

## QUESTIONS FOR DOGGY DAYCARE / BOARDING FACILITIES

### 1. How many animals do they take at a time?

Facilities range in size from 8-10 dogs to 100+ dogs per day. Where would your dog be more comfortable?

### 2. Are they all in one group, or how are groups divided (size, temperament, etc.)?

Be aware that even during play, significant size differences can cause accidents. There is always a risk at daycare; how much of a risk are you willing to take?

### 3. What is the dog:human ratio?

Ideal is 8:1 or less, maximum of no more than 15:1 dependent on temperament and activity levels of the dogs

### 4. Are staff on the floor with dogs at all times, or are they watching the dogs mainly through screens, etc?

Accidents can happen in a moment; are they close enough to take action?

### 5. Is there a screening process for dogs?

Do they offer a temperament evaluation or a trial day? What types of behaviors do they dismiss dogs for? (excessive barking, mounting, not crate trained, aggression, etc.)

### 6. What does a typical day look like?

- Free Roam – dogs are free to go outside or come in as they please, play all day, regulate themselves
- Crate and rotate – dogs are placed in groups and rotated between play time and down time
- Training – do staff members practice any behaviors with the dogs in their care?

### 7. Which vaccinations are required?

This will differ based on common concerns in your area, but should always include at minimum Rabies, Parvo-distemper, and Bordetella (kennel cough). You can even ask if they have a preferred veterinarian that they communicate with regularly for things like this?

**8. Can I walk through the facility? Is it clean?**

Be aware that for safety reasons, there may be times of day that you are unable to walk through, or they may ask you to wait a few minutes while they secure dogs, leave your dog at home for the walk-thru, etc. However, you should be able to see where your dog will be staying.

**9. Do they allow toys?**

Keep in mind the risk for resource guarding between dogs, as well as potential choking hazards if dogs are not well-supervised.

**10. Do they allow collars during play?**

Collars have the potential to get caught on a number of things– kennels, fencing, teeth; however, they can also be useful for redirecting dogs. Ask each facility what their approach is, and make sure that their explanation makes sense to you!

**11. What are the training requirements for employees? Are there continuing education opportunities?**

Do they train staff in-house? Do employees simply learn on the job? Are they certified trainers?

**12. When will my dog be left unsupervised?**

Most likely during mealtimes and nap times, but this goes back to whether they are being watched during play time, or even whether someone is on site overnight? We don't like to think about it, but things do happen. Does the facility have an emergency plan?

**13. How do they discipline the dogs?**

Be sure that whichever facility you choose uses only training methods that you are comfortable with.