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Port car wash expands on self-serve concept with All Paws Pet Wash

Self-service car washes have long been popular with car owners who insist on keeping road grime and salt residue off their treasured rides.

Now that same do-it-yourself option is available in Port Washington to anyone who wants tidy pets without making a major mess in their home or paying to have a groomer do the dirty work.

Port Auto Wash, 124 N. Maple St., has added a self-contained cleaning booth from the All Paws Pet Wash franchise.

A pre-paid, six-minute washing session costs $5, or one token. Tokens can be purchased from a vending machine inside the glass-enclosed booth.

The seven-by-10-foot washing station is heated, making a quick wash of Fido in the depths of winter possible. The booth is well lit and includes a stainless steel tub, gentle spray hose and vacuum attachment.

The booth offers an array of pick-and-choose menu options that will be familiar to those who wash their cars in similar fashion.

The step-by-step directory includes shampooing with oat or tearless shampoo; using a post-wash deodorizer; vacuuming off excess water; and blow drying.

The final step of the posted instructions: “Be nice to the next pet … disinfect the tub and rinse hair down the drain.”

There is no on-site manager, but a sign in the booth promises pet owners “A tail waggin’ good time.”

Comments are directed to a posted 800 phone number.

The All Paws Pet Wash franchise was started in 2009 in Illinois, which hosts 15 locations. It has installations in six other states, now including Port Washington.

Image Information: RUGBY GOT A thorough wash courtesy of owner Natalie May, who visited All Paws Pet Wash in Port Washington over the weekend. The automated pet cleaning booth is at Port Auto Wash, 124 N. Maple St. Photo by Sam Arendt