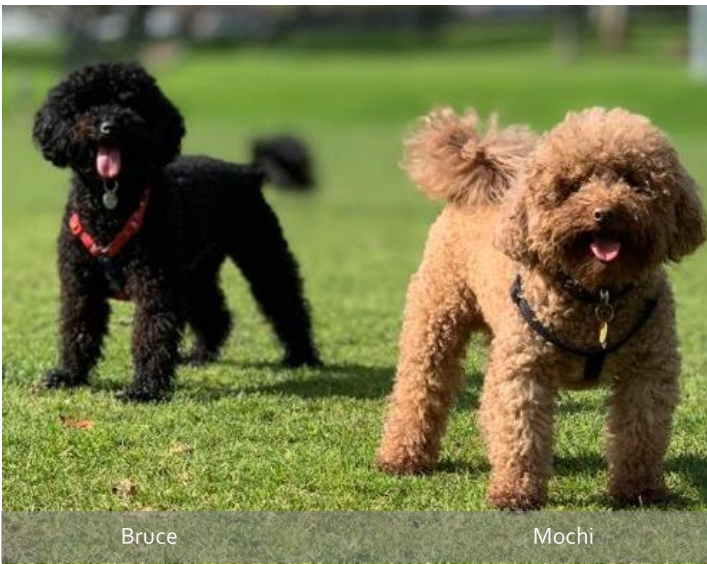
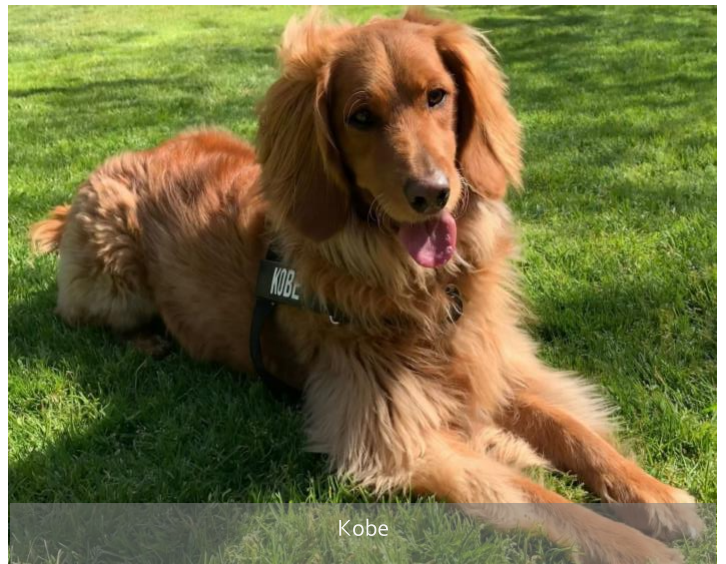


Parker



Bruce

Mochi

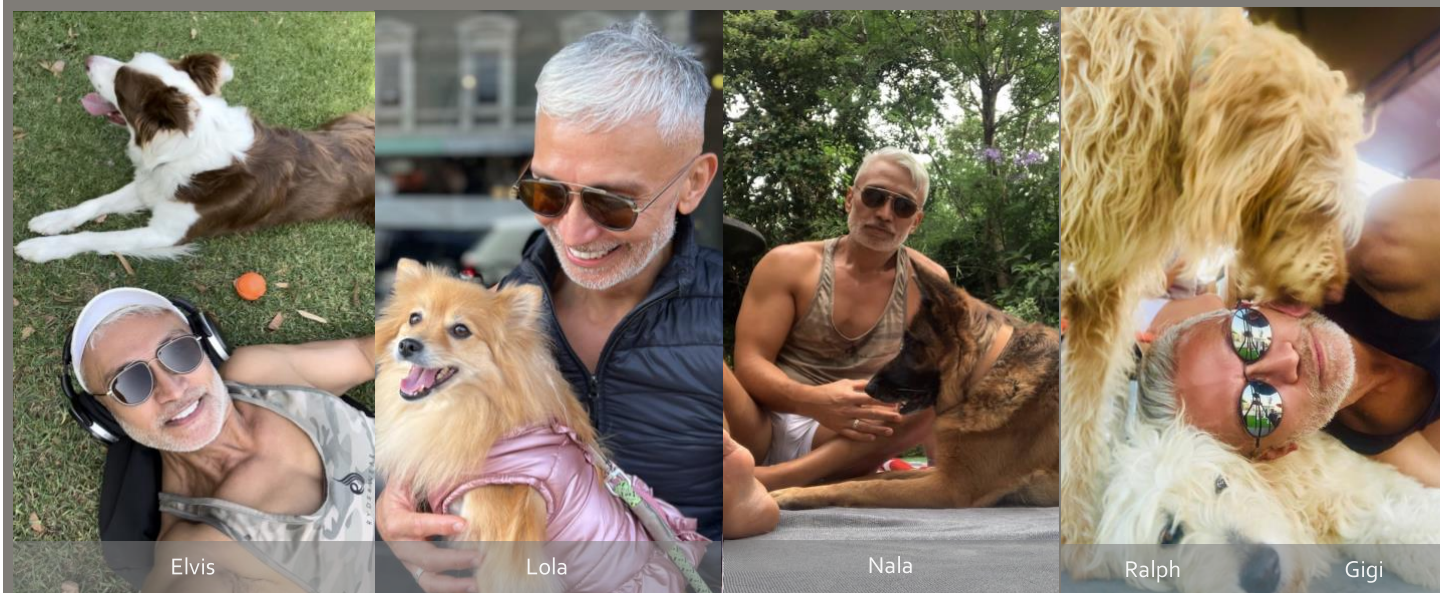


Kobe

These are just a few of my long-term pup clients

Welcome to Huggle & Smoosh!

I provide expert care, training, and enrichment in a safe, loving environment tailored to your pup's needs. With years of experience and a deep connection to animals, you can rest assured your furry family member will be treated like they're part of my own.



Elvis

Lola

Nala

Ralph

Gigi

These are just a few of my long-term pup clients

Welcome to Huggle & Smoosh!

Thank you contacting me about pup services for your pup! I know how nerve-wracking and tricky it can be to find the right person to care for your furry family member whether its daycare, PupStaycation or daily walks, especially if it's the first time. Rest assured, with me your pup will be treated with the same love, care, and attention they receive at home—If not more! My goal is to provide a safe, stimulating, and engaging environment where your pup not only feels at home but thrives.

At Huggle & Smoosh, I like to think of your pup's stay as their very own getaway—a PupStaycation—in a gorgeous pup-safe garden filled with enriching experiences, fun activities and plenty of Huggle's & Smooshes, While you get on with what you need to do whether its work, shopping dining out with friends or getting away for a well-deserved break, you can relax knowing that your pup are having the time of their life.



PupStaycation Paradise



About Me and My Experience

A Lifetime of Connection with Animals

My love for animals began in childhood on a farm in New Zealand's North Island. Surrounded by my pet animals Daisy the cow, Baabaa the goat, and Nelson the sheep, I learned how to care for creatures of all kinds from an early age. These formative experiences gave me an intuitive understanding of animals' needs and behaviors. Over the years, this connection has continued to deepen through experience—friends often call me a "Dog Whisperer" or "Cat Whisperer" because of my uncanny ability to bond with pets quickly.

I've also been surrounded by pets my entire life and have an affinity for cats, dogs, and even newborn animals. I no longer have pets of my own, with my last 3 pets living way beyond their years. My Australian Terrier 'Lord Edward Woodward Teddington (Ted)' lived to 18, my cat Lucy (Oriental Shorthair) was 22 and pup Charleston (Charlie) Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (CKCS) was just shy of 18.

My lifelong passion with animals inspired me to volunteer as a child raising funds for the RSPCA and later at organizations such as the Lost Dogs' Home in North Melbourne and Save-A-Dog in Malvern. These experiences reinforced my commitment to animal welfare and shaped my approach to pet care.

Professional Background

My diverse professional background has equipped me with valuable skills that enhance my ability to care for animals:

- **Behavioural Psychology Degree:** During my undergraduate studies in psychology, I focused on animal behavior, including operant conditioning and positive reinforcement techniques. These scientifically backed methods are essential in shaping behavior while fostering trust and confidence in pets. For example, I learned how easy it was to train a chicken to peck a button to feed itself—a lesson that taught me the importance of breaking tasks into small steps and rewarding desired behaviors consistently. This principle informs all my training sessions today.

- **Masterclass in Dog Training:** I completed a masterclass with Brandon McMillan, an Emmy Award-winning animal trainer known for his work on the show *Lucky Dog*. His training philosophy emphasizes building trust through clear communication and positive reinforcement while focusing on mastering seven essential commands: sit, stay, down, come, off, heel, and no. This structured approach ensures dogs are well-behaved while maintaining their individuality and joy.

- **Fitness:** I love keeping fit and my experience as a fitness instructor in my past life ensures that pups receive appropriate physical activity tailored to their energy levels and breed-specific needs.

- **Live-In Personal Carer / Pet Therapy in Aged Care:** This role, with Charlie (CKCS) by my side, provided much need pet therapy at Mercy Place Aged Care facility in East Melbourne. This experience honed my empathy, patience, and ability to provide personalized care and pet therapy—qualities that translate seamlessly into caring for your pet today.

Trusted Reputation Across Melbourne

My clients come from all over Melbourne—from Daylesford to Sorrento on the Mornington Peninsula—but I like to focus more on local pups in Toorak. Pup clients include a wide variety of breeds such as oodles (poodle mixes), spaniels, schnauzers, golden retrievers, German shepherds, Brussels griffons, and more. Whether it's a high-energy pup or a senior dog needing extra care, I am not only committed but have a wealth of experience in providing exceptional service tailored to your pet's unique needs.

About Pupstay at Huggle & Smoosh

What You Can Expect

At Huggle & Smoosh, with limited number of 4 pups per day we go above and beyond to ensure your pup has an unforgettable stay filled with love, enrichment, and fun including:

Personalized Care

Every pet is unique. I tailor feeding schedules, exercise routines, and enrichment activities to suit your pup's specific needs. Whether they love long walks or prefers quiet cuddle sessions on the couch, their stay will be designed around their preferences.

Training Sessions

I incorporate techniques inspired by experts like Brandon McMillan and my academic studies in psychology:

- **Positive reinforcement** ensures that desired behaviors are rewarded consistently.
- **Operant conditioning** helps dogs learn through clear cause-and-effect relationships (e.g., sitting leads to ~~treats~~ 'praise').
- **My training sessions** focus on mastering basic commands (sit, stay, come) while incorporating fun activities like retrieving toys or solving puzzles.

These methods create a foundation of trust between me and your pup while helping them build confidence.

Enrichment Activities

Your pup will enjoy a variety of enrichment activities designed to stimulate their mind and body:

- **Interactive Games:** Activities like fetch or tug-of-war keep them physically active while reinforcing positive behaviors like retrieving items or responding to commands.
- **Puzzle Toys:** Toys such as Kongs filled with peanut butter or sweet pumpkin challenge and encourage their problem-solving skills.
- **Outdoor Adventures:** Walks in nature provide sensory stimulation through new sights, smells, and sounds.
- **Quiet Time:** Cuddle sessions offer emotional bonding and relaxation after active play.

Companionship & Emotional Support

Dogs thrive on companionship. During their staycation at Huggle & Smoosh, your pup will never feel lonely or neglected. Activities include:

- **One-on-one** attention tailored specifically to their personality.
- **Socialization** opportunities with other well-behaved dogs (if appropriate).
- **Calm energy** throughout their stay—dogs respond best when they feel secure around someone who radiates confidence and warmth.

Research shows that dogs form strong bonds through consistent interaction, routine activities, and positive reinforcement—all of which are central to my approach.

Pupdates During Their Stay

While your pup enjoys their staycation at Huggle & Smoosh, whether it's long-term short-term or daycare you'll receive occasional updates via text or short videos showing your pup at play or relaxing. If desired, you can add daily updates (including photos or videos) for an additional fee.

Please note that for long term staycations some owners have requested FaceTime calls with their pups; however, research (and experience) suggests this can confuse dogs. Hearing your voice without seeing you may lead them to search for you or run to the door expecting you to arrive (depending on breed). My priority is ensuring your pup are calm and happy during their stay.

Building Trust & Bonding

The first few hours of your pup's stay are crucial for building trust:

1. **Getting Acquainted:** I allow your pup time to explore their new surroundings at their own pace while observing their body language for cues about their comfort level.
2. **Establishing Routine:** Dogs find comfort in routine; by mimicking their home schedule as closely as possible (e.g., feeding times), helps them settle in quickly.
3. **Positive Reinforcement:** Using positive reinforcement, playfulness and toys as rewards helps your pup associate me—and their new environment—with positive experiences.
4. **Calm Energy:** Dogs are highly intuitive; they respond best to calm yet confident energy—a principle I've mastered through years of experience.

Why Choose Me?

- I see myself not just as a pet carer but as an extension of your family.
- My approach combines science-backed training techniques with genuine love and empathy for animals.
- Pet owners often tell me their pets return home happier, better behaved, and more confident after staying with me.
- Your pup will enjoy their own holiday filled with fun activities tailored specifically for them—so you can relax knowing they're in safe hands!

Thank You

Thank you for considering me with the care of your pup pup!

It's a pleasure to welcome you and your pup into the Huggle & Smoosh family. By choosing Huggle & Smoosh, you are not just ensuring your pup receives exceptional care; you are also allowing us to become a part of your extended family.

We look forward to sharing heaps of pawesome antics with you and your pup!

