

Luxe resort, with green benefits, for Lassie

SUITE PAWS PET RESORT AND SPA

- Project: Pet resort with eco-friendly materials and features
- Location: South Rogers Lane off U.S. 64 Bypass East in Raleigh
- Number of employees: 15 to 35
- Top Triangle executive: Laura Muntel

Describe the project, its size, cost, features and finances.

Suite Paws Pet Resort and Spa redefines “creature comforts” with five-star boarding and day care accommodations for dogs and cats. In our new \$3.5 million, 20,000-square-foot Raleigh facility, we incorporated environmentally sustainable practices into many aspects of our pet resort. Our focus centered on energy efficiency and environmentally responsible features that enhanced our processes and pet safety within our budgetary constraints. We are a small business that was financed through a combination of private equity, debt equity and SBA loans.

What are the project’s specific sustainable features and what were the costs?

Our focus on energy efficiency included solar tracking skylights, Big Ass Fans for climate control, reflective roofing, closed cell spray foam and pour foam insulation and energy-efficient HVAC, windows and lighting. In addition, we incorporated environmentally responsible features that included a 27,000-gallon rainwater capture and recycling system for non-potable water needs such as cleaning and flushing, Aqua-Air vacuum system fed by rainwater for extraordinary cleanliness, recycled flooring and sustainable, antimicrobial K9 grass systems for pet safety. The cost of these sustainable features was more than \$350,000, or 10 percent of total project cost, but they are comparable in cost with non-sustainable alternatives.



Suite Paws is a 20,000-square-foot pet resort.

Why did you include these features, and do they provide any commercial benefits?

Suite Paws Pet Resort and Spa sought to create a first-of-its-kind green facility for Raleigh’s pet population, ensuring the finest natural surroundings for our furry guests while being responsible stewards of the environment. We are seeing significant savings in water and utility costs.

Did you attract any tenants/buyers because of the sustainable features?

Every day, people tour our facility and marvel at the use of green technologies throughout. Our business relies on an exceptional guest experience and family members who are willing to share their stories with others searching for a safe, fun and responsible environment to entrust their pets. The combination of these technologies is central to our success both financially and environmentally.

What did you learn about sustainable construction through this project?

Find great partners to evaluate and assist with the evaluation and construction processes. We were fortunate to work with several exceptional firms such as Sustainable Building Solutions, Sigmon Construction and Olive Architecture.