

Southern Gazette

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BELMONT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

Award a twist in tail



Rebecca Vary celebrates a successful first year in business with Sofia and Thor. 321410

WAGGING tails and bright eyes tell the story of a successful first year for Billy's Day Care for Dogs, a small business that battled big challenges to open its doors.

After celebrating its first birthday this month, the centre won Best New Business at the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre awards last Wednesday.

Owner Rebecca Vary said her idea had been so popular she now cared for around 60 dogs each week.

"When I started it was just me and a couple of work experience girls – now we have five part-time staff."

Belmont chief executive Stuart Cole said the win had put the City in an awkward position given its initial lack of enthusiasm for the project and noise complaints under investigation.

"The City's decision to refuse the application for Billy's Day Care for Dogs to operate, which was overturned by the State Administrative Tribunal, has been vindicated by the ongoing noise issues of neighbouring business units," he said.

Ms Vary said she had been working to resolve noise complaints made by neighbouring businesses and had installed acoustic soundproofing.