



## Stand By Me Dog Daycare LLC

www.standbymedogdaycare.com  
info@standbymedogdaycare.com  
66 Elm Street, Salisbury, MA 01952  
978-288-9479

### **Welcome to Stand By Me Dog Daycare LLC**

The following information includes what to expect, common illnesses and common injuries that can come along with a daycare environment. Please be sure to read carefully!

**Increased thirst.** We have several bowls of clean water available to dogs at all times, however it is always noted that dogs go home after daycare and indulge in some extra water drinking.

**Increased appetite.** Lots of activity leads to bigger appetites.

**More tired than usual.** You're welcome! But seriously, being active all day leads to a tired dog at night. Do not be surprised if your dog is tired the day after as well. This especially goes for boarding dogs who have been with us for several days or weeks. We get up at 5am and our last let out is 10pm. That's a long day no matter who you ask!

**Sore muscles.** This is not as common as we do not let dogs "overdo it", however sore or pulled muscles do happen. Again, this pertains especially for boarding dogs who are with us for extended stays and aren't accustomed to the activity level.

**A bit of dirt.** Our daycare and boarding dogs play outside. There is the chance that they will get a bit dirty during the day. If you would prefer they come home clean, we provide a "wash off" prior to pick up. Just let our staff know at drop off you would like this service, and let us know what time you will be picking up. (This is an additional fee)

**Scratches.** Dogs play with their mouths and their paws.



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**Changes.** Dogs who board for extended periods of time can go home after boarding and we frequently get feedback like, “they aren’t themselves”. We are asking a lot of our boarding dogs to go from their home routine, to a totally new routine with us, and then back to their home routine. It’s a decompression period, and may take some time to re-adjust to their routine at home.

***Sometimes dogs don’t want to go home. We’re sorry. :)***

**Leashes.** While your dog(s) will be playing with pack mates during daycare and boarding, it does not mean they can be interacting during drop off, pick up, or in the parking lot. We ask that all dogs remain leashed at all times. We also ask that owners refrain from allowing interactions between their dog(s) and other dog(s) on the premises. Some of our little dogs can only be with little dogs, and some of our big guys only want to play with big guys. We have a very structured pack community during daycare and boarding for the safety of all the dogs, and these protocols may not extend in the lobby or parking lot.

### **Health Information For Dog Daycare**

Just like human kids in school or daycare, dogs in dog daycare and boarding environments are susceptible to whatever bug is going around. Most communicable illnesses in dogs can appear out of nowhere and with no warning. Many dogs can carry parasites or illness and **HAVE ZERO SYMPTOMS**, therefore making it extremely difficult to prevent. While we use veterinarian recommended cleaners and the most up to date cleaning procedures to keep our facility clean, injury or illness may occur. While standard vaccines do help in protecting dogs, large gatherings of canines can increase the likelihood of a dog contracting Bordetella (Kennel Cough), Canine Oral Papilloma, Giardia, Coccidia, or other communicable illnesses. Your dog is at an 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.



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**Canine Oral Papilloma** is an extremely common virus for puppies and dogs under the age of 2. Unfortunately, it is exactly what it sounds like, your dog will develop warts in and/or around their mouth/muzzle area (occasionally their paws or other areas). Oral warts are extremely contagious and have an incubation period of 2 months. This means that by the time your dog develops warts, everyone in your dog's social circle has already been exposed. It is impossible to prevent oral warts for this reason. Other than being gross to look at, warts typically don't have any side effects and fall off on their own.

**Bordetella**, or Kennel Cough, is the most common health issue in dog daycare. Bordetella is the canine version of the common cold. Symptoms include watery eyes, runny nose, and/or sneezing, along with a pronounced cough. Bordetella 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.**

**Dogs can get a number of different intestinal parasites/worms** 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, when sharing a water bowl, or if they have direct contact with other dogs' poop. Most dogs recover quickly with prompt medical attention. Stand By Me is diligent about quickly cleaning dog waste and rotating out clean water bowls throughout the day, as well as requiring clean fecal samples from all new pack members and then annually from existing pack members. If we suspect a dog has parasites we will isolate the dog and contact the client to let them know. We are happy to bag up a fecal sample to be brought to your vet to determine what parasite your dog has to ensure proper treatment. Your dog should not be brought back to daycare until they are clear of any parasites. It is not fair to expose your dog's playmates to potential health issues.



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### **Injuries**

Injuries can also occur at daycare. Any open play with a group of dogs 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. 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, missing hair and strained muscles do happen. Additionally, dogs do have disagreements from time to time, and scuffles are a possibility.

Our staff is trained to prevent fights from happening AND to break up any dog arguments that may occur. Stand By Me has a **NO AGGRESSION POLICY**. We will not allow any dog with a bite history or a history of aggression to attend daycare. Every dog must pass a day of evaluation with our trainer, staff, and the other dogs. **We have a one strike you're out policy. This means one incident involving aggression will result in the immediate separation and dismissal of the aggressor.** We will go over the incident and advise on what we think was the cause and then give a list of local dog trainers. In a large pack of dogs, it can be very difficult sometimes to keep the peace. It would be unprofessional on our part if we accepted dogs with aggression issues just for an extra profit.

*We believe the benefits of dog daycare far outweigh the possible risks. We are diligent about quickly cleaning up dog waste and we sanitize our facility 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. This is a risk you must be willing to accept if you want your dog to play in this environment. Stand By Me has a strict supervision policy, and your dog will always be in the company of one of our trained employees. The staff is trained to prevent any problems from occurring vs. waiting for a problem to happen.*