

Sun-Golden Kennels provides close eye and comfort for dogs

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Lakes Edition

There are dog people, and then there are Mike and Sharon Long. Walking through the grooming station of Sun-Golden Kennels, which the Long family owns, you could accidentally walk into their own home, as the two are separated by a single doorway. This stands as an accurate example for the business' dedication to boarding and breeding local canines.

Sharon attended many weekend dog shows while still in high school. She even told her father, "I'm going to own a kennel one day." "I remember he said 'Good luck with that,'" recalled Long, laughing. "He's my number one PR guy now though."

And there's good reason for him to be, as since 2008 when Sun-Golden Kennels opened, the Longs have grown their company comfortably. "We're exactly where we want to be now," she said.

The Rock County business now offers not only boarding, daycare and grooming, they also make use of their full-size, in-ground pool. Sun-Golden offers fun swims, a more freestyle use of the pool (and one owners can even join their dogs in) and therapy sessions, where Mike

and Sharon Long, both trained from private instruction, oversee dogs using the pool for recuperative purposes. After surgeries, swimming exercises can help animals regain strength and muscle mass without impact. In fact, veterinarians often recommend these sessions and the Longs work with pets and their doctors on specific routines.

And this attention to detail is something Sun-Golden Kennels prides itself upon. While the boarding facility can't match the capacity of larger operations (although they can still house up to 12 dogs), this affords the business the ability to give extra care and attention to each animal.

Not only are pool sessions personally supervised, but playtime for dogs, which is watched over by an employee on the company's completely-fenced, three-acre yard (and often is charged for in other kennels) is free at Sun-Golden. They also never charge for dispensing a dog's own food or medication.

Additionally, with regularly-returning dogs, the Longs are often able to accommodate boarding room on short notice.

It's this level of care that has pet parents coming back to Sun-Golden Kennels with fre-

quency and positive results. The Longs tell a story of a local dog — a regular boarder — who, before staying at the Fulton kennel, was required to wear a muzzle and did not interact well with others. After spending time at Sun-Golden, though, Mike and Sharon recall the moment they were able to bring this same dog back to his owners, muzzle-free.

"We focus a lot on socialization," said Mike Long, who added that often, dogs are able to resolve social issues they have in a setting like Sun-Golden.

Located south of Edgerton inside Fulton Township, the boarding facility was built next to several small farm properties, and the pristine, rural setting lends an air of calm to not only the people present, but undoubtedly the canine boarders as well.

So whether your pet requires somewhere to stay while you take that vacation, or some physical therapy after an injury or surgery, Sun-Golden Kennels is the place to be.

"Our lives have gone to the dogs," joked Sharon Long, noticing how close her family kitchen stands to the kennels. For Edgerton-area dog owners, though, this definitely isn't a bad thing.



Mike and Sharon Long's lives have gone to the dogs. And they wouldn't have it any other way. Here they are shown with Buff-it and Breaker at their business, Sun-Golden Kennels. (Submitted photo)



Sun-Golden Kennels offers their canine clients a three-acre, completely-fenced yard in which to romp. (Submitted photo)

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Doggie Day Care

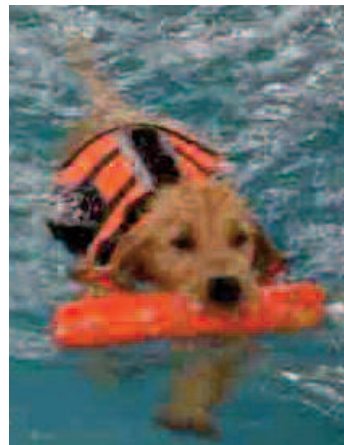
Full Day: 1st Dog \$22 +tax,

2nd Dog (Same House) \$15 + tax

5, 15 & 30-day passes available at discount.

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR:

- Extra potty breaks
- Administering medication
- Play time in the large yard



Sun-Golden Kennels

7812 LONGVIEW COURT, EDGERTON • 608-884-4000

HOURS OF OPERATION

Drop-Off or Pick-Up

Mon-Fri: 7:30-10 a.m. OR 4:30-7 p.m.

Saturday: 8-10 a.m. OR 4-6 p.m.

Sunday: 4-6 p.m.

Whether it's **chasing a ball** with a buddy, going for a brisk or leisurely **walk in the countryside**, kicking back in their comfy **home away from home** to **chew on a bone**, your pet will find something to enjoy while a guest of **Sun-Golden Kennels**.