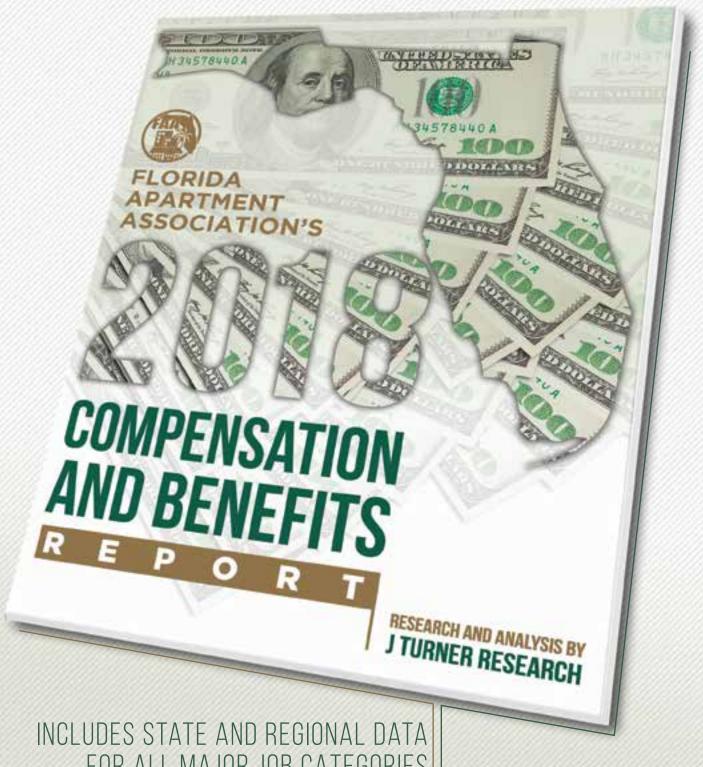


Members of the North Central Florida Apartment Association meet with Rep. Charlie Stone (R-22).



The First Coast Apartment Association gathers in front of the State Capitol.

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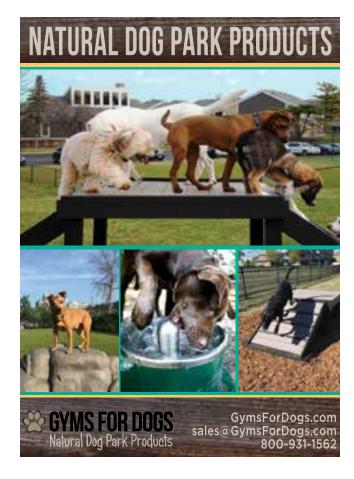
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# **Springs at Six Mile Cypress:** *Going the Extra Mile for Pets*

BY RANDA GRIFFIN

n open pet policy and numerous pet amenities are part of the customer service Springs at Six Mile Cypress proudly offers its human residents — and to accommodate its residents' furry friends.

Yasmin Khan, community manager of the south Fort Myers community, said that pets are such a huge part of people's lives, it's important to treat them like a part of their residents' families.

The community, managed by Continental Properties, was built in 2016 and features 288 units. The townhome-style units range from studios to various three-bedroom floor plans, providing different layout options for residents' needs.

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Khan said a majority of residents in the community are pet owners.

"I would have to say at least half of the residents own some type of pet," she said. "We embrace pets because people are pet lovers, and we know that."

The community is only 20 minutes from Fort Myers Beach, which has a designated area where dogs are welcome.

"We have a lot of growth right now around the community, and it's an ideal location," said Khan.

Springs at Six Mile Cypress is proud to be pet-friendly, which is why it doesn't limit its pet accommodations to just cats and dogs. Birds, reptiles, fish, small furry animals, and even most exotic pets are welcome. Their pet policy includes some restrictions on aggressive breeds, but to keep their policy inclusive, there's no pet weight limit.

Located on the property are two pet parks for dogs and their owners to use. "One has some agility equipment and one is just a free-run, fenced-in area for our pets," said Khan.

After their pets are done running around the play parks, owners can bathe their dogs at the outdoor community pet spa. There are also pet waste stations throughout the community, so when owners are walking their dogs, they can easily locate a bag to dispose of any waste.

Springs at Six Mile Cypress takes their pet accommodations a step further with their "Above and Beyond Program." Through the program, if residents get delayed by something and can't make it back to their apartment in time to take care of their pet, Springs at Six Mile Cypress will do it for them.



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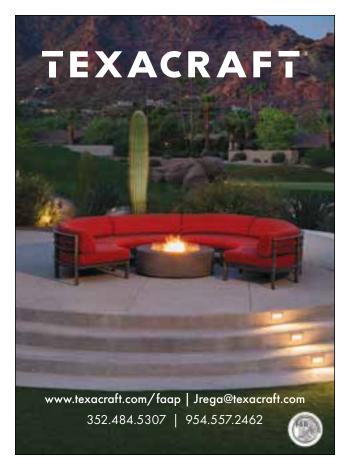
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"If someone gets caught up at work, we don't want the pet to suffer," said Khan. "We'll actually go in, as long as it's a safe pet, and walk your dog."

Khan said when it comes to pets, the "Above and Beyond Program" is what really sets the community apart. Along with bringing pets out to use the bathroom, the staff will also feed pets and do small tasks like watering the plants while residents are away.

A big industry concern when it comes to pets is when residents try to sneak an unauthorized animal into their apartment. Khan said luckily, with their open pet policy and responsible pet owners, it hasn't been an issue for Springs at Six Mile Cypress.

Khan has been in the industry for more than 20 years and said that dealing with pet waste is a battle communities fight every day. To combat the problem, Springs at Six Mile Cypress participates in a DNA pet waste identification program called "PooPrints." When pets move into the community, their cheeks are swabbed and their DNA is registered into a database.

"If we find waste, we will absolutely take a sample and send it into the company, and we can then locate the owner," Khan said. Once the owner is located, a fine is issued. Khan said the possibility of a fine is enough incentive for most residents to clean up after their animals.

"I think the reason we decided to go with PooPrints is because it's something extremely appealing to non-pet-owners, but pet owners as well," she said. "It doesn't matter who you are or how much you love dogs, you still want a clean community."

Khan said Springs at Six Mile Cypress is confident in its community and proud to be pet-friendly.

"We're also very confident in our customer service, our product, and our company culture," Khan said.



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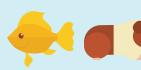


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