

Mentor OKs dog training facility

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Mentor will soon be home to one of the only dog training facilities in Lake County.

During Thursday night's meeting, Mentor Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the conditional use permit for the Lake County Dog Training Club.

Co-owner Elizabeth Richards said the facility, at 8313 Tyler Blvd., will give them more space than her current business at PetWorks LLC, at 8790 Munson Road in Mentor.

Richards said she plans to move training from PetWorks into the Tyler Boulevard facility because it allows for dog-centered sports like fly ball and agility tests.

Going to the dogs

Dog Training Club owners talk about new facility at www.News-Herald.com



Operations are expected to continue at PetWorks, including doggy daycare, luxury boarding and grooming.

"There is a ton of people going outside of the county for this. There's nowhere in Lake County big enough," Richards said. "What I'm hoping is to give people something closer to home."

The new facility, which has 6,400 square feet, is ideal for sports like agility, which requires big, open spaces.

"That's the hot new sport — agility. That's what everyone wants to do," Richards said.

"Dog sports in Lake County are huge. Lot of dog people."

In addition to owners preparing their dogs for obedience/rally/agility trials, the facility will include dog training classes and educational seminars, according to their permit application.

Commission member Katherine Cimperman asked if parking was going to be an issue.

Richards responded that there should be ample parking because classes will be evenly spread out. The class sizes will be about eight dog owners and their pets.

The Planning Commission also approved Fun Matches, which consist of about 50 dogs and their

owners participating in registered competitions.

"It's a very organized thing," Richards said. "I don't see the parking being an issue (more) than the dog classes."

Richards and co-owner Shereen L. Ankuda have operated PetWorks for the last 10 years in Mentor. *

"We're experts at this stuff. We're aware of the issues," said Richard, regarding dog training. "I think (the Dog Training Club) will grow our business."

The proposed hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The facility will be divided into two tracks. One for obedience training and another for dogs in competitions.

PetWorks is Diggin' Dogs!

PetWorks is pleased to announce that we will be opening a new dog training center in Mentor. The facility is located near the intersection of Rt. 615 and Tyler Blvd. in Mentor and is called Digging Dogs Training Center. The anticipated Grand Opening will be the first week in June.

We are partnering with Sheri Ankuda of Soothing Touch Pet Care, who currently offers Agility for Fun, Puppy Discovery and Household Obedience classes at PetWorks.

PetWorks will continue to offer Doggy Daycare, Luxury Boarding & Grooming at the 8790 Munson Rd. address. Only the training classes will be moved to the new location, which will allow PetWorks to expand Doggy Daycare hours and days. The new training facility is climate controlled and features a special agility floor as well as a large training space.

We are pleased to have several new trainers joining us who have extensive teaching and competition backgrounds. Donna Sadlik will continue to offer CGC/TDI classes at the new facility. Other classes offered include:

Puppy Discovery/Puppy Star
Household Obedience I, II, III
Competition Skills I, II, III
Agility for Fun
Agility I, II, III, IV

Canine Good Citizen/Therapy Dog
Rally Obedience I, II, III
Novice & Utility
Pre-agility
Flyball

We will also be offering Obedience, Rally & Agility Run-thoughts as well as educational seminars and fun matches. For more information, visit www.diggingdogs.biz

* Correction - Sheri Ankuda is the Owner/Operator of Soothing Touch Pet Care in Concord - not a PetWorks co-owner.