



Orrville Pet Spa & Resort
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DAYCARE

BENEFITS OF DOGGIE DAYCARE

FOR THE DOG – Through their interactions, the dogs learn how to deal with other dogs, how to get along peaceably, and in many cases, how to play! This also keeps them out of trouble with other dogs they may encounter while out on walks with their owners. The overweight dog's metabolism is enhanced, enabling it to get to a better body condition both in terms of weight and muscle developments. Many dogs that only get to see their owners can learn to trust other people through this interaction.

FOR THE OWNER – “Tired dog = Happy dog.” Dogs returning from daycare are just too tired to chew furniture, jump on children, get on the sofa, chase the cat and many of those things, which irritate their owners. Also, many dogs, especially younger ones, which are not yet reliable in the house for housebreaking or chewing reasons will come during the owner's work day, so that the owner does not feel guilty about keeping their dog crated all day. This provides an opportunity to educate owners on interpreting and understanding behaviors of their dogs.

RISKS – Daycare is a playground for dogs. Just like children, it is a place where they get to have lots of fun, but they can get scrapes and scratches, just like a kid. Minimizing risks is part of our job as professional pet care providers. Other possibilities to examine are:

- Muscle strains (from running, jumping, tumbling over one another)
- Bruises, nicks, scrapes, punctures from collisions with fencing, ramps or other play equipment
- **Getting dirty (not a risk – a certainty)**
Spa Baths are available upon request. Ask reception for pricing.
- Gashes, punctures, torn body parts from bites from other dogs
- Serious injury from a fight with another dog

EVALUATION – Daycare does require a temperament evaluation of all dogs. Behavior traits will be established based on:

- **The dog is generally dog friendly.**
- **They are compatible with the current dog population.**
- **They interact appropriately with the staff.**

INTRODUCTION TO THE GROUP – A day will be scheduled at daycare to introduce the new dog and evaluate it based on interactions during the day. We look for happy dogs, wagging tails and fun-loving faces. **If the dog shows any signs of aggression, we will not go any further.** Assuming everyone is having a great time, we will slowly introduce the dog to a few others. The first day is like their first day of school. Some dog's jump in and play, but others are

shy or worried about mom and dad. We are sensitive to their needs. A trained staff member is always supervising doggie daycare.

Our staff uses firm voices and a can of pennies as a noisemaker to control the group. We are proactive and do not wait for a disagreement to escalate. No food, bones or personal toys are allowed in the play areas and we supply safe, durable and sanitary toys.

The key to a dog's success in the daycare environment is its level of dog socialization. Dogs that tend to adapt more quickly to the daycare environment have had continuous and varied dog social experiences and exhibit confidence in a new environment.

A run will be provided for those dogs that do not cooperate in group daycare. During their stay they will participate in TLC sessions with a staff member.