

WILTON NEIGHBORS

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Celebrate Summer With the Shiue Family



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Cover photo:
Xenia Gross



Passage East Kennels Loves Wilton Pups

Who:

Passage East Kennels is a full-service, state-licensed canine care facility located in the historic Cannondale neighborhood of Wilton.

What:

Family owned and operated since 2000, the facility provides a home away from home for furry family members. They offer overnight boarding, doggy daycare, professional grooming, and positive training for all breeds in a fun, safe, and stress-free environment.

Why:

Passage East Kennels' unusual name honors the evolution and

migration of man's best friend from Asia over 17,000 years ago. The name is derived from "Passage from the East" which, according to scientists, is where nearly all modern dogs can be traced.

History of the Business:

Passage East Kennels has been a part of the Wilton community since 1976. Owners Joe and Laura Kaddis of Weston purchased the facility from its original owners eighteen years ago with the goal of creating a canine retreat where dogs of all breeds could receive the loving care and service that they deserve. This new facility would also serve as a refuge for homeless dogs looking for forever homes.



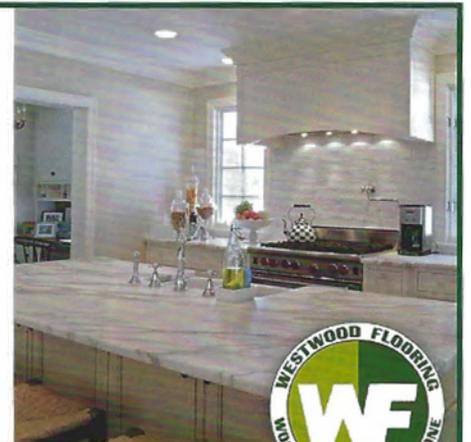
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At the time, the couple had seven rescue dogs of their own, many of which had been abused and needed individual care and rehabilitation to thrive. As active rescue volunteers, Joe and Laura dedicated their passion and resources to giving these special dogs a second chance. While they wanted to do more, they knew the number of dogs they could personally rescue was limited. Furthermore, boarding their pack while traveling was a growing concern, being both difficult and expensive to find a kennel equipped to offer the specialized attention their dogs needed.

When their local vet, Dr. Noonan of Weston, told them there was a kennel for sale in Wilton, they realized they could fulfill a need in the community and help even more homeless dogs in the process.

Today, Passage East is proud to have played an active role in helping dogs find loving homes for nearly two decades. All ten of the Passage East staff members share Joe and Laura Kaddis' love of dogs and passion for rescue.



Visit Passage East and there are a couple faces you are likely to see at any given time. General Manager Fawn Holden's passion for animal care began at a very young age. Starting with horses, she spent years showing, training, and managing operations at various equine facilities in Connecticut. In 2006 she changed course and enrolled in the Connecticut School of Dog Grooming.

After graduating, she came to Passage East Kennels and spent several years growing the company's grooming business and building an impressive following of loyal clients. She also worked extensively in the kennel caring for Passage East's boarding and rescue dogs. Her training and experience made her the perfect candidate for the role of general manager, and she was promoted to the position in 2012. While her responsibilities running the busy facility are numerous, the clients who swear by her (and their dogs) are happy that she continues her work as a groomer at Passage East today.

Kennel Manager Katrina Knebel has 15 years of experience working with animals. She received an Associate's degree in Animal Care from Becker College in 2007, where she took classes in kennel management, animal behavior, obedience, grooming, and veterinary science, among

others. Katrina managed both social, pack based, and veterinary kennels before starting at Passage East in 2013. Her passion for canine care, ability to communicate effectively with dogs, and innate talent for reading and interpreting their body language make her an irreplaceable asset to Passage East and an ally and friend to all guests.

Biggest Inspirations in the Job/Favorite Things About the Business:

"We love when nervous dogs grow more comfortable and well-adjusted as a result of the personalized attention, care, and training they receive at Passage East. Whether they come to us for grooming, daycare, boarding, or training, watching a dog progress and succeed by learning social skills, adapting to their environment, and really having fun and enjoying their experience is incredibly rewarding and why we come to work each day. When a dog is as happy to arrive here as they are to go home, we know we've done our job right," says Passage East employee Jessica Sanchez. "Finding new homes for our adoptable dogs is another goal of ours, and we're never happier than when we're about to match a dog with a loving person or family. We're lucky to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many dogs and their owners," she adds.

Fun Facts:

Passage East Kennels was featured in the 2009 Disney film "Old Dogs," starring Robin Williams and John Travolta. It was renamed "The Lazy Pooch Dog Hotel" for a scene where Travolta is filmed picking up his dog.

Do you have a special message to share with the neighborhood or community? We've been happy to be part of this community for 18 years now, and love how much Wilton loves and cares for their dogs.

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