The 'Perfect' Fit For Senior Pet Owners

Pet-friendly community welcomes residents' furry friends

BY PATTI DIPANFILO
Volusia Health Care News

In 2015, Scarlott Gleeson rescued a scared Shih Tzu pup named Buddy and brought him into her home, where she cared for him and loved him. In July of this year, Scarlott moved into a senior living community.

The community she chose is Villa Grande on Saxon, an independent apartment community for people ages 62 and older in Orange City, and she chose it in part because Buddy was welcomed.

"There were several reasons I chose Villa Grande on Saxon, and the fact that they allow pets was one of them," Scarlott confirms. "I certainly did not want to give up my dog, and they made me feel very comfortable about that from the start. It's been perfect ever since."



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Scarlott rescued Buddy in December 2015. She's been caring for him and loving him ever since, and she says Buddy is "extremely comfortable" in their home at pet-friendly Villa Grande on Saxon.

Barbara Hilton, property operations manager at Villa Grande on Saxon, says being pet-friendly allows residents to make their apartments truly feel like home. The staff at the community helps make pets feel welcomed.

"Pets are members of the family," Barbara says. "They're also very good for the residents. They're stress relievers and great companions, and they're valued here. Pets are very therapeutic.

"I have two small dogs myself, and they're great conversation icebreakers. People tend to stop and talk to other people who have pets, so they bring together residents who might not otherwise talk to each other."

Each month, Villa Grande on Saxon showcases a "Pet of the Month" to highlight the many pets that are living in the community.

"This is very popular because our pet parents are very proud," Barbara says. "We keep treats in the clubhouse for the dogs. Residents like to bring their dogs down to the lobby, where we give them the treats."

Barbara says people feel more at home when their pets are with them, and this makes the entire community a happy place. Scarlott notes that Villa Grande on Saxon is so pet-friendly that it offers amenities designed to keep residents' pets happy and healthy as well.

"They've built really nice areas for pet walks, and they provide little trash cans specifically for our fur babies when they do their business, so everything is very clean and orderly," she says. "They also have a sidewalk all the way around the property, and that's where my little guy likes to go. It takes about 15 minutes to walk around the building, and it's a really pleasant walk. Buddy sure enjoys it."

Villa GRANDE on SAXON

To Learn MORE

Independent Living at Its Best

Experience the best in upscale living and the comforting simplicity of maintenance-free living at Villa Grande on Saxon, an independent apartment community for people ages 62 and older. For more information or to schedule a tour, call, email or stop by the community.

» **Where:** 450 Alessandra Circle, Orange City, FL
» **Phone:** (386) 774-1234
» **Website:** VillaGrandeOnSaxon.com

Scarlott says she does her part to keep Buddy well-groomed. Every four weeks, he gets a bath and a haircut, she says, and she makes sure that he's up to date with all his heartworm, flea and tick medications and shots.

"The bottom line is, I want Buddy to be comfortable, and he's become very comfortable and happy in our new home," she exudes. "You can tell if your little fur baby is happy or not, and Buddy is a healthy, happy little guy." ■