

VANCOUVER - You could call it a dog deck or even a canine corral.

But the "wooftop patio" is the name preferred by the developer of The Beasley Residences for the outdoor doggie run planned for the new building's eighth-floor outdoor podium area.

Nic Jensen, manager of sales for developer Amacon, says The Beasley will be the first condominium tower in Canada to incorporate a dog-walking area as another amenity.

The pooch patio at The Beasley, which is under construction at the corner of Homer and Smithe, will be landscaped and have a mulch-type walk for dogs and their owners.

Jensen said the concept of a great kennel-in-the-sky came in response to the rise in the number of dogs in the downtown and the demand for dog-friendly residences.

Jensen said he got the idea after being approached by two clients at another project who complained that new condo developments in Vancouver don't cater enough to our four-legged friends.

They told him that condo towers in New York City and San Francisco are more dog-friendly than those in Vancouver, even though this city appears to have more dogs on a per-capita basis.

"It raised a red flag to me," said Jensen. "We had this patio space set for the eighth floor and so we decided to dedicate it to the dogs and their owners. It was a no-brainer."

Jensen said dogs are becoming commonplace in the new downtown neighbourhoods.

"I live across the road from The Beasley and it just seems like every other person has a dog.

"And as condo living has become more acceptable, it is also becoming more acceptable to have dogs in condos as well."

He noted that dogs are typically hanging around outside the nearby Urban Fare supermarket, waiting for their masters to finish shopping.

"Another nice thing about having a dog deck on the eighth floor is that it will reduce the amount of doggie doo-doo that is often found at the front of buildings," added Jensen.

The Beasley -- a \$150-million, 33-storey, 211-unit condo tower -- is named after former City of Vancouver planner Larry Beasley who, according to Jensen, was delighted at the doggie run concept, saying it would add to the area's sense of community.