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SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 BY KELLYECARTER



Pampered pets checking into D Pet Hotels Chelsea can be picked up in exotic cars.

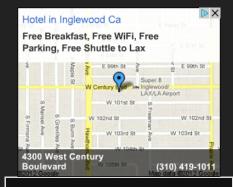
If there isn't a luxury pet hotel near you this year, just wait. Pet hotels catering to distinguished dogs and fine felines are popping up across the country at greyhound speed. Some feel like five-star resorts and offer chauffeur service in exotic cars, gourmet meals, pawdicures, facials, fitness centers, upscale boutiques and well-appointed accommodations so stylish and comfortable that pet parents may be tempted to curl up on the bed and take a snooze.

When your posh pal needs sumptuous digs for a night or longer, or simply doggie daycare for a few hours, grand pet hotels opening or expanding are here to serve the fierce demand. Of the estimated \$52 billion we're expected to spend on our pets this year, \$4.1 billion will go toward grooming and boarding, according to the American Pet Products Association. That's up from the \$3.79 billion (\$50 billion overall) we lavished on our pets in 2011.

Recession? Not when it comes to our fur babies. Our coddled creatures need a plush place to stay when they can't travel with us, we're at work or play or when they crave companionship from their own kind. Below is the latest news on some of the more opulent options.

#### What's new in pet hotels?

D Pet Hotels Hollywood has become so popular since opening four years ago that it is already expanding not just its Los Angeles location but around the country as well. D Pet Hotels Scottsdale opened on August 15. Next up is D Pet Hotels Chelsea, which throws an Open House on Sept. 27 before officially opening for business in Manhattan on Sept. 28. The nearly 10,000 square-foot Chelsea location offers everything from a Standard suite, which includes a doggie bed



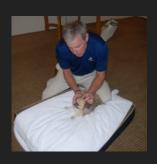
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Dog



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Two dogs relax in an Uber Suite at D Pet Hotels Chelsea

and flat screen TV, to the Uber suite, which features a full-sized bed, extensive room décor and 42" flat screens. In addition to its suites, spectacular dog park and are designed to accommodate large, medium and pint-size pups. There's also a doggie gym called Pant, spa offering PAWdicures and more, doggie lounge, biscuit bar, D Boutique, 24-hour vet on call and, of course, a chauf-FUR to pick up Fifi in style.

"At D Pet Hotels, we create a five-star experience for each of our guests and parents know they can expect a fun, loving, home-away-from-home for their pups," says Kerry Brown, co-owner of D Pet Hotels Chelsea.

D Pet Hotels Hollywood, popular with celebrities such as *Twilight* star Ashley Greene, is in the process of expanding its spa and grooming center. Plans are to add more suites as well. Currently there are approximately 70 luxury suites, the majority which can accommodate families with multiple dogs in each suite.

Nationwide franchising opportunities become available next month as D Pet Hotels looks to expand in key U.S. markets such as New York, Miami, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, Boston, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, San Diego and Las Vegas. International locations are also in the works.



A suite at D Pet Hotels
\_\_\_\_\_Scottsdale



A Pooch Hotel suite

Pooch Hotel, around since 2004, debuts in Boston on Sept. 25, marking the brand's sixth location and third to open this year. Pooch Hotel Hollywood opened its doors (just a stone's throw from D Pet Hotels Hollywood) in May, followed by a location in Richardson, Tex., in August. They joined two outposts in Chicago and another in Sunnyvale, Calif., that serves the Silicon

Valley. Look for three more Southern California spots — Santa Monica, San Diego and Carson — to launch before the end of the year, says Pooch Hotel Hollywood General Manager Sean C. Nolan. He added that Norwalk, Conn., gets a Pooch Hotel in early 2013. Petco, which acquired Pooch Hotel in March 2011, plans to open 10 to 12 Pooch Hotels a year.

The Pet Spa at Harrods in London



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