

SOUTHERN TAILS DAYCAMP INTRODUCTION

Why is doggie day camp important?

According to the ASPCA, today's dogs are "unemployed." Throughout history, dogs have held jobs: hunting, herding, protecting, and guarding. Like their human counterparts, today's dogs have more sedentary lifestyles. As a result, many dogs suffer from boredom and many have excessive energy. Often, these conditions lead to social issues related to separation anxiety, depression, and boredom. These social issues may lead to behavior problems including: overeating, chewing, digging, barking, aggression, and even the destruction of property. Doggie Day camp is one way to provide much needed exercise, which relieves the stress and behavior related to dogs that have too much "downtime" on their paws!

Why Southern Tails?

Southern Tails offers a great solution for that downtime. Here, our goal is to provide exceptional care for your dog in a safe, clean, and activity-filled environment. Our Bark Rangers want to encourage healthy and positive interaction with your furry babies offering a facility unlike any other. We have two climate-controlled "parks" that are perfectly suited to the suburban dog. These parks are centrally located in our Southern Tails Facility with plenty of windows so you can view your dog in action. There are numerous sitting areas available so dogs may relax after rambunctious play. We have large play equipment in both the small and large dog parks, so that dogs may enjoy this climbing and working on agility skills. Southern Tails also provides smaller toys so that we can actively engage in play such as toss, fetch, and tug. All equipment is cleaned and assessed for wear each day. Numerous precautions have been made to ensure that your dogs will be safe while in our care. Temporary and permanent gates are in place to allow our staff to safely move your dog into, or out of the park area.

We are committed to the overall well-being of your pet, but realize that our efforts require teamwork with everyone involved in the handling of your pet, including you! With this in mind, we have organized the following set of guidelines to ensure that our combined expectations for your pet may be achieved.

Getting Ready for Doggie Day Camp – Health Requirements

1. **Veterinary Requirements:** Dogs who regularly attend day camp facilities will be interacting with other dogs and will need high levels of energy so they must be healthy! Stay in contact with your veterinarian and inform them that your dog will spend time at a day camp/boarding facility. Be sure that your veterinarian gives the all clear for your pet to attend doggie day camp. Photocopies of veterinarian records, which include expiration dates must be provided for the following requirements:
 - a. **Rabies** – is a viral polio encephalitis that affects the gray matter of the brain. It is spread through saliva. Texas law and the City of Pearland require that all dogs three months of age have a rabies vaccination.
 - b. **DHLPP/DHPP** – Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, and Parainfluenza vaccinations must be current and kept up-to-date. Leptospirosis is optional and is given at your veterinarian's discretion.
 - c. **Bordetella (Kennel Cough)** –Dogs in day camp/boarding environments, must have this vaccination because this is a high-risk (social) setting, however, the disease is airborne and may be contracted anywhere. The immunization must be administered 7 days or more before the temperament assessment.
 - d. **Canine Influenza** - This virus is highly contagious and easily spread by direct contact, nasal secretions or contaminated objects. There are two strands and most veterinarians will vaccinate for both simultaneously.
 - e. **Spay and Neutering** – All day camp dogs over the age of six months must be spayed or neutered. Documentation for these procedures must be included with the day camp application. If your dog is less

than six months of age, they will be permitted to attend doggie day camp, but this privilege will be suspended once they have moved beyond that age.

2. **Overall Health Requirements:** Rigorous activity is associated with dogs who participate in day camp settings. For this reason, the dogs' health must be constantly monitored. When attending, dogs may not show signs of illness or diseases that could potentially harm other dogs or humans. We expect dogs to be in good health and that they are free from communicable diseases.
 - a. Dogs that have been treated for communicable diseases in the past 14 days must have completed the prescribed medicines or other treatment. Examples of these diseases are: mites, mange, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, whip worms, kennel cough etc. A veterinarian release will be required in these instances.
 - b. While surgeries that require sutures and antibiotics are not communicable, they do present a risk for infection or tearing during high activity. Therefore, it is highly recommended that dogs do not attend day camp until their sutures are completely healed.
 - c. We cautiously accept dogs who have chronic illness such as: hypo/hyper thyroid, diabetes, epilepsy, glaucoma, or periodic seizures. It is your responsibility to notify our staff and management of illnesses that may be aggravated in day camp environments. Treatments or medication for these conditions must be completely discussed with management and this information must be clearly documented on the day camp application. Your veterinarian must supply Southern Tails with documentation that authorizes attendance at our day camp.
 - d. Your dog must be free of fleas, ticks, and other parasites, which are common to this area. We strongly urge you to place your dog on preventative treatment. In the event that your dog is a host to fleas or ticks, we will bathe them in a flea/tick shampoo and the fees will be added to the week's total.
3. **Temperament Assessment:** Before your dog is approved for day camp we will schedule a screening to assess your dog's temperament. This screening is complimentary and takes about twenty minutes. Dogs must be able to socialize with both humans (male and female) and other dogs. During this time we also determine the best room placement for your dog. In most instances we are able to determine your dog's general suitability. In rare cases unforeseen behavioral problems emerge after the initial screening, which may revoke the acceptance status.

Overall:

 - a. Dogs may not attend day camp if they are: dog, toy, or food aggressive.
 - b. Dogs who exhibit high anxiety are not suited for indoor day camp environments.
 - c. Dogs who exhibit destructive qualities are not suited to indoor day camp environments.
 - d. Dogs who cannot be handled are not suited to indoor day camp environments.
 - e. Flight risks are not suited to indoor day camp environments.
 - f. Dogs must be housebroken – we will assist with the toilet training in puppies.
 - g. Dogs below 35 pounds will be assigned to the small dog park. Dogs above 35 pounds will be assigned to the large dog park (Exceptions apply to our senior pets).

What Is My Responsibility Once My Dog Is Approved?

1. Complete the Southern Tails Day Camp Application and conduct the Screening Interview.
2. Attend to all veterinarian requirements.
3. **You must schedule your visits!** Drop-ins are discouraged and reserved for clients with emergency situations. Schedule a play day for your dog as soon as you know you will need our services. Appointments must be made 24 hours in advance. If your plans change, call to cancel your visit. You will be charged if you are scheduled.

4. All dogs must be leashed upon arrival and during their exit. If you forget your leash, we will provide a loaner.
5. All dogs are fitted for harnesses because dogs are harnessed when walking. Harnesses are removed during naps or if we notice chaffing etc. (We suggest that you purchase a harness for your dog) you may rent one for \$2.
6. Most collars are recommended, but you must remove choke collars for safety reasons.
7. Certify that your dog has not previously shown threatening or aggressive behavior to humans or dogs.

How Does It Work? Drop-off Procedures

1. Be sure that the receptionist sees you, has checked in your dog and has directed your dog to the appropriate dog park. Verbal acknowledgment is sufficient.
2. Please DO NOT ENTER DAY CAMP SPACE at any time. Wait for the attendant.
3. The Day Camp Park Ranger will greet your pup and lead them into the day camp. Give food, blanket or any other item that your pet needs for their stay to this attendant during this time.
4. Feel free to watch your dog through the windows after we get them settled into the dog park (Sometimes your presence will hinder play).
5. This is all you need to do! Feel free to check on your pet throughout the day if you would like.

The Day camp Schedule

- **7:00 – 9:30** Morning Drop-Off
- **11:30 – 12:00** Last Potty Walk
- **12:00 – 2:00** Nap Time
- **2:00 – 6:30** Play and Pick up

What does it look like?

1. Two Bark Rangers are on duty the entire time that your dog is in attendance. A rule-of-thumb for adequate staffing is to have, at minimum, one employee per 10 to 15 dogs (ASPCA, 2015). The number of dogs that can occupy our facility is determined by the square footage of the parks. The large park is approximately 2100 square feet. This means that up to 21 large dogs may occupy that area. The smaller park is roughly 1200 square feet. Although smaller dogs need less square footage, we limit this number to 25. We strive to exceed the minimum employee/dog ratio by staffing more than two Bark Rangers regardless of the dog per room limit.
2. Dogs are fitted for harnesses upon arrival, which allows us to easily leash pets for walks or to remove from stressful situations. Harnesses are worn the entire time they are in the parks unless chaffing occurs.
3. Plenty of equipment is provided for dogs to play with, on, or under. Our pets are given access to safe, comfortable napping spots as well. These are sanitized every day.
4. Ample fresh water is conveniently placed in clean containers throughout the park.
5. Frequent potty breaks are given by taking dogs in a grassy area located behind the building. Weather permitting; we also take dogs for longer walks around the entire complex to allow them fresh air and exercise.
6. Appropriate play is encouraged throughout the day, but we also share quiet time, often reading to them as well.
7. The play area is cleaned frequently – deep cleaned during nap times and at the end of the day. Any waste is removed immediately. All waste is disposed of outside and the soiled area is cleaned and disinfected after the waste is eliminated.
8. Naps are taken at 12:00. All pets will be crated during naptime, unless they are more comfortable in our boarding suites.
9. Play resumes at 2:00 with a walk immediately following naptime.

Notifications

Dogs are expected to play at Southern Tails Doggie Day camp. Our Bark Rangers monitor this play, watching for canine body language that informs us about the climate of the room. We watch for signals to interpret dogs' reactions to the day camp. We want them to enjoy their experience, rather than be overwhelmed by it. Sometimes they play rough and small scratches or abrasions are possible. When we see minor injuries we clean them and notify you about the incident when you arrive for pick up. Serious altercations or sudden bouts of illness will require immediate pick-up and attention. There is no way to prevent communicable diseases in day camp settings. Your dogs may be introduced to airborne illnesses despite our best efforts to keep our facility clean and sanitized. We will minimize the risk by removing dogs who exhibit obvious signs of illness such as chronic coughing, diarrhea or vomiting. Should your dog become ill, you must pick him/her up from Day Camp. We will also notify all families when we see these illnesses in our facility.

Pickup Procedures

- Please DO NOT ENTER THE DAY CAMP SPACE at any time. Wait for the Bark Rangers.
- Check with reception to schedule future days or to pay the fees.
- You may watch your pup through the window and alert the Bark Ranger that you have arrived.
- The Bark Ranger will acknowledge you, collect your pup's belongings, and lead your pup out of the day camp – please notify us before you leave if you are missing any belongings.

Day Camp Schedule and Fees

Day camp May Be Schedule Monday – Friday (**Day camp is restricted for boarding clients on weekends and major holidays**)

- Full Day Drop-off Hours are between 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
- ½ Day Clients May Drop Off At 7:00 for Morning or 2:00 for Afternoon Play
- All Clients Must Be Picked Up Before 6:30 p.m.
- **Late Pick-ups Will Be Assessed Additional Fees of \$5.00 for Every 5 Minutes** until 6:45.
- Pets Will Be Boarded If Not Picked Up Before 6:45 Resulting in \$29.99 Additional Charge and \$3.00 Feeding

FEES

- \$35 – Unannounced Drop-off
- \$28 – 1 Visit per Week
- \$26 – 2 Visits per Week (each day)
- \$24 – 3 or More Visits per Week (each day)
- \$20 – ½ Day (Must be picked up before 12:00)
- \$22 – If Groomed on this Day
- \$ 5 – Late Fee Every Five Minutes



You may pay at the end of the week using: cash, check, or credit card