

Quality Daycare for Your Dog

Nine simple rules for finding the best doggie daycare in your area.

Maureen Kochan

6. Are the attendants well-dressed, friendly, and in control of the dogs? Some daycares will punish dogs by squirting them with water or water and vinegar if they get over-rowdy during play, Morn says. Its better if the staff intervenes and removes the over-excited player from the group and takes him to a quiet area to calm down.

7. Do they separate dogs according to size and energy level? This is for the dogs safety and comfort, Morn says, because even though a small dog might play well with a big dog, when playing with several big dogs at once a little guy can get ganged-up on and accidentally injure even if the big dogs are friendly and nice.

8. Do they have a disaster plan? Good operations train employees in first-aid and have a veterinarian on call or one who they work with closely. If you live in a flood- or fire-prone area, make sure the facility has an adequate evacuation plan in place.

9. How is their reputation? Talk to groomers, dog walkers, veterinarians, vet techs, and trainers in your area. These in-the-know dog-care professionals learn about local businesses, including who's up to the task of caring for your dog.

Once you find a facility you can trust, take time to get to know the manager and key employees. They will update you with policy or management changes, and should welcome input from concerned, caring owners like you.

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