

IN THE DOGHOUSE

Forget the dog dwellings you thought you knew — these pooches are living it up alongside their owners

It used to be that a doghouse conjured images of shoddy wooden shelters in the back yard. But fleeting are the days when a dog's digs were restricted to the outdoors.

Pet owner Paula Leone has a view that's increasingly common.

"My dogs are wherever I am, so my dogs are only outside when I'm outside," she says, "and if I'm inside, then they're inside with me."

Letting Rover room with you, however, can mean more wear and tear on

your home, resulting in scuffed floors, chipped paint, and spotted carpets.

Some pet owners are now taking a proactive approach to preserving their homes by redesigning them with their dogs in mind, giving a whole new meaning to the term "doghouse."

This growing home design trend may seem preposterous to some, but to pet owners like Leone, it's just plain practical. She fosters dogs in her home and owns three pooches of her own, so she decided to make her home more dog



ROBERT OLIVICH

Leone (left) and Reese spent about a month formulating a design plan for the kitchen. Leone says she and her three dogs, Julius, Cleo and Reggie, couldn't be happier with the result.

friendly last year.

"Having dogs indoors isn't easy, and your house is bound to endure some damage, especially if you have a puppy," she says. "Rather than worrying about fixing damages, I'd rather just have a house that can endure all my dogs."

Leone says she gave her kitchen a major overhaul by recruiting Mary Kathryn Reese of Kitchen Design Concepts.

Reese says before any nails were hammered, some serious thought had to be given to Leone's lifestyle.

"When people do kitchens, they ought not be cookie cutter kitchens," she explains. "Each person has different needs, which leads to different design decisions. If you're going to invest, you might as well get it right."

In Leone's case, getting it right meant durable paint on the walls,

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Dear North Dallas Neighbor,

Over the last 12 years, I have spent countless hours serving the community. I have helped train hundreds of neighborhood leaders as President and board member of the Dallas Homeowners League. I have served on the boards of the Northhaven Park and Park Royal Neighborhood Association as well as Keep Dallas Beautiful. I have fought to keep liquor stores away from schools, testified before the legislature, lobbied City Council and otherwise advocated for strong Dallas neighborhoods. I also worked with the City of Dallas to design the Cox Lane Park to make it one we could all enjoy.

My family has grown to truly love this area. I am active with our six year old twins in the YMCA guides and princesses program, and both play soccer at Town North YMCA. My wife Heather was active in the North Dallas Early Childhood PTA. Five years ago, I was elected to the Dallas County School Board. Many of you helped win that election. I need your help again as I run for judge to bring fairness, Dignity and respect to the Dallas County Courthouse. Our campaign is gaining momentum as we head into the home stretch, including a recent endorsement from the Dallas Chapter of the National Education Association (NEA). To learn more, visit www.electhoffman.com and tell your friends to **vote for Martin Hoffman on November 7th!**

Sincerely,

Martin Hoffman
 Candidate for the 68th District Court of Dallas County

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so they chose flat, washable brands. And for the trim, they used oil-based semi-gloss paint because it's especially resistant.

Next, Leone says some thought was given to the floor.

"I knew I didn't want a highly polished surface because dogs, especially older ones, are afraid of shiny floors because they're not steady on their feet."

Instead, the kitchen floors were done in Lyptus, a hard Eucalyptus wood blend made by Weyerhaeuser.

"It looks like cherry wood but it's as hard as a rock, so it's perfect for dogs," Leone says.

Leone also floored other parts of her home with travertine, a resistant stone tile. And exceptionally thin grout lines make for easier cleaning.

Reese says pet friendly design requests like this are becoming more and more common.

"People are thinking of their dogs as family now, and they don't want the hassle of having something that's not going to work for them."

Leone says her new kitchen certainly works for her and her dogs, and she's pleased to know the home design industry is finally recognizing there's a market for pet friendly homes, yet she does have one small complaint.

"I haven't figured out how to keep wet nose marks off the windows, so I'm still waiting for the industry to create a solution to that."