ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL:AL/111/07/
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Canine Hydrotherapy and Rehabilitation

People and vets are just starting to realise how much difference hydrotherapy can make to the lives of their canine friends and companions.

After accidents or injuries, before and after operations, for elderly and obese, there can be massive benefits from hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and chiropractic treatments.

For many years I have had a passionate interest and a great deal of experience with dogs. I now want to set up a canine hydrotherapy unit in my garage. I am applying to ADC for a change of use for my garage from vehicle storage to a canine hydrotherapy and rehabilitation unit. I hope you will support my application and would be happy to discuss any queries you may have in further detail.

If my application is successful the project will provide a canine hydrotherapy pool, a water walker (like an underwater treadmill) and a spa. I will have achieved a level 3 OCN qualification in canine hydrotherapy prior to opening, and will obviously have all the relevant insurances in place. Pictures of the equipment are on this sheet. Owners will also be able to benefit from physiotherapy and chiropractic treatments for their pets, which will be given by veterinary nurses who have qualified in these fields.

As this would be a rehabilitation unit, there would only be one dog in the pool at any given time, and this would use 2 members of staff to assist and monitor the session. A session would not last for any longer than 30 minutes. It is unlikely that there would be more than 2 dogs in the unit at the same time. That being the case very little barking is anticipated, and with the insulation in the building, the chance of it being heard by neighbours is slim.

Dogs return home with their owners as soon as they have completed their visit. There is no anticipated requirement for any animal to be on site for more than an hour.

Although it would generate additional vehicles down the lane, these would be minimal. I would hope to reduce the carbon footprint of people in this area who currently have to travel to Lewes or Fareham for a similar service. They also used to travel to Billingshurst, but I understand that unit has now ceased trading.

I have spoken with many of the residents in the lane who support my application, and expect that some letters of support will follow my application. I hope also to be able to provide letters of support from local veterinarians and canine physiotherapists.

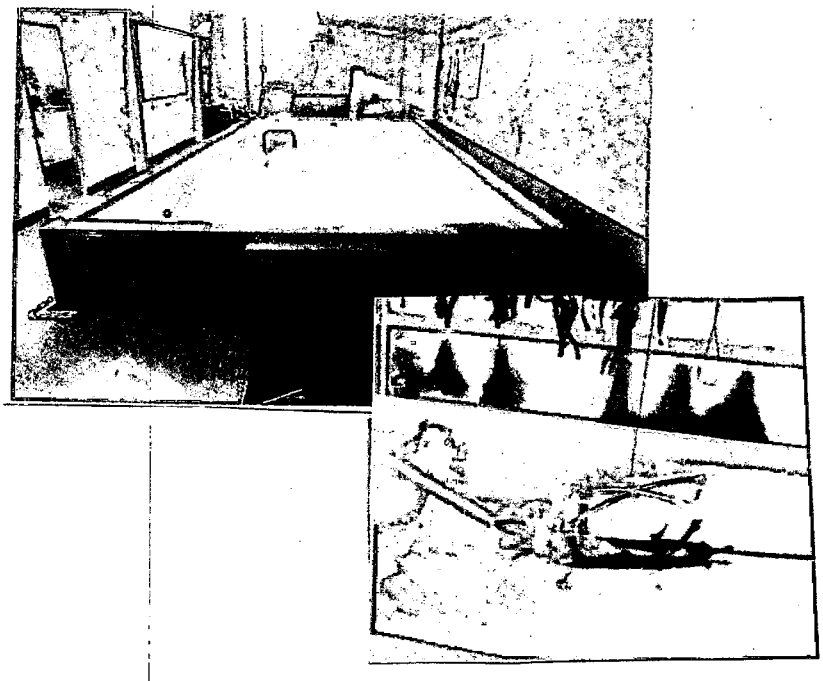
Animals will only be treated after a referral from a vet.

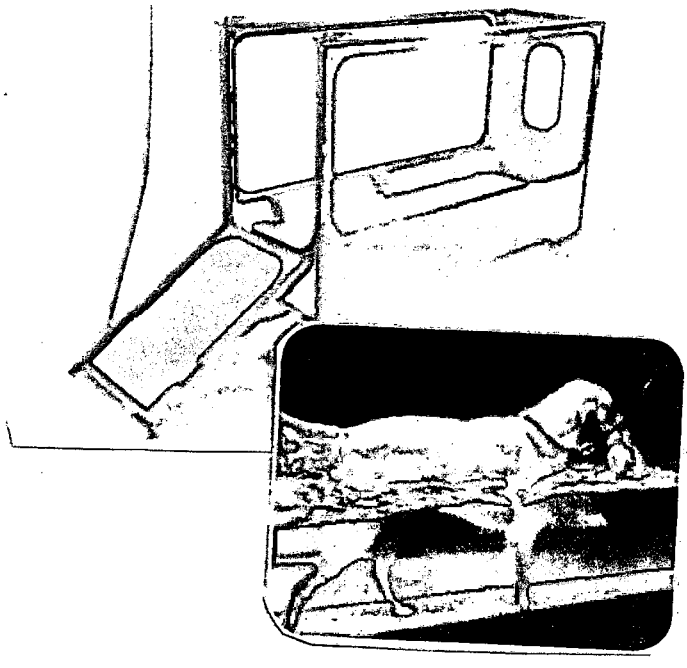
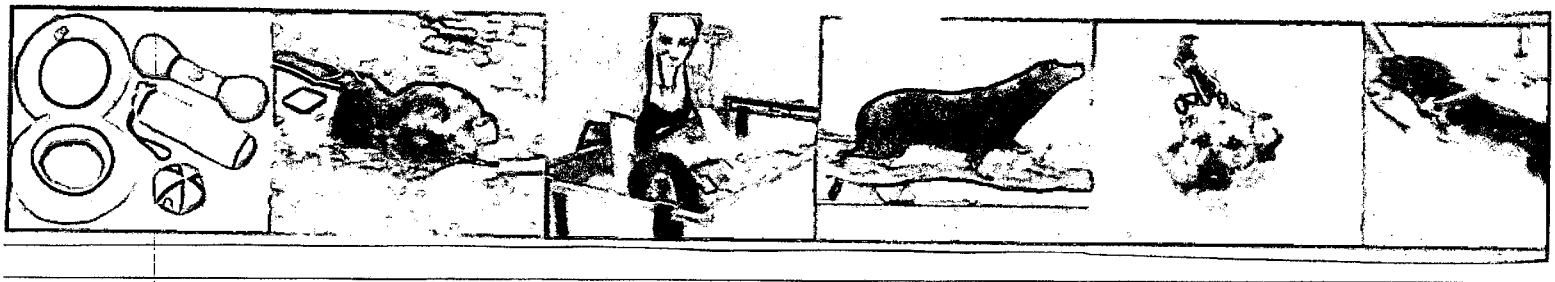
We already have an extensive area for off road parking. As there would not normally be a more than 2 dogs in the unit at one time, and up to 2 members of staff, the facilities are already more than sufficient.

Because of my keen interest I really would like to give this much needed service to dog owners, and do hope you will be able to grant a change of use for my garage.

Please call to make an appointment to discuss in further detail.

Below are some photos to give you a glimpse at dogs enjoying various forms of hydrotherapy in other parts of the country.

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