

PETPALS
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Darlington & Tees Valley Newsletter

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Finding a bed and breakfast that is willing to take two Irish wolfhounds as guests is not that easy but Maddie and Quigley's owners managed to do just that. They were so impressed with Low Nest Farm that they told me all about it so I asked if they would like to pass the information on to our readers.

"Low Nest Farm" must be the most dog friendly B&B we have tried so far and we have visited a fair few. Situated just outside of Keswick in the lake district on the A591 Windermere road, it is easy to find and you are immediately aware of the lovely settings and views the farm enjoys. There are fields surrounding the building which has a main house with 4 or 5 rooms and converted stables and barn that provide larger rooms for those like us, who own giant breeds, these have their own front door so allow for easy access. Dogs are allowed in any of the guest rooms and the two smaller lounges, we even had one or two smaller dogs sharing the breakfast room one day as they had protested so loudly at being left. Even large 'parties' of dogs are welcome, ie. Dogs entering for trials or shows have stayed previously.

On arrival the facilities were as promised; large supply of doggy towels, poo bags, treats, blankets for their beds (it seemed ok to let them on furniture too as long as the blankets

Low Nest Farm B&B

were used) and various 'minding' services should you need a dog-free break for a few hours.

Each room has a dedicated kennel located in a converted stable for your dog/s to stay in if required; or if you prefer and can trust your pooch to behave in the room alone they can be left with the agreement of the owners, who checked in on our two when we left to meet friends for lunch.

There is a field just across from the farm for exercising your dogs which was especially useful for early morning or late night walkies, as well as a whole host of other walks that began from Low Nest which meant you could leave your car in the parking area and not get in again until checking out.

Overall, a lovely place to stay for dogs and humans alike- it should be noted that despite being so dog friendly, there was no compromise to the standard of accommodation provided for the two legged guests, we had a huge contemporary bathroom and a settee/tv area with fabulous views down the valley to the mountains from our own front stable door! The tariffs for the dogs have just increased to £3 per dog per night, excellent value for the quality of accommodation.

To find it online www.lownestfarm.co.uk

Ps. Look out for Maddie and Quigleys photo in the guest section. "



You may remember a while ago when Doggie Dazzler mobile groomers made Jasper the cleanest he had ever been since coming to live with us.

Well now they have premises and I got this email from Jude (one of the lovely black Labradors pictured above).

" Hello Petpal Readers,

My name is Jude and with my young friend Jessica we are the official DoggieDazzler salon "meet and greet" dogs. My job is

Doggie Dazzlers

to welcome customers and visitors with a waggy tail, although Jessica has to go one better and greet everyone with a bark!

Since Darren opened for business in September 2008, we have made friends with many Petpals customers who come to visit us. Now that we have a bright and fresh new salon we do not have to stay at home while Darren goes to work.

What makes our grooming salon special is the very personal service every customer gets. Starting with a consultation with the owners to discuss what they want for their doggy, then they can stay and watch the grooming from start to finish if they wish. We have a special bath that uses a shampoo

mix through the showerhead and then a nice warm water rinse. It really gets down through our fur and gets out all those old twigs and other bits we all pick up on our walks. Sometimes customers go off shopping and leave their doggies with us, that is fine as we have individual holding bays where they can wait until their owners come to collect them. Sometimes if they are good, they can play with me and Jessica.

If you would like your owner to bring you to the salon, then ask them to pick up the phone and call us free on 0800 158 3230 or visit our website at www.doggiedazzler.co.uk. We are just off the A66 and have free barking (sorry, I mean parking!) right outside the door.

Testimonials

Many thanks to all the customers who left us testimonials last month. Sal, David and the teams really appreciate the feedback. Anyone still wishing to leave feedback can do so at

www.petpals.com



Hamish and Bramble, two gorgeous springer spaniels would like to share their favourite walk which starts in the village of Low Coniscliffe, just outside of Darlington. They start at one end and do a full loop following the river crossing over the field and then back to where they started. According to them it has everything

a pair of crazy spaniels desire. Firstly, the countryside, lots of wood and bramble thicket. Then there's the river, they both nip down to the beachy area and swim and try to chase ducks. There are loads of rabbit holes and it's always a race to see who can get to the first 3 and then it's bums in the air, tails wagging sometimes for up to 10 minutes at a time. Great fun.

Our favourite walk.

Although the dogs love it, Low Coniscliffe has not always been stress free for their owners.

One New Years Day, 5 years ago, Hamish crossed the frozen river there and got stuck on the other side. His owner had to run across the motorway bridge and down the other side to rescue him only for Hamish to decide he could find a safe place to cross back after all!!!

Doggy day trips

Never having really forgotten her educational roots, Sal decided she would like to go back to school trips out, but not with children, with the regular dogs she and the team walk, so during half term two special days out were organised.

A day beside the sea

An afternoon by the sea at Marske. Philippa and Sal took Gulliver, Hamish, Bramble and Holly for a fun day by the sea, we took hotdogs for treats and a whole bag of toys. However the dogs seemed to enjoy chasing the stones thrown by Gunner's dad the most, whilst splashing in and out of the sea and pools. As you can see by the photos the dogs had a great day.

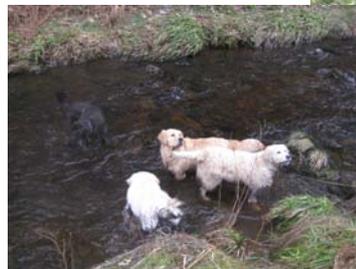


A day at the forest

Then it was off to Hamsterley forest with Gunner, Merlin, Lucy and Benny. Lots of fun mooching through trees sniffing new scents and again water featured heavily

for the bigger dogs with lots of paddling. However Merlin and Lucy preferred to watch from a dry spot!

Another great day!
Watch out for more



day trips during school holidays.



Jasper's Column

Dear Jasper,

My dad has started to work away from Monday to Friday and is only home at weekends. I feel abandoned (even though my mum and Joe look after me really well and I get lots of food, walks and cuddles), so when he comes home on Friday I ignore him and keep it going for most of Saturday. I just make friends with him again, after at least two walks and lots of cuddles when he goes off again on Monday morning for the whole week. Am I doing the right thing ignoring him? I know it upsets him?

Your Abandoned friend Kal x

Dear Kal,

Firstly you must understand that your dad is not abandoning you, he is simply going away to earn money to

keep you in gravy bones. Do you think I went and 'sulked' when Sal stopped taking me out with her every day because she was, (air speech mark with paws), "Too busy"? Well ok, I only sulked for a week or two but we dogs are not called "Mans Best Friend" for nothing, so you must lavish him with licks and kisses the moment he arrives home and then instead of ignoring him, sit close by but allow him to enjoy the company of his human family without being too intrusive.

AHHH, who am I kidding? Milk it for all you can! Watch how he'll try and tempt you with all sorts of nice treats, extra walks and encouragements. Practice sad eyes and deep sighs during the week and reap the rewards over the weekend. Good luck mate!

Love Jasper x

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your best friends friend

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March walkies

Last months beach walk was phenomenally successful with over 30 dogs enjoying a run along the beach at Marske.

For the March walkies we are back to the Cummins/ Maidendale site in Darlington. We are hoping it is not as muddy as last time but please be aware this place does get muddy so wellies or strong walking boots are essential. The advantage for the dogs is that the final part of the walk is relatively clean and the dogs can go for a paddle in one of the many ponds available, for us though the weather is not quite warm enough to warrant a dip.



The walk is technically on the 3rd Sunday of this month as last Sunday was the 1st. **So the 15th March at 10.30 am.**

To find us head for Darlington Retail Park on Yarm Road. Then at the roundabout head down the side of the Cummins plant and park up at the bottom of the road. Travelling from Teesside keep on the A66 bypass and head into Darlington at the Morrisons turn off, straight on at the next roundabout, then turn left as above. For Sat Nav users it's DL1 4PW