

PET FRIENDLY

Call of the Wild

This multipurpose space wasn't designed with just dogs in mind—a macaw, a gecko, and a hamster live here too

Make Every Inch Count

The area is also outfitted with a beverage fridge and a utility sink.



T ALL STARTED with the wallpaper,” says Raquel Skrobarczyk of Austin, Texas-based Heather Scott Home & Design. The print (Birds Sinfonia by Christian Lacroix) is a nod not only to the homeowners’ love of winged wonders but also to the room’s function. Five unlikely friends—two 6-year-old dogs, Heidi (a Shih Tzu-bichon mix) and Jolie (a Pomeranian); a 16-year-old green-winged macaw, Harlynn; a 4-year-old leopard gecko, Evie; and a 1-year-old hamster, Tator—share the pet-focused spot, which is separated from the laundry area and main mudroom by a Dutch door with brass mesh. “They wanted the animals to have access but not complete entry into the rest of the house,” says Skrobarczyk.

In the alcove, the cabinetry (painted with Benjamin Moore’s Philipsburg Blue, HC-159) conceals two plush beds under the counter and allows for food and grooming supplies to be stored above. A petite doggy door leads to a dedicated play yard, so there’s plenty of room for the pooches to roam.

Other features throughout the space include a reclaimed-brick floor and charcoal Silestone countertops, which are less porous than natural soapstone. “Both super-durable choices resist wear and tear and can’t be scratched or messed up by little paws,” says the designer.

While keeping utility and convenience at the forefront, Skrobarczyk was sure to pull in the homeowners’ personality and style with all the details too. “There are so many great products out there now. My clients are always surprised that some of the loveliest selections are pet and kid friendly,” she says.