

## What is Doggie Day Care?

According to the American Kennel Boarding Assn., doggie day care is “a supervised environment in which dogs play off-leash with other dogs.... Like child daycare centers, a dog daycare center caters to busy dog parents who want to provide their dogs with exercise and playtime. The daycare provides the dog with a fun, safe, stimulating environment during the day while owners shop, run errands or work. The daycare business is responsible for ensuring the safety of the dogs in their care and making sure all the dogs play nicely together. Also like child care centers, dog daycare facilities usually include a caring, compassionate staff, plenty of safe, fun playground equipment, and often snack and naptimes for the dogs in their care.

Dog daycare differs significantly from day boarding, in which a dog is crated or kenneled during the daytime hours...Although dog daycares may crate or kennel dogs during short periods of time (for instance in order to feed the dogs), the dogs spend most of the day interacting with other dogs.

The benefits are numerous.

- The dogs learn how to play with other dogs and increase their social skills.
- Dogs use up a great deal of energy during their time at daycare, which makes a well-rested pet in the evening.
- Dog daycare helps alleviate behavior problems. Trainers agree the vast majority of behavior problems (for example excessive barking, chewing and digging) – particularly in puppies – result from lack of exercise.
- Owners have peace of mind knowing their dog will be well cared for and well-exercised throughout the day; it allows for guilt free dog ownership.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bennett, Robin K, CPDT, *All About Dog Daycare...a Blueprint for Success*, Berkley, CA 2005

## Outdoor vs. Indoor Dog Time

**According to Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine**, they encourage more indoor time may be advantageous for dogs over more outdoor time. “Dr. Houpt recommends keeping him indoors most of the time. This will usually mean a healthier, happier, cleaner companion for you and less noise for your neighbors. However, you must provide your dog with plenty of exercise—through walks on –lead, playing in the yard when you are home, etc.

More plantings, visually opaque privacy fence, or vinyl strips woven through your cyclone fence will reduce visual and some aural stimulation you dog receives, and thus makes him more secure and quieter when in the yard.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Cornell University *College of Veterinary Medicine, Dog Watch: The Newsletter for Dog People*, Volume 2, No. 6, June 1998