



Source: Wakefield Express
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Friday 5, January 2007
Page: 8
Area: 356 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 33149 Weekly
BRAD info: page rate £3,754.50, scc rate £7.53
Phone: 01924 375 111
Keyword: Barking Mad

> durrants

Postcards from a dog holiday home

SOME people say the best thing about being a grandparent is being able to hand the children back at the end of the day.

Now, thanks to an entrepreneurial animal lover, there is a canine equivalent for people in Wakefield.

It wasn't until Jan Radford, 42, of Durkar, faced the dilemma of where to leave her dog while she was on holiday that she found the solution – and a new career.

She said: "I didn't want to leave my dog in a kennel, but in the end I had no alternative and I knew it was something that I didn't want to do again."

So Mrs Radford contacted **Barking Mad** – a home-from-home service for dogs – and since January 2006 has been running the Wakefield-based franchise.

She added: "I loved the scheme from the outset, I thought it was a fantastic concept to be able to go on holiday, knowing your pet was being well looked after and cared for.

"It's also great that the host family reap the benefits too by having a little four-legged companion in the comfort of their own homes, when it suits them."

Now Mrs Radford is looking for more host families to give a dog a good holiday home.

She said: "Every dog returns home with a postcard of what they have been doing while their owners were away.

"Some host families even take dogs to the Dales or on trips to Whitby, with the owners' permission, so the dog gets a holiday too."

"By becoming Barking Mad host families, people all across the region are making a great social network in their local community.

"Many dogs have a trial stay with a host family. When they return home, their owners can see their dog is happy and this puts their mind at ease."

For information, contact Barking Mad on 015242 76476 or Mrs Radford on 01924 258792, or e-mail info@barkingmad.uk.com

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE: Jan Radford, with her dog Buddy, is looking for families to look after people's dogs. w6920a701

