

DIVERSIONS

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Dog day afternoons — or mornings

by Sharon Rushen

for *The Central Record*

MEDFORD—Medford resident Brad Rogerino recently started his own home-based business, Doggy Adventures. The several-month-old business is a mobile doggy socialization and exercise program that offers busy pet owners a door-to-door service.

As a working pet owner himself, Rogerino said he wanted to create a canine daycare of sorts that caters to the working pet owner.

Upon doing research, Rogerino said he learned that few such services were offered locally. After speaking with owners of mobile doggy daycares in Boston and California, Rogerino put his idea into action and Doggy Adventures was formed.

Each doggy adventure lasts two hours, beginning from the time Rogerino picks up the dog at his or her residence.

The day trip includes the pick-up and drop-off service, a two-to-four hour walk or jog in a park near the dog's home, as well as ample time socializing with

Rogerino and the other dogs on the "adventure."

Because Doggy Adventures was created with the intention of helping dogs of busy pet owners to maintain a healthy lifestyle, Rogerino tailors each adventure to meet the needs of each specific dog.

The dog's age and size helps determine the amount of time each dog will run and the kind of treats he Rogerino will give them post-workout.

Rogerino said he has the support of many local veterinarians because his business largely revolves around the health and exercise of his clients.

"It's mainly a health and exercise concept. A lot of people are too busy so it's really good for the dogs to get that extra running — for their heart and weight," Rogerino said.

His love of working with pets stems from being a pet owner himself and from his experience working with special needs children and young adults for the past seven years.

Rogerino also does volunteer work with dogs at the Animal



Central Record photo by David Borrelli

BRAD ROGERINO, owner of Doggy Adventures, with Cody the white Labrador Retriever and Sergei the Borzoi.

Welfare Association in Voorhees and is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and Pet Sitters International.

Rogerino believes that his history of working with special needs children and young adults

has helped him to be more successful in Doggy Adventures.

"You need a lot of patience working with different dogs. And basically the people skills and the trust I've gained working with patients and their parents has

helped," Rogerino said.

Although Doggy Adventures is only a part time venture for Rogerino right now, he is looking forward to expanding his cliental and becoming an established business in area.

"It's been greater than I expected as far as relationships with the dogs, it's a really fun job," he said.

For information, call (609) 220-8326 or e-mail: doggyadventures@yahoo.com.