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Bathing man's best friend just got a little bit easier and little more comfortable thanks to Happy Tails Self-Serve Dog Wash located on Cotuit Road next to Anchor Hardware. Boasting the motto, "where smart dogs drag their owners," the place is both pet and people friendly. With hand painted murals on the walls depicting happy dogs splashing it up in tubs and towel hooks that look like a canine's back end, owner Christopher A. Quinn considered all of the details when planning this new business.

Like its name says, Happy Tails is a do it yourself dog wash where owners don't have to battle to get their best friend into the bathtub. And bringing the dog to a facility outside of the home definitely cuts down on the wear and tear of the house, Mr. Quinn pointed out. He said one of the benefits for customers who use his facility that dogs leave clean and owners don't have to deal with fur in the drains or a wet dog running through the house. Looking more like a spa than a grooming facility, with five individual bath tubs separated by tiled walls, (after all the dogs may want their privacy), the tubs are constructed a little differently than traditional ones in that there are steps for the dogs to use to enter the tub rather than ramps. "A lot of dogs, especially larger ones, are afraid of the ramps and then the owner ends up having to lift the dog up to get him in the tub," Mr. Quinn explained.

Moreover, he pointed out, that while the tubs are deep enough to hold a dog up to 250 pounds, the owners don't have to bend over to shampoo and clean the animal. There are also tables that fit over the tub for smaller dogs.

At a cost of just \$17 for a basic wash, owners are provided with all of the tools and supplies they need to get their four legged friends squeaky clean. From grooming brushes to shampoo to conditioner to ear cleaning wipes and even clippers to trim up the claws, all the customer has to bring in is a dirty dog. "We try to supply it all, whatever they might need," Mr. Quinn said.

With the water temperature set at a maximum 98 degrees, dogs no longer have to endure cold water from the garden hose when they are bathed. Mr. Quinn explained that the water temperature will not go above 98 degrees because dogs cannot endure hot water, but said customers have the option to lower the temperature.

A large industrial size blow dryer ensures that the fur is dry when the canine leaves the premises. Mr. Quinn explained that these dryers do not blow hot air because that could be harmful to the dogs.

For customers who aren't as skilled with bathing their dog or clipping nails, Mr. Quinn said he or a member of his staff are happy to lend a hand or offer advice.

A deluxe package, the Breeders Choice, includes the basic wash but also offers specialty shampoos, the use of a nail grinder, and even a disposable toothbrush.

Mr. Quinn even took into consideration that some dogs are more than just friends; they are working dogs. The services for these dogs are offered at half price.

Happy Tails opened this past weekend and by Tuesday, Mr. Quinn estimated that 30 dogs had already visited the facility. And the reviews have been very good. "We had one dog who just howled the whole time he was having his bath. He loved it," Mr. Quinn said.

A security consultant, Mr. Quinn said he has been kicking around the idea of opening this business for a long time. The hardest part, he said, was finding just the right location for such a facility. He said he saw businesses like this when he lived in southern parts of the country and knew that one was needed here. He researched every aspect of this business and tried to take into consideration what services his customers would want from such a business. "I wanted this to be something that both the dogs and their owners would enjoy," he said.

Beyond washing dogs, Mr. Quinn also offers a laundering service for pet beds. He has an industrial size washer and dryer that will accommodate large dog beds.

While Mr. Quinn oversees the business part of this new venture, his wife, Michelle A. Quinn, handles the administrative work. Although their children, seven-year-old Cameron J., five-year-old Kylee A., and one-year-old Cian P. are a bit too young to work at Happy Tails right now, Mr. Quinn said he envisions this becoming a business that the whole family can contribute to.

Although the facility is targeted at giving customers the freedom to bathe the dogs themselves, Happy Tails does offer a Drop Off service, but that is offered by appointment only.