

When Becky Caton retired from the military after 27 years of service, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do, the only thing she was sure of, was she loved animals.

For the last seven years she and her husband have taken in rescue dogs and fostered them. Evenually that dedication to caring for abandoned dogs developed into the dream of opening a kennel, thus the idea for Countryside Bed and Biscuit was born.

"This has been my dream for the last five years," Caton said. "The issue has been getting the land. Any land near the highway is so expensive, especially with water attached. My realtor found this land for me. I bought the land in April and it was just yuck, so I started from the ground up."

The facility she has designed and had built is nothing short of a dog -- and cat -- play land.

"We have several different sizes of kennels for the dogs ranging from a few smaller 30x30 kennels to the runs which get as large as 4' by 8' for the larger dogs," Caton said.

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The kennels which sport a variety of bright colors are complimented by a special floor designed to protect the animals that will be walking on it.

"We have a special floor throughout the building that is designed that even if it gets wet it isn't slippery and is not hard on the dog's feet," she said. "The first couple of days after they installed the floor I walked around barefoot for a couple of days to make sure there wasn't a place they could get snagged."

In addition to the spacious room for housing dogs, there is a smaller room designed for kenneling up to four cats, a shower room, an office, entry, a large play room and a huge fenced in back yard.

"We can house up to 42 dogs and four cats," Caton said. "We do have a room set up for a groomer, but I don't have one at this time. But, because I anticipated one day having one I wanted to have the room set up and ready to go."

The large playroom sports tall ceilings, old couches and lots of toys which allows the animals to run and play at will.

"We are not a kennel where our guests are locked in their kennels all day," Caton explained. "Really the only time the dogs are in the kennels is between 10:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. when we are closed for the night. Other than that they are allowed to have free reign of the facility, unless they are not a socialized animal and are not comfortable with the other dogs."

Countryside Bed and Biscuit is open for drop offs from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and with the addition of Caton has several volunteers that help care for the borders.

"We have taken every care to make sure that this facility is

♦ PUPPY HEAVEN continued on page 10

When asked what she most enjoys about her new business, Caton said she loves seeing the animals interact and looks forward to seeing more animals in the facility.

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