

More and more Toronto condominiums have gone to the dogs — literally

Condo trends. The days of sneaking Fido into your purse are long over. New condos are giving owners a place to groom their much-loved companions

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With Canadians spending over \$4 billion annually on their pets, it's no surprise that Toronto condominiums have seen an increase in four-legged residents.

Newer highrises now offer "pet spas" as a building amenity.

Times have changed from the restrictive years when it was forbidden to keep animals in most of Toronto's highrise residences. Developers have recognized the trend and are offering more lifestyle choices to condo buyers.

So imagine your pooch having a wonderful time frolicking around in the mud and running through puddles. Now imagine said canine tracking all that muck through your brand new condo hallways and into your suite.

This is the dilemma facing condo owners and managers.

A condo pet spa is a com-

mon area amenity that allows pet owners to wash and groom their dirty doggies prior to entering the main building.

Fabrik, a new development by Menkes, will be offering a pet spa. VP of marketing Mimi Ng has observed the trend that purchasers are asking if their buildings are pet-friendly.

"We're trying to take into account the fact that we're seeing more and more of our buyers have pets and it just makes sense to provide a space for them for their pets when they want to groom them."

So is it really a "spa?" "In our case we're calling it a pet spa but I think in terms of the actual service it probably will be closer to a grooming station," says Ng.

But what if your furry companion is having a bad hair day and needs a professional makeover?

Award-winning groomer Deidre Howard has just opened the Tailspin Dog Spa. Located in a busy downtown neighbourhood surrounded by a dozen condominiums, 80 per cent of her clientele are condo dwellers.

With three rambunctious Shih Tzu's in her work area,

Puppy love

80%

Award-winner groomer Deidre Howard says 80 per cent of her clientele are condo dwellers. She just opened the Tailspin Dog Spa in a busy downtown 'hood that is surrounded by a dozen condominiums.

Howard explains the services provided.

"We do full grooming. We do the haircut, blow dry, nail trimming, the works. We do every breed."

Tailspin also provides a convenient cage-free pet day-care service.

"It's great for people who work all day. You can drop the dog off, leave them here for the day, a half day or an hour even, if you want to do some shopping or you don't want to leave your dog alone for whatever reason."

It would seem that all this tender loving care is going entirely to the dogs. What if your four-legged roommate happens to be a feline?

"We do cats too. I had a cat in this morning," says Howard.

Pets are part of the condo community

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Mimi Ng, VP of marketing for Fabrik, a new development by Menkes



Toronto condo dweller Inez (no surname given) with her three canine companions, Jostan, Pixie and Cerf. DUNCAN MCALLISTER