



Small Business Development Centers

Success Story Adventure Mountain Dog Park and Boarding



It's true what they say, "dogs are man's best friend." This is especially true for Steve and Kathy Ball, owners of Adventure Mountain Dog Park, an indoor/outdoor dog park in Galion, Ohio, 18 miles west of Mansfield, Ohio.

After 18 years of rescuing dogs, the Balls decided to open a dog adventure center, complete with play equipment, large fenced-in areas, a retail store, and more. Steve and Kathy are passionate about dogs, but had little to no business experience.

For help with their business plan, they turned to Michalina Lacy, a business advisor at the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at North Central State College. Michalina helped Steve and Kathy develop a business plan and find financing.

Two years later, they opened their doors. With indoor boarding kennels, daycare, and an adventure play set, every dog feels right at home.

Adventure Mountain Dog Park offers eight acres of outdoor play areas along with individual yards for each dog's safety. While the outdoor dog park is seasonal, the indoor kennels and daycare remain open all year round.

"We don't like to put dogs in kennels all day and just leave them there," said Steve. "We've got a structured schedule, with several hours of play included. We've got guests who come in here and wonder if there are dogs in kennels at all."

Since opening in 2016, they have hired four part-time employees who help care for the dogs.

"The SBDC was great with helping us create a business plan. For a startup, this is very, very important," Steve said. "When bankers and lenders find out you're working with an SBDC it's a very positive thing."

Adventure Mountain Dog Park encourages man and his best friend to join in on the fun with all their furry friends. And that's not far-fetched at all.

For more information about the Adventure Mountain Dog Park and Boarding, visit [facebook.com/Adventuremountaindogpark2016](https://www.facebook.com/Adventuremountaindogpark2016).

Galion, Ohio



For more information about Ohio Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) programs and resources, visit: sbdc.development.ohio.gov



Development Services Agency

John R. Kasich, Governor

David Goodman, Director



U.S. Small Business Administration