

Press Release



For Immediate Release

Toledo, OH- February 9th, 2012

Toledo Pet Farm

Toledo Pet Farm is a 13,000+ sq.ft. multi-service pet care facility that was launched earlier this year to provide pet daycare, boarding, grooming, photography, fitness/ training and veterinary services, all under one roof. The new pet care facility redeveloped a failed nuisance nightclub and rehabilitated a dilapidated building that was attracting crime and homeless squatters. The pet care facility sits on a 4 acre parcel, back off of Airport Highway, surrounded by woods with its own ½ acre pond, and adjacent to Swan Creek. The pet care facility's plan to build a couple of outdoors training and exercise areas for pets has currently been blocked by the City. As of 2009, the City ordinance disallows pet care facilities to allow any pets to go outside in fenced-in areas within commercial zoned districts. Instead, the City ordinance requires all pets to be kept fully indoors. According to the City ordinance, pets are allowed outdoors only in industrial areas. Although, the pet care facility meets or exceeds all other zoning requirements including setback at least 200 feet from residential properties (Toledo Pet Farm is almost 300 feet), visual & sound buffering (Toledo Pet farm has 280 feet of woods and a ½ acre pond between residents), and outdoor limits on operational hours (only 7am to 7pm), the City will not allow any outdoor areas for the pets..

Recently an appeal to the City's planning commission to rezone the property to "light industrial" in order to comply with the city ordinance for outdoor fenced-in areas, was also defeated. The local owners of the Toledo Pet Farm, which also own a home healthcare company and assisted living facility in Toledo, says they are confused and disappointed by the City's stance on this issue. Several of their neighbors, pet parents and pet advocacy groups agree that dogs need outdoors for optimal exercise and socialization, and should not be confined to the indoors strictly. The governing board states that several pet facilities in Toledo already have outdoor runs despite being zoned commercial as most were built before 2009, and point out that there is enough scientific evidence that strongly recommends outdoors for dogs to optimize health and fitness needs. However, if the City does not grant the facility a waiver or a special use permit, the facility's clients will face an undue hardship and disadvantage whereby they will not be able to avail the right to exercise and enjoy the outdoors as they should be.

The City Council will be hearing the facility's appeal on February 15th, 2012; at around 04:00 pm. Facility staff and supporters have planned to gather in front of One Government Center to advocate for the pets and their rights to be able to use the outdoors at Toledo Pet Farm. The owners of Toledo Pet Farm assures that if granted permission, the outdoor areas will be created in a manner that will serve the right purpose for exercising the dogs under supervision at all times and during its operational hours, and be aesthetically pleasing as well.

About The SAI Group

Toledo Pet Farm is located on 1429 Baronial Plaza, Toledo, OH 43615, and is an affiliate company of The Sohm America Integrations (SAI) Group that has eight other healthcare facilities in Ohio including AmeriCare Home Health of Toledo (est. 2005) and Alpine House of Toledo (est. 2011), an assisted living facility. The group has 297 employees of which 76 (26%) are employed in Toledo. 31 jobs were added in the last year alone. For more information, please visit: www.thesaigroup.org .