

D O W N T O W N DOG LOUNGE

EST 2002

Are you and your pooch ready for dog daycare?

Dog daycare has become a big part of many dogs' lives and can be a great way for them to socialize and get exercise throughout the day when you cannot be with them. We are proud of the service that we offer, but want you to be aware of some of the realities that come with dogs playing together in large groups.

Evaluations

Each dog at Downtown Dog Lounge must go through an evaluation before joining the pack for daycare or boarding. We want to make sure that the environment is safe and comfortable for all of the pooches and handlers in our parks. The evaluation gives us a chance to briefly meet you and your pooch and perform a temperament test to get a feel for their behavior in the park. High anxiety and aggression towards humans or other dogs are the main reason for a failed evaluation. This does not mean you have a bad dog, just that the daycare play environment may not be a good fit. We will happily refer you to one of our trainers who can often work with a dog who has failed an evaluation and slowly integrate them in to the pack.

Required Vaccinations

We require proof of the following vaccinations from your veterinarian:

- Rabies
- Distemper
- Bordetella

Pooch Sickesses

Just like kids at a daycare, dogs are susceptible to illnesses that may be going around. Rabies and distemper vaccinations are required at DDL and are a great way to protect against more serious diseases; however there are illnesses that dogs may still get:

- **Kennel Cough** – This is the pooch version of the common cold and one of the more common bugs that a pooch may come down with. Although it is not deadly, it can sound quite concerning if they catch it. The major symptom is a deep, froggy cough that can occur at different times. Coughing up mucus and general tiredness can also occur with Kennel Cough. It is a highly contagious airborne virus and healthy dogs that show no symptoms can sometimes spread it when socializing. For this reason, we require the bordetella vaccination on a six month basis.
- **Parasites** – We do not allow flea collars at Downtown Dog Lounge, however we ask that you consult with your veterinarian to find the best edible or topical flea treatment for your pooch. There are a variety of intestinal parasites like worms that dogs can also contract at a dog park or in other social situations. If we notice worms we will inform you immediately. Once worms are discovered by you or

us, we ask that you get them taken care of by your veterinarian and wait at least a week before coming back to DDL in order to give the dead parasites time to get out of their system.

- **Giardia** – Giardiasis refers to an intestinal infection that is caused by the protozoan parasite giardia, which is the most common intestinal parasite that is found in humans. Dogs develop the infection by ingesting infectious offspring (cysts) that are shed in another animal's feces. If we witness giardia symptoms, which usually involve bloody diarrhea or vomit, we will notify you as soon as possible. Dogs with giardia can usually recover quickly, but it's important to get them to the vet as soon as possible. Please keep them home until they make a full recovery.

Stinky Dogs

Although we pride ourselves on cleaning up messes as they happen, dogs that play here for long periods of time can develop a stink! We recommend a bath at the end of any boarding stay so that you pick your pooch up nice and clean. When dogs play hard, there can also be some slobber involved. We spray dogs' pads with a natural enzymatic spray and a spritz of lavender on the back to help with day-to-day cleanliness and odor.

Doggie Disagreements

Dogs use their teeth like we use our hands, so little injuries here and there in large play groups are inevitable. One of the more common injuries is a puncture to the ear. Dogs with floppy ears often get them nibbled on during play. Ear punctures can often result in fairly heavy bleeding that can be difficult to stop immediately. Although we evaluate all dogs before coming in for play, the occasional fight does happen. Our crew is great at breaking up scuffles before they escalate, however if injury does occur, the owner of the dog who caused injury will be responsible. These incidents are not common; however it is an inherent risk of dog daycare.

Breaks from Play

If you are watching our webcams and notice that your pooch is not in the pack playing, there is a chance that we have chosen to rotate them in and out of play. This can occur for a number of reasons. Most commonly, dogs that are very high energy need a break for themselves and for the overall well-being of the pack. Sometimes dogs are friendly towards most other dogs, but have just one or two that they can't seem to get along with. In this situation, we will rotate the dogs with one another or move them to separate play parks.