

E | Fur and Feather

The Hotel

In New York, there is a very special hotel. People come to this hotel early in the morning to check in. But it is not like most other hotels in the city. The beds are too small for people to sleep in them. What kind of hotel is this? It is a hotel for dogs!

There are lots of dogs in New York. Just take a walk in Central Park in the morning and you can see for yourself. You will see many different kinds of dogs. Often the dog owners need to be away from early morning to late evening. Then they can leave their dogs at the hotel.

Maria is one of the staff:

Hi. At this dog hotel, dogs can spend the whole day. They can also spend the night here if the dog owner is going away. We feed them and take good care of them. A 100 to 120 dogs can stay here. Normally, it is not full, except for Christmas, New Year and Thanksgiving.

We take all kinds of dogs as long as they are not aggressive. The dogs play together here, so they have to be friendly.

The dogs have to eat alone. They also sleep alone. They are not used to sleeping or eating together with other dogs. Dogs usually sleep most of the day when they are at home. Here they play most of the day. So their sleep at night is very important.

Training

Dogs are social animals. You must show the dog that you are the leader of the pack. If you don't do that, the dog may behave badly.

Therefore it is important to train the dog. Many people think that the most intelligent dogs are the easiest to train. But it is not always so. You can often get a not so smart dog to do lots of tricks. Sometimes an intelligent dog will not do any tricks. Love is more important than intelligence. If the dog loves you and wants to make you happy, your training will go better.

Owning a dog is a big responsibility. It is like having a baby that never grows up.

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- 1 Why is it important for the dogs to sleep separately?
 - 2 Many people have busy jobs and hardly any time to be with their dogs. Do you think it is OK that they keep a dog? Discuss.
 - 3 A little girl got a cute little puppy for her birthday. Write a story about how the dog became the leader of the pack and did lots of bad things because nobody gave it proper training.
 - 4 True or false?
 - a) Day care is from seven in the morning till ten at night.
 - b) A dog should always be the leader of the pack.
 - c) At the dog hotel, the dogs sleep most of the day.
 - d) An intelligent dog always wants to do lots of tricks.
 - e) Owning a dog is like having a baby.