

Happy Pawz Playground

You Leave 'em, we love 'em!

Amy has always been a dog lover. For the past two years, while Amy worked full time at the industrial distribution company specializing in logistics, she was also helping other people care for their dogs by visiting their pets and taking them for walks. She realized that there were many people that needed help with their pets.

When Amy lost her job, she wasted no time in pursuing her dream of starting her own business and opening "**Happy Pawz Playground**" dog daycare and grooming salon. Amy's goal was to create a place in which she could take care of the owner's dogs and where their pets would be safe, happy, healthy and well socialized.

Amy confesses to feeling a bit confused early on in her business startup, as she did not know how to transition from her job to owning her own business. To resolve these doubts, her sister Jennifer Machu, recommended that she seek help at the Illinois SBDC WIU QC because her sister had already contacted and received help from the Illinois SBDC WIU QC.

Amy states, "The Illinois SBDC WIU QC was very helpful with so many things. For example, the Illinois SBDC WIU QC was extremely helpful when it came time to put together her business plan, I had no idea what was involved. Ann stepped in and helped with all sorts of census information for her business plan. The Illinois SBDC WIU QC was also very helpful in connecting with the right people when it came time to apply for her business licenses with the Illinois department of AG. Most importantly, Illinois SBDC WIU QC (especially Ann) always had such good words of encouragement that kept that momentum going." In Amy's words, "I can't say enough good things about Ann she even came to our open house, which was amazing."

Happy Pawz Playground is growing with more dogs attending daycare every day and a full-time groomer on premise. The next generation of entrepreneurs have also started as both adult daughter Linsey and Amy's 17-year-old son Nathan, have been heavily involved in Happy Pawz helping with marketing, IT issues, maintenance and decorating.

Amy sends a message to all those entrepreneurs who dream of starting their small business, "If you don't risk it, you will never know the result. You have to take things one day at a time and sometimes hour after hour. I could never have done all of this without the help and support of so many people, especially my husband and our great small-town community of Port Byron Illinois.

Looking for a happy place for your pet- please check out



[Happy Pawz Playground.](#)



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