

# Veteran Business Success Story

Lila Teunissen & Michelle Thomsen

Army National Guard | Bed N' Biscuit Ranch

Lila Teunissen and Michelle Thomsen came to their dream of business ownership from different directions. Lila's background, education and service include working as a medic and in the microbiology field. Michelle went to law school. They are both currently employed by the North Dakota National Guard and in addition, found common ground in a love of dogs.

Together, they have opened the Bed N' Biscuit Ranch, *your pet's home away from home*. "The Ranch," as they affectionately call it, provides boarding, grooming, training and daycare. Lila and Michelle saw a need for quality dog boarding services for fellow service members while they deployed or went to drill. As they began discussing the need, the idea grew and the business was born.

"Our military training always stressed the need to adapt and overcome. No matter how much you plan for things to go one way inevitably something will come up that was unexpected. We had some issues with this during construction of Bed N' Biscuit Ranch and we just stayed the course and were able to open a facility we are very proud of," says Lila.

After working with the Women's Business Center to achieve their Women Owned Business designation, they were referred to VBOC of the Dakotas for additional assistance.

"We have worked hard to implement Wendy's marketing suggestions, and I believe our page is found more often because of her advice."

Already these owners have dreams for future expansion and growth of the business. In the meantime, they are very much enjoying both mentoring their employees and the happiness that time with animals brings them both.

## RESOURCES:



*Lila and Michelle, along with Penelope, a great Pyrenees who is one of their regulars, outside the Bed N' Biscuit's main building.*



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