



Find the best doggy day care near you

For pet owners who work long hours or simply can't stay home all day to look after their furry friend, the next best solution might be doggy day care.

These dedicated centres are designed to provide pups with a loving environment while their humans are away – but how exactly do you know which doggy day care is the best? Our helpful checklist can point you in the right direction.

Tour the facility in person

There are strict regulations around how doggy day cares must be set up and managed. For example, in New South Wales boarding centres need to abide by the [NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice](#). That means any doggy day care that is up to standard should be happy to offer new guests a tour of their facility.

Use this time to ask lots of different questions, such as where your dog will stay, how often they get out for playtime, whether they will interact with other dogs and humans, as well as what's included in their stay. Thanks to COVID, a number of facilities may also provide an online tour so you can digitally explore the centre at your leisure.

Look at their online reviews

While we always want the best for our pets, an unfortunate truth is that some doggy day care centres aren't well maintained and could possibly be dangerous for your pet. Whether through neglect, understaffing or mismanagement, there have been instances where [centres have been fined or shut down](#) for failing to ensure the safety of animals in their care.

So take the time to investigate a number of different facilities, making sure you always read the online reviews to get an understanding of how other pet owners feel about their experience with the doggy day care.

Ask how the dogs are grouped together

Some dogs are extremely social and will love spending time with all their puppy playmates at day care. However, other dogs may be anxious or stressed around unfamiliar animals, so it's best that they are given the space they need.

If you have a dog who perhaps doesn't play well with other animals, make sure you tell the day care centre before drop-off. A good facility will be able to accommodate your dog's unique needs, whether that's getting playtime with just humans, or being given their own room away when it's 'nap time'.

Understand their daily schedule

Walk into any doggy day care and it might seem like the animals are running the show, but behind the scenes there's always a tight schedule that staff run on. From feeding and play times, to alone time, sleep, baths and more – the best centres run like clockwork.

So when comparing potential centres, ask to see their daily schedule. This will give you a good indication of whether they are well prepared to handle a large influx of dogs every day.

Ask about staff training and qualifications

Doggy day care centres tend to attract staff who are animal lovers. But just because someone loves dogs doesn't necessarily mean they are equipped to manage a dozen different animals in a high-energy environment.

There's no harm in asking about the employee training and experience levels. After all, you are putting your pet's safety in their hands. Also use this moment to ask them about their business insurance and what would happen if your dog is injured at the centre. Remember if it doesn't feel right, it's usually best to walk away. There are lots of other facilities that will be able to provide the environment you are looking for.

Commit to a trial period before booking in long-term

Whether you are looking for a full-time doggy day care during the working week, or you need to put your pup in a pet hotel while you go on holiday, make sure you are certain that the facility you are leaning towards is the best choice.

Most good doggy day cares will allow a trial stay. In many cases, they will request it upfront so they can see how your dog reacts in their new environment, whether they experience [separation anxiety](#), and how they behave around other people and dogs. Once their stay is over, ask for a rundown of their time at day care, as this can give you peace of mind that they are going somewhere they enjoy and feel comfortable.

The best outcome for your dog

Because you always want the best for your dog, make sure you do your due diligence on prospective doggy day cares to find the best centre for your needs.

You may wish to consider protecting yourself in the event of an unexpected illness or injury to your pet, which can result in an expensive vet visit. Guardian Insurance can help keep your pet at their personal best with up to \$12,000¹ a year towards eligible vet bills. [Get a quote for pet insurance online.](#)



Visit Guardian Pet Insurance to [get a quote](#) today

1. Chronic and pre-existing conditions are excluded. Terms, conditions, exclusions, benefit limits and sub-limits may apply. A \$2,000 annual condition limit is applicable to Bronze Accident and Illness Cover. Benefit Percentage will vary depending on the level of cover selected.