



## ***Considering daycare for your dog?***

Here are a few things you should keep in mind regarding what to expect when socializing your dog with other dogs in a daycare environment.

### **Benefits of Daycare include:**

- Great way to socialize your dog, especially if you have a puppy or a shy dog. Puppies are very impressionable and the more they are socialized the more likely they will grow up to be well-adjusted dogs. If you have a shy dog, daycare can be a great tool to help your dog build their confidence and adjust to other dogs and people. Just remember, it can take time for a shy dog to get used to daycare and really enjoy themselves.

- Daycare is an excellent way to exercise your dog, although we do not recommend having your dog participate every day. Daycare is very exhausting, and your dog needs some time off to catch-up on sleep.

- Even mellower dogs that do not enjoy non-stop play, benefit from the mental stimulation they get from daycare. There is always lots to watch and new smells to check out in daycare.

- Daycare can help with dogs that suffer from separation anxiety. It gives your dogs a place to go during the day when you cannot be with them and provides both mental and physical stimulation which will make them tired and more receptive to the training you do at home.

### **The inherent risks of Daycare include:**

- Daycare is no different than sending a child to school. Every child catches a cold or the flu at some point and some children have better immune systems than other children. The biggest difference between your dog and a

child is that your dog cannot tell you a day or two before they are showing signs of being sick that their throat feels a little scratchy and often it is the days before they “act or look sick” that they are the most contagious. When we are aware of something going around, we will post a notice in our lobby and try to verbally notify all parents of dogs that may have been exposed. We also ask for help from the parents, as you are more likely to notice the subtle changes in your dog that indicate they might be feeling a little off and if you notice these signs we ask that you refrain from bringing your dog to daycare. However, even with all of us being very diligent in trying to prevent the spread of a virus or bacteria, it still cannot be completely prevented.

- Daycare is like a contact sport for humans, except these participants are playing the game with their teeth and claws. The more active a player your dog is the more likely they will get bumps, bruises, and scratches. There is always a playgroup supervisor with the dogs and we monitor each group to keep play levels as safe as possible, but sometimes things do happen. If we notice anything, we will point it out to you, but remember, they are covered in hair and we will not see everything. If you do find a mark you are concerned with, please let us know.

- Some dogs may experience tender paws or even blisters until they adapt to all the activity and our outdoor park areas. We do have a small amount of concrete in one play yard but dogs in daycare are NEVER on asphalt. Just as with humans used to carpet or hardwood floors that run in the woods without shoes. Generally, they do not let us know that their feet are sore because they are too busy playing and having a good time and only show signs once they get home. If your dog has sensitive feet let us know and we can restrict the amount of time your dog plays outside.

**Other things to know about Daycare include:**

- After a day of daycare your dog will most likely go home hungry, thirsty, and tired. This is normal. During play, dogs might not take the time to stop and drink as much as they should. We always have fresh water available, but many dogs are too distracted with playing. Do not be surprised if your dog goes home eats and passes out. This too is normal and is probably one of the primary reasons you bring your dog to daycare. Because dogs in daycare often do not take the time to take a break, we do nap rotations in the middle of the day. The

naps are an hour to 1.5hrs long and give the dogs a break from play and each other, but they are still going to need some extra sleep at home.

• We love feedback, so please communicate any questions, or concerns that you may have. At the end of the day we want daycare to be an enjoyable experience for you and your dog!

**Day Care Schedule:**

- 7:00am-8:30am: Doggie Day Care Check-in Begins
- 8:30 am– 9:00 am: Pack Organization
- 9:00 am– 11:30 pm: Play
- 12:00 pm– 2:00 pm: Nap Time
- 2:00 pm– 6:00 pm: Play
- 6:00- 7:00 pm: Doggie Day Care Check-out begins