



▶ Malloy in front of the goods at Bark Place.

To Bark up the right tree



Doggy toys

- ◆ Boston pet store also serves as a place for grooming and for daycare
- ◆ If organic products are good for you, they're good for your little friend

Bark Place owner Kathi Malloy calls her pet store “a dog spa and boutique,” but this canine emporium-plus is as much about health and education as it is a pom-pom cut or a squeaky chew toy. In January, Malloy launches a free Saturday series, Healthy Hounds, which focuses on educating two-legged animals on adopting a healthier lifestyle for their pets.

“We’re passionate about what we do,” says Malloy. “We’re all-natural, with a fo-

cus on organic products. If they’re better for us, then they’re better for our dogs, too, right?”

Bark Place opened in 2009 and Malloy originally intended on running a store that simply sold quality products. They end-



Pastries for your pooch

ed up with a store, a DIY dog wash and grooming facility and two rooms for doggie daycare — or play-care — divided by size and temperament.

“When we found this space, it was far too big for a store, so we thought, ‘Let’s use it for daycare!’ The spa is a self-wash area and we have a professional groomer, too.”

With New Year’s resolutions and puppies given as Christmas

gifts, Malloy says this education series is timely.

“The problem is that Christmas is the busiest and most stressful time for most people. Adding a poor puppy to that is just madness. There are too many hazards, and the puppy doesn’t get the attention it needs.”

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Doggy events

Jan. 8, noon-2 p.m., Organic Beauty: “There are shampoos and grooming products that are natural and organic and better for our dogs.”

Jan. 15, noon-2 p.m., Holistic Diet: “During that recent, big pet-food recall ... we got very nervous and started researching what goes into pet food.”

Jan. 22, noon-2 p.m., K9 Fitness & Training: “This is about having fun with our dogs in winter.”

Jan. 29, noon-2 p.m., Dog Massage Therapy: “For older dogs, this really does help with joint problems. Who doesn’t like a massage?”



This guy is just begging for somebody to take him to the Jan. 22 session.