

Pet Palaces

Copley News Service

Some doghouses are dog mansions.

Animal Manors is a New York business that specializes in imaginatively designed luxury pet houses that cost anywhere from \$400 to \$10,000.

The company has created mini-chateaus for French poodles, mini-English manor houses for setters and mini-chalets — complete with window boxes — for

mountain dogs.

For fastidious felines, there is a Spanish colonial house with a colonnade or an avant-garde Memphis-style purr-pad with faux malachite veneer.

According to Cannon Garber, an animal lover who founded Animal Manors in 1985, most animals find a place they make their own — even if it is behind the bed or on one particular piece of furniture. She feels a pet's own house should

be designed with its preferences in mind.

For example, cats who love to climb enjoy a house with a jungle gym on top. Dogs who live outdoors in the winter appreciate a heated house and, in the summer, one that is air conditioned.

Not all pet experts agree that animals need fancy houses. One

veterinarian observed that an elaborate doghouse does more for the owner's ego than it does for the dog.

So don't feel bad if Fifi or Fido has to put up with your lumberyard-built one-room cottage, no view. Chances are, he or she will never know what might have been.

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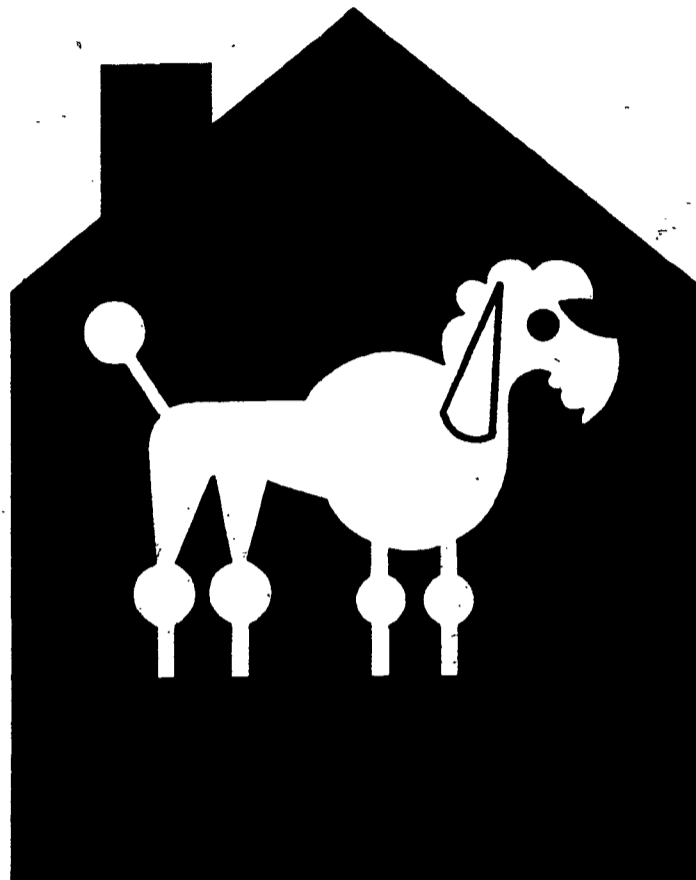
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