



**An Enterprise Zone Success Story:**  
*Pet Camp*  
*San Francisco, California*

Virginia Donohue and Mark Klaiman used to have 9-to-5 careers, but then they decided to pursue their dream of bringing their dogs to work every day. In May 1997 they opened Pet Camp in the Bay View area of San Francisco and in October 2007 they opened Cat Safari in the Presidio, which is designed just for cats. With play sessions, a pool for dogs, and different bathing options, Pet Camp and Cat Safari are full service pet care facilities.

Starting out with just two employees, the company now has 20 employees all of whom receive health, dental, vision and retirement benefits. Many of the workers at Pet Camp are seasonal employees, based on the increased need for services during the summer months when owners tend to be away from their pets more often. For many Pet Camp employees this is the first time that they have received health benefits as a part-time employee.

Ms. Donohue says the Enterprise Zone has been instrumental in enabling her to hire more employees, pay good wages and offer a comprehensive benefit package. “We put a lot of emphasis on hiring locally,” says Ms. Donohue. “All of the money we have saved from participating in the Enterprise Zone Program we have reinvested in our company, which directly benefits the employees.”

As a family owned and operated business, Pet Camp strives to be both an environmentally and socially responsible company. Pet Camp is a certified Green Business by the City and County of San Francisco and is one of the largest privately financed solar power systems in the City. To trim their energy consumption they have converted all of their light fixtures to fluorescents and converted their pressure washers, pool heater and filter so that they use less electricity.

At Cat Safari, there is a greenhouse to give urban-indoor cats a chance to play in the great outdoors. What the cats don’t know is that on the cooler days, when the greenhouse air gets warm, they use the warmth generated in the greenhouse to heat the building.

