



Health Information for Doggy Daycare Clients

Just like human kids in school or daycare, dogs in doggy daycare and boarding environments are susceptible to whatever bug is going around. While standard vaccines do prevent the most serious diseases, large gatherings of canines will come up with the occasional case of Bordatella (Kennel Cough), Giardia, or Coccidia. Your dog is at increased risk of catching communicable canine ailments when socializing with other dogs. We are diligent in minimizing health and safety risks, but it's important for clients to understand some of the inherent risks.

Bordatella, or Kennel Cough, is the most common health issue in Doggy Daycare. Bordatella is the canine version of the common cold. Symptoms include watery eyes, runny nose, and/or sneezing, along with a pronounced cough. Bordatella is an airborne virus that your dog can catch at the dog park, daycare, walking around the neighborhood, or even at your veterinarian's office. We do require daycare dogs to have Kennel Cough vaccinations, but like a human flu shot, the vaccine is not 100% effective.

Giardia and **coccidia** are intestinal parasites that may cause diarrhea or vomiting. Dogs can get these parasites from contact with the feces of infected animals (domestic or wild) or from contact with contaminated standing water. The parasites can be spread at daycare when dogs inspect each other's rear ends or if they have direct contact with other dogs' poop.

Giardia can cause severe dehydration which further weakens your dog's ability to fight the parasite. If your dog has vomiting and diarrhea, take him to your veterinarian's office immediately. Coccidia causes similar, but less severe, symptoms. Most dogs recover quickly with prompt medical attention.

Dogs can get worms in the same way they can get giardia or coccidia. The Muttley Crew is diligent about quickly cleaning dog waste and if we see that a dog has worms, we will isolate the dog and contact the client to let them know. Once wormed, a dog should stay home for at least a week to give the dead parasites time to work their way out of the dog's system.

If your pooch seems to be a bit under the weather, please keep him home and seek veterinary attention if symptoms persist. It is not fair to expose your dog's playmates to potential health issues.

Injuries can sometimes occur at daycare. The Muttley Crew can be a very active and interactive environment for your dog. Many of our dogs enjoy rough and tumble play; although we do break up play that gets too rough, the dogs can get pretty rambunctious. Dogs use their teeth like we use our hands; they grab each other by the neck and nibble, steal toys, run, and play with one another. Minor injuries such as nicks, cuts, scrapes and strained muscles do happen. Additionally, dogs do have disagreements from time to time, and fighting is a possibility. The staff is trained to break up any dog fights that may occur. Due to our evaluation process and constant supervision of the dogs, we have never had a serious dog fight here at The Muttley Crew.

We believe the benefits of dog daycare far surpass the possible risks. We are diligent about quickly cleaning up dog waste and we sanitize our facility and yard daily. We are quick to interrupt inappropriate social behavior and overly rough play. However, please be aware that **your dog is at an increased risk of catching contagious canine illnesses and getting minor injuries when socializing with other dogs, and you are responsible for any veterinary costs incurred by your dog.** We will call you immediately if your dog is sick or injured, and if your dog is sick, please keep them home. Thanks!

--The Muttley Crew

Client Initials _____