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WITH THE RENTALS GUIDE INSIDE



Jill Sell

Yes, contractors are still building new or remodeling existing homes to include additional rooms, suites or even wings for in-laws, adult children, owner get-aways or even rental opportunities. But there is another trend that is popping up. These are pet-centric spaces that literally give your dog a part of your house.

Some pet owners are asking for entire just-for-dog rooms in new construction. Others are changing utility rooms, spare bedrooms, or closets into dog rooms. Owners are asking for special low level shelving on kitchen islands to accommodate dog bowls, and building ramps and special stairs for pets. Grooming stations and dog bathrooms that feature inside "grass" and below-floor sanitary systems are being built for the most pampered of pooches.

Indoor built-in pet "houses" can be clever, attractive and unobtrusive. Owners are creating "rooms" for dogs under window seats, under stairs or under eaves. Rooms are being created in spaces once reserved for pots and pans in kitchen cabinetry, and in living room and bedroom end tables that once held only magazines and newspapers. Stand-alone furniture, including hutches, bookcases, dry sinks, wardrobes, armoires and media centers are being converted into rooms for dogs and cats.

It's handy to have a place for pets where they feel comfortable and where they can still be part of the activity when

Pet-centric spaces are becoming more common in homes



The Jentle Pet spa is available as a soaking tub or as a tub with a whirlpool system. | Photo Credit: MTI Baths

company comes, but when you want them contained. Some owners use spindles, grating or screening at the entry point. Sliding doors take up less room on the "houses." Some clever pet owners build outside entries for pets that open into an indoor pet space with a screened front into a utility room or kitchen.

One of the top-of-the-line grooming pet

products for the new pet-centric space is the Jentle Pet therapeutic spa bath from MTI Baths. An ergonomically designed bathing well is combined with a handheld sprayer and fill spout. Integrated shelves keep towels, shampoo and bathing mitts readily available. The Jentle Pet

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Pet-centric spaces . . .

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mitts readily available. The Jentle Pet is available in two forms. The first is a soaker tub and the second includes a whirlpool system with five full-size point-massage jets, air volume control, a 1-bhp pump, and a cleaning system.

Jentle Pet 1 is 48 inches by 30 inches by 26 inches and is priced from \$1,913 as a soaker to \$3,760 with the whirlpool option. Jentle Pet 2 is for bigger dogs and measures 59.5 inches by 38 inches by 31.5 inches. The soaker tub begins at \$2,584 and the whirlpool version at \$4,290. Twelve different colors are available and hardware finishes include chrome, brushed nickel and oil-rubbed bronze.

The Jentle Pet designers included a re-



The Booster bath is available online from North Coast Pets in Auburn Township and is a convenient way to bathe a dog. | Photo Credit: North Coast Pets

inforced backing with generous insulation that dampens the sound of falling water, which can bother some dogs. The bath and its massage jets are also said to be especially beneficial for dogs recovering from injuries, those with arthritis or sore muscles.

The spa bath is much better than trying to hose off a dog in a kiddie pool outside or sharing your personal bathtub with an unhappy dog that hates baths. But the price tag is certainly steep, although this is a high quality bathroom fixture.

One alternative is the Booster Bath, available in two sizes and online from North Coast Pets in Auburn Township. The pet bathtub's two pieces snap together to provide elevation (no more bending over to wash your pet), containment (it includes a 3-point adjustable leash restraint system) and drainage. Booster Bath Steps are also available for the tub, which can be used indoors or out.

"The best reason to purchase a Booster bath is convenience," said Marc DeSatnik, owner of North Coast Pets. "Take it out of the closet, snap on its legs, bathe the dog, and put it back into the closet."

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Marc DeSatnik, owner of North Coast Pets, built this pet tub room in his home. | Photo Credit North Coast Pets

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