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Westlake veterinary facility to include pet hotel, spa

By Jenni Mintz
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Construction is nearing completion on a veterinary complex in Westlake Village that will include a pet hotel and day spa.

The 32,000-square-foot complex, at 31166 Via Colinas, will consist of a 10,000-square-foot animal hospital and the 22,000-square-foot boarding and spa facility.

“Everything is in its final stages,” Stan Slaton, the project manager, said during a recent walk-through. “In two weeks, it will look completely different.”

A lot of work remains, but Slaton said the Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa and the adjoining Westlake Village Animal Hospital is on track to open Oct. 25.

The public can tour the facility 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 23-24 during a fundraiser for the Barkley Foundation. The foundation provides assistance to animal charities such as Lifeline4Paws, Saving Animals From Euthanasia, and K9 Compassion.

Proceeds from raffle tickets and a portion of sales during the preview event will help house and rehabilitate rescued animals at the facility.

About 3,000 people are anticipated to tour the facility during the preview event, said Malia Rivera, the hotel’s director of marketing.

Described as a Ritz-Carlton for pets, the hotel will be staffed 24 hours a day and offer three-story kitty condos, luxury suites for dogs, and a sanctuary for birds and other exotic pets.

“Everything we did here was to provide a safe, comfortable and soothing environment for animals,” Slaton said.

Limo rides around town, “cuddle time” and bedtime stories will be offered. The grooming salon and day spa will offer “pawdicures,” deshedding treatments, massages, facials and bubble baths.

It might seem lavish or over the top, but Slaton said prices will be “very affordable” — about the same as boarding facilities that offer only a kennel.

“We’ve gone over pricing about 10 times,” Slaton said. “We don’t want people to say, ‘It’s too ritzy for my dog.’ ”

Kitty condos will start at \$33.50 and leisure suites for dogs at about \$45. More luxurious, themed rooms along “Hollywoof Boulevard” and “Rodeo Drive” will start at \$59 and come with upgrades such as flat-screen televisions and webcams.

“This is the glamour and glitz,” Slaton said, as he walked along Hollywoof Boulevard and pointed out the epoxy floor with a red runner and a star in front of each suite.

In addition to overnight accommodations, the complex will offer obedience training and day camp.

Gary Wartik, economic development manager for the city of Thousand Oaks, said the resort will fill a niche in a community that values its pets.

“It’s certainly a worthy business concept,” he said. “One of the things that has not suffered much during the recession is how much people spend on their pets.”

The pet hotel and animal hospital will operate as two separate businesses, each with about 20 employees, Slaton said.

There are few pet hotels with an animal hospital next door, Slaton said. That’s a big perk if hotel guests get sick during their stay. And if they come in without current vaccines, they can get vaccinated next door instead of being sent away.

“Most people are pretty blown away” when they see the facility, Slaton said. “I’m still dizzy over this whole thing.”

On the Net:

<http://westlake.thebarkleypethotel.com>