

STAY N PLAY DOGGY DAYCARE
Luke Millington

Committee Bundle

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"Hidden, tragic cost" of poorly socialised pets: survey reveals 98% of vets resked to euthanise healthy pets

06 September 2016

Almost all companion animal vets have been asked to euthanise healthy pets, with half (53%) saying this was not a rare occurrence and 98% of those who had been asked to euthanise a healthy pet citing the owner's reason as their pet's behaviour, reveal figures released today by the British Veterinary Association (BVA).

Problem behaviours vets can see include persistent barking and howling, destructive chewing and inappropriate toileting. Aggressive behaviour, towards both people and other pets, is also a problem, with the PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) report revealing that a third of pet owners have been attacked or bitten by a dog. Such behaviours can cause a breakdown of the human-animal bond, leading to pets being excluded from family life to the detriment of their welfare, relinquished to rehoming centres or euthanised.

The figures, obtained during BVA's Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey (https://www.bva.co.uk/voice/), which polled over 700 vets across the UK, also highlight the burden that is placed on vets every day when they are faced with euthanising healthy animals.



The survey shows the importance of adequate socialisation of animals at an early age

British Veterinary Association President Sean Wensley said:

"These figures are stark and are likely to come as a shock to members of the public. But this is the sad reality of a failure to socialise animals from the earliest possible age – a specific time in a puppy's development which has a significant impact on their future temperament and behaviour. With dogs, this process starts from before a puppy is even seen by a potential owner. In recent months there has been a litany of news stories about the illegal importation, breeding and trading of puppies through puppy farms. This is no way for a family pet to start life and we urge potential owners to thoroughly research where a puppy has been born and reared, using the AWF/RSPCA Puppy Contract to help. Then, in the first year of ownership, and especially in the first few weeks, work with your local veterinary practice to ensure your puppy is introduced to everyday sights and sounds, including other people and animals, in a safe and structured way."

Mr Wensley also commented on the impact on vets:

"Nobody enters the veterinary profession wanting to euthanise healthy pets, but this is the stressful situation that many vets are facing because of undesirable behaviours in pet animals. Vets will do all they can in these situations to avoid euthanasia, including offering evidence-based behavioural advice, referring to accredited pet behaviourists or assisting with rehoming through reputable rehoming organisations, but sometimes these options are not appropriate, particularly where the behavioural issues make it extremely difficult to rehome the animal. Vets are not required to euthanise healthy animals at an owner's request, but sometimes, having carefully considered all options and given the circumstances the pet finds themselves in, it may be in an animal's best interests to do so. Euthanising an animal who could have been a loving pet is the hidden, tragic cost of poor socialisation."

Owners often offered a number of reasons when requesting euthanasia for their healthy pet, with surveyed vets saying that some of the most common reasons they were given included poor health of the owner (48%), owners moving to accommodation that is unsuitable for their pet (39%), and legal enforcement reasons (32%).

BVA President Sean Wensley interview with BBC Radio Devon.



Further information on euthanasia

- Euthanasia of animals guide (https://www.bva.co.uk/Workplace-guidance/Ethical-guidance/BVA-Euthanasia-Guide/)
- The role of the vet in treatment choice decision-making (https://www.bva.co.uk/Workplace-guidance/Ethical-guidance/Role-of-the-vet-in-treatment-choice/)
- Separating sadness from guilt (https://www.bva.co.uk/News-campaigns-and-policy/BVA-community/BVA-Blog/Separating-sadness-from-guilt/) a blog post by BVA past
 president Robin Hargreaves

Related BVA policy

- · Responsible pet ownership (/news-campaigns-and-policy/policy/companion-animals/responsible-pet-ownership/)
- · Animal welfare (/news-campaigns-and-policy/policy/ethics-and-welfare/animal-welfare/)

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Crufts special: Vets' top six priorities for happy, healthy dogs

06 March 2015

A survey carried out by the British Veterinary Association has identified the top six factors that vets believe would impact dogs' health and welfare. The British Veterinary Association is today releasing these figures to coincide with Crufts, taking place between 5 – 8 March 2015 at the NEC in Birmingham.

BVA's second Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey ran from 17 September to 9 October 2014, 752 vets completed the survey.

448 small animal and mixed practice vets were asked "Thinking about the dogs that you see and treat, what impact would the following have on their health and welfare?"

- 95% felt better weight control would have a significant impact on canine health and welfare
- 88% felt that providing more exercise would have a significant impact on canine health and welfare
- 3. 82% felt that better early socialisation would have a significant impact on canine
- 4. 75% felt better selective breeding for improved conformation would have a significant impact on canine health and welfare
- 5. 64% felt a change of diet would significantly impact on canine health and welfare
- 6. 43% felt that more screening for inherited conditions such as hip dysplasia and eye problems would have a significant impact on canine health and welfare

Other factors mentioned which vets felt could have an impact on canine health and welfare include:

- · Better owner understanding of canine behaviour, handling and training
- Better owner education prior to obtaining a pet regarding the time and cost of keeping a pet and lifestyle considerations
- Better dental care
- · More regular antiparasitic treatments

John Blackwell, British Veterinary Association President, commented:"

"Vets who regularly see dogs in their practices are aware of a number of issues that impact pets' health and welfare, ranging from weight problems to poor socialisation and the subsequent behavioural problems this can lead to.

"As vets, we want to work with owners to improve the health and welfare of their pet and we are more than happy to give advice and guidance. From help on selecting the right diet and quantity of food for your dog to advice about training and behaviour, owners should talk to their vet to get sound advice and to be confident they are doing the best they can for the animal's health and welfare.

"With the spotlight on dogs with Crufts, the BVA would encourage anyone thinking of getting a dog to do their homework carefully first."

"The BVA and Kennel Club Canine Health Schemes help breeders to make informed decisions when selecting dogs for breeding, and thus help reduce the risk and incidence of disease. It's also worth remembering that it's not just pedigree dogs that can inherit disorders such as hip and elbow dysplasia or hereditary eye disease. There is a misconception that crossbred dogs are protected from hereditary problems but that's not the case. Anyone thinking of breeding from their dog or thinking about buying a puppy should ask their vet about health screening and how it can be used to inform their decisions"

"Whether a potential owner is opting for a pedigree or crossbred puppy, BVA supports the use of the Animal Welfare Foundation/RSPCA Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack, which contains a section for the breeder to fill out about any health screening or DNA tests and results to give added reassurance to owners. In addition, for Kennel Club registered breeds, the Assured Breeder Scheme requires certain breed-specific health tests as part of registering puppies from Assured Breeders."

Further information

BVA's Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey draws together a panel of over 1,000 BVA members broadly representative of the wider BVA membership who are surveyed on a semi-regular basis. The Voice of the Veterinary Profession captures the profession's views and experiences by asking questions about animal health and welfare, public health, and trends in the veterinary profession. The surveys are carried out by the independent research company, Alpha Research (http://www.alpharesearch.co.uk).

>The BVA and the Kennel Club (KC) work in partnership to provide a number of health screening programmes - the Canine Health Schemes. The Canine Health Schemes enable breeders to screen for a range of inherited diseases so they can make informed decisions as to whether those dogs should be included in breeding programmes. You can order Scheme literature using the order form or by contacting the CHS team using the details below. For further information contact the Canine Health Schemes Department on 020 7908 6380 or chs@bva.co.uk

- Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack (http://puppycontract.rspca.org.uk/home)
- The Assured Breeders Scheme (http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/breeding/assured-breeder-scheme/)

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BVA members have identified six priority areas for dogs' health and welfare

Section 4: The need it has to be Housed With, or Apart From, Other Animals

Making sure your dog has the company it needs.

What your dog needs

Dogs are sociable animals that need, and enjoy, company. Consequently, most dogs do not like being left alone and may suffer if left without company, or with nothing to do for long periods of time. Some dogs become distressed if they are left on their own, even for short periods. The length of time individual dogs can be left varies, depending on factors such as age, training, previous experience of being left alone, breed or type, lifestyle and housing conditions. However, no dog should routinely be left on its own for prolonged periods. If the time alone is excessive, you can expect behavioural problems that are distressing for both you and your dog.

If dogs are treated well as puppies, they learn to see people as friends. Learning to get on with people, dogs and other animals is an essential part of social development for a puppy. Puppies that are deprived of opportunities to develop social behaviour can become withdrawn, anxious and aggressive as adults. However, if a dog has appropriate contact with other dogs early in its life it will be more sociable and this can enhance its quality of life. Dogs that have not had opportunities to develop socially, or which have had bad experiences involving people or other animals, may be frightened or aggressive in normal social situations. Dogs which are frightened show characteristic signs such as flattening of the ears and lowering the tail or signs of stress such as excessive panting, licking lips, hiding, cowering and aggression.

Dogs usually get on well with other dogs in the same household, but may need time to get to know each other. However, they will need to have their own space and places to get away from other dogs if they want to.

Dogs get to know the people they regularly interact with. They can become confused and distressed if the behaviour of those people is inconsistent and unpredictable. It is never acceptable to frighten a dog, or encourage it to behave aggressively by tormenting it.

What you should do:

- Make sure your dog has opportunities to spend enough time with people and friendly dogs so that it is less likely to become lonely or bored.
- Make sure that your dog is never left alone long enough for it to become distressed.
- Encourage your dog to be friendly towards other dogs and allow it to interact with friendly dogs on a regular basis.
- Puppies should be given regular opportunities to socialise with other dogs and people. You should always check health issues with your vet before allowing your puppy to mix with other dogs.
- If you keep more than one dog, you should keep them together for company if possible. They will need to get on with each other, but will also need space to get away from each other when they want to.



Socialising puppies and dogs



- Experiences during the first year of a dog's life make all the difference to future temperament and c. re
- Taking the time to socialise your puppy can result in a friendly adult dog that enjoys the company of percan be taken anywhere and lives life to the full
- It is vital that, between three and 12 weeks of age, a puppy meets a wide variety of people, situations and other animals
- This information is written to provide help with puppies but is also relevant for use with undersocialise (but not aggressive) adult dogs

The importance of socialising your dog

This is the process by which puppies learn to relate to people and other animals. It means meeting and having pleasant encounters with as many other adults, children, dogs (puppies and adults), and other animals as possible. It also involves becoming used to a wide range of events, environments and situations.

When you take on a puppy, you are taking on the responsibility to ensure your dog grows up to be emotionally well-adjusted. Puppies that are not socialised may grow up to be fearful, and fearful dogs mabite. Dogs not used to different environments and situations spend their lives being frightened when taken to unfamiliar places.

Well-socialised puppies grow up to be friendly and happy in the company of people and other animals, and make successful pets. Dogs taken out regularly as puppies can take different situations in their stride and enjoy going anywhere with their owners.

When to start socialising your puppy

The younger the puppy, the easier it will be to socialise. This is because, as puppies get older, they become more cautious when faced with new experiences. The early weeks are particularly important because a puppy will approach anything or anybody willingly and without fear.

By the time your dog reaches about 12 weeks of age, anything not yet encountered is approached with caution and trepidation. Therefore it is vital that, between three and 12 weeks of age, a puppy meets a wide variety of people, situations and other animals. If not, your dog will be anxious and fearful of them. How much socialisation is done at this early age will determine how confident your puppy is around people and other dogs later in life.

Puppies usually go to new homes from the age of about six to eight weeks. This means the new owners should make a real effort to socialise the new puppy during their early time together. Socialisation after this is is necessary to build on this foundation or to make up for lost time. This is particularly important if the puppy has been unwell or was not socialised adequately while still with the litter.

Well-socialised puppies up to the age of 12 weeks can become fearful again if kept in isolation. If owners continue to make an effort until the puppy is at least one year old, they will end up with an adult dog that is friendly and can be taken anywhere.

How to socialise your puppy

All you have to do is take your puppy out and about as much as possible as soon as they have settled in, taking care not to overwhelm the pet, and to keep your dog safe from infectious diseases (see later).

Begin slowly at first, gradually increasing the number of encounters and the time spent socialising as the puppy becomes older and more able to cope.

As it is particularly necessary for pet dogs to enjoy the company of humans, it is especially important that ydod dog meets a lot of them, both adults and children. Take your puppy to them and invite them round to your house. It will be easier to do this if you take your puppy everywhere with you once they are able to cope with this amount of exposure. You must make the effort to socialise while your puppy is still young enough to reap the maximum benefit. Ensuring your puppy grows up to be friendly and outgoing is not difficult, but it does require a few hours, in several small sessions every day, for the first year of life.

Tips on socialising your puppy when out and about

All encounters should be pleasant, so keep your puppy happy by giving strangers small titbits to feed, or a favourite toy to pass to your dog to play with. If your puppy is shy, ask strangers not to stare, tower over your dog, or hug the animal as this may be seen as threatening.

Observe your puppy constantly for signs of anxiety or being overwhelmed and, if things get too much, remove your dog from the situation or give your dog more space and freedom to approach. Remember young puppies tire easily, so keep encounters short with enough time in-between for resting. During all encounters, protect your puppy from bad experiences. Young puppies are inexperienced and get themselves into trouble easily. Think ahead and try to prevent any unpleasant events from occurring. Try to engineer encounters that will be successful and rewarding — if all early life is pleasant and positive, the puppy will grow up to feel safe and confident enough to deal with whatever life may have in store.

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• Never pick up your puppy and pass them to someone or drag your puppy towards them. Dogs should al be able to make an approach in their own time and retreat if they want to.

• A friendly, happy dog with few behaviour problems is likely to have a longer, more successful life than a fearful, aggressive and difficult one

An anxious puppy will try to look smaller, avoid eye contact, hold the tail low, put ears back and keep at

A happy, relaxed puppy will stand up straight with tail wagging and be keen to investigate

Adults and children

All ages and temperaments of adults and children must be encountered. If you live in a household without children, find some who would like to meet your puppy. This is not usually too difficult but make the effort to do so. Make sure they have happy encounters with staff at the veterinary surgery (who one day may need to handle your dog in an emergency) and delivery people who may otherwise be seen as a threat.

Meeting adults and children should be the most important item on your socialisation programme. The more people your puppy meets and plays with, the more friendly and sociable your dog will become.

Other dogs and puppies

Your puppy should be carefully introduced to adult dogs as well as other puppies. Ensure these dogs are safe around puppies as a bad experience is worse than none at all. A puppy needs to learn respect for adult dogs, such as not putting teeth and paws all over them unless invited to do so. They will learn this by being "told off" by the adult dog if too exuberant. Allow this, but watch for signs of it going too far. Prevent your puppy from going back for more once the older dog has had enough.

Protect your puppy from the exuberant play of a bigger dog, especially if your puppy is shy. Crouch down to provide a safe haven and do not allow an older dog or another puppy to frighten yours. Since your puppy is not protected from major diseases until after vaccinations have taken effect, special care should be taken to ensure that the dogs and puppies encountered are fully vaccinated and healthy (see later).

Cats, livestock and horses and your puppy

Puppies should meet a variety of other animals, but should be kept under control to prevent them learning to enjoy chasing.

Environments to expose your puppy to

As well as meeting other animals, puppies need to encounter a variety of different environments and situations. This provides an opportunity to become familiar with a wide range of different scents, sights and sounds. If your dog is socialising well with humans, familiarisation with different environments should happen naturally. However, it is worth making an effort to check that your puppy is gradually becoming accustomed to car travel, traffic, the countryside and towns. Remember to "think puppy" imagine how it feels to be that small, vulnerable and inexperienced, and try to make sure your puppy is enjoying the experience and not feeling overwhelmed.

Shy puppies need more help

Different puppies have different sensitivities, and some are more difficult to socialise. Puppies from herding breeds, such as collies and German shepherd dogs, tend to be more prone to fearfulness and need more and earlier socialisation than other breeds. You may have an older puppy that missed out on a lot of early

experiences. Either way, failure to provide adequate socialisation for young puppies will result in shyness, which should be overcome as soon as possible.

Let'hy puppies take their time as forcing the issue takes longer in the end. Provide not overawe. As you begin to see an improvement, gradually increase the degree of challenge until the puppy is able to take in all new encounters with comfort.

Shy puppies need to be handled with care to ensure they gain adequate experience and make up for lost time, but do not become overwhelmed in the process. It is worth making a special effort to help them overcome fears while still young and adaptable enough to change.

Allow a shy puppy the freedom and time to make friends at their own speed. Never pull a puppy towards a stranger, or pick your puppy up and hand them over to someone. If the stranger offers food or a game and avoids eye contact, the puppy soon becomes brave enough to venture closer.

Preventing disease while socialising your puppy

Young animals are susceptible to disease before their immune systems have a chance to become effective. Pyroies acquire some immunity from their mothers (if they were vaccinated), which protects them during the early weeks. This is why the first vaccination is not given until the puppy is six to nine weeks of age. The second is given at 12 weeks and the puppy is fully protected one week later.

Since keeping a puppy isolated until your dog is 13 weeks old can ruin its future character, a compromise must be reached between the need to protect against disease, and the need to ensure good mental health. As most of the socialisation process will involve humans rather than other dogs, such a compromise is feasible and, if the following guidelines are adhered to, it is possible to socialise your puppy and avoid the risk of infection.

Until your dog is fully protected by vaccination, your puppy should:

- not be allowed to mix with dogs of unknown vaccination status
- not be taken to parks or walked in other areas that other dogs have fouled
- be taken out as much as possible in "non-doggy" areas, and can be carried if necessary to avoid unwante contact from other dogs or soiled areas

Puppy classes

A good puppy socialisation class can help your training (but should be just a supplement, as most of the work should be done by you away from the class). Puppies are usually admitted between the ages of 12 and 20 weeks and the entire family is encouraged to attend so that all puppies meet a wide variety of adults and children.

Finding a good class is essential as a bad one can do more harm than good – your vet may be able to recommend one. Ask to observe a class in progress before taking your puppy along. If there is a lot of uncontrolled play between puppies, with little intervention, look elsewhere. Puppy classes should teach more about how to enjoy the company of humans rather than how to have a good time playing with other puppies. Sign up if the following points apply – the sessions are well controlled and planned, the class size is small (up to ten), they are run only for young puppies (rather than for older dogs too), and the puppies and their owners look as though they are enjoying it and learning too.

Giving your puppy an education

In addition to socialising and training, it is essential your puppy learns how to be well behaved. If you

socialise well, your dog should be friendly and eager to meet people and other animals. Control some of the exuberance that comes with this process, in order to achieve the perfect balance of friendliness and good manners.

Preventing bad behaviour – by ignoring or diverting attention away from it, whilst rewarding and praising good behaviour – is the key. Ignore unwanted actions and they will occur less often, reward good behaviour and it will happen more often.

Important points about socialisation

- It involves lots of pleasant encounters with adults, children, other animals and different environments
- It is easy (but does take regular effort)
- It makes the difference between a fearful dog that may bite, and a happy, outgoing dog that loves people
- It should happen early, intensively between three and 12 weeks, and continue until the puppy is a year (Intensive work may be needed for older puppies to make up for lost time.
- During socialisation, a puppy should be protected from fearful encounters and from contagious disease and never overwhelmed with too much at once

SOCIALISING

- Page last updated 23/09/2016

More from Blue Cross



Let your pet set you a #MyPetMadeMe fundraising challenge. Your shame. Their gain.

Week 9 - 12 - Learning about the world - safely!

The Science

This is a difficult period for new puppy owners – because they need to spend as much time socialising their puppy to his new life as possible but at this age, he is not yet fully vaccinated. It is a bit of a balancing act – but the benefits of socialisation are too important to ignore especially given that the largest causes of death in dogs under two years old is not disease but euthanasia because of behaviour problems. Your puppy's vaccination status doesn't stop you taking him out and about – he just has to be carried, and should only meet dogs whose vaccination status you are 100% sure about. It also doesn't stop you inviting people to come and meet him at home and in the garden, him going out in the car, or him being carried around the town.

Suggested Tasks

- 1. Try and make sure your puppy meets everything on your personal Puppy Plan three times (or more) in these very important four weeks. Tick each one in the Puppy Plan chart so you can see easily which ones you need to do more work on. These experiences need to be totally positive so if it is a person, they should give the puppy a treat, and if it is an experience (car, traffic, pub etc) you need to make sure you treat and reward the puppy in that environment (or play a game with him, feed him his dinner there etc). Socialising a young puppy is easy as most people you meet will want to see him and will be happy to help!
- 2. Use interactive toys stuffed with food, give him problems to solve, controlled frustration to deal with, and to continue his brain development in his new home. Introduce him to tunnels, steps, things to clamber over, and different surfaces to walk on.
- 3. Teach him that part of his new life includes being left alone for short periods of time or not having constant access to you. Do this from the first day you bring him home. Use a dog crate (which can be purchased from a pet shop, and should be made comfortable with bedding) or a baby gate to separate him from you at least once every day at times when there are positive things happening (eating dinner, chewing a stuffed Kong etc). To start with he should still be able to see you (and so not feel deserted).
- 4. Continue to use the noise CD that the breeder has been using (or you can buy one from Amazon) to play unexpected noises (if he hasn't had the benefits of the first 8 week Puppy Plan, start these very quietly at meal times or game times, and slowly build up the volume).
- 5. Introduce him to friendly healthy vaccinated dogs if you know any. If not, speak to your veterinary practice or your chosen puppy training class some have days where your pup can meet friendly staff dogs in a safe environment.
- 6. Encourage him to follow you rewarding him with a treat or a game when he does (this means a constant supply of treats in the pocket). This will simplify recall training when your puppy is older and also build the social bond between you.
- 7. Teach your puppy about relaxation, being calm around you etc. This includes being groomed, and being handled around his feet, face, mouth, ears etc (rewarding him all the time when he is still and relaxed). Many owners miss this one in all the excitement and so the dog thinks everything is a game and never keeps still when the owner is around.
- 8. Encourage periods of quiet time when he is relaxed and settles down in your presence. Start these as very short periods, using a crate or a play pen beside you if necessary and giving your puppy something to occupy him such as an interactive toy (like a Kong stuffed with food).





The Puppy Plan and life beyond

Teenager 1 - Spreading his wings

While your 16 week Puppy Plan is over, there are a couple of other developmental phases you need to be aware of – otherwise they can come as a shock when suddenly your lovely cuddly puppy turns into a teenager!

The first one comes anywhere between four and eight months and can last anything from a few days to a couple of months. The puppy will begin to wander a little further from you — and instead of coming to you (as he has been doing) he gives a good impression of not having heard you. He may even be difficult to catch or even run away from you.

If this becomes a problem, avoid complete off-lead exercise but keep him on a long line that he can trail behind him (not a retractable lead, which doesn't allow you enough control and can cause injuries if misused) so he can still get plenty of experience, socialise freely with other dogs but you can prevent him ignoring you when you call him. Often this phase doesn't last long!

Be careful with a long line not to get rope burns (put a foot on it rather than grabbing it with your hands) or trip people up!

Use the lead, and plenty of rewards when he comes to you, and this period should not last long. If however he discovers that he can ignore you, this may continue for far longer — or even become a habit.

Consider joining a dog training class to help with further training, and give you support and advice with any problems. Ask your vet for suggestions of good established local clubs, use the Kennel Club website to find a nearby Kennel Club Accredited Instructor, or club teaching the Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme.

Teenager 2 - Is it scary?

The other period that you need to know about happens anywhere between six and 14 months old. In this period, the young dog can start to behave fearfully to things and people that he has previously been interacting with happily. This period coincides with the onset of sexual maturity and the surge of hormones that brings.

As soon as you notice these fear responses starting, revisit your Puppy Plan chart, and give him a refresher socialisation course – aiming to give him plenty of positive experiences with everything that is on the chart using treats, play and fun to overcome his fears.

Adult dog

Having had the best possible upbringing, your adult dog should now have all the skills necessary to be a model canine citizen – and of course a much loved part of the family. Don't forget though – use it or lose it! Make sure he still gets to mix with other (nice) dogs, go to training classes or have the chance to socialise in a wide variety of situations, and to go exciting places and be a part of your life to keep his social skills well exercised.





NOTES:

Breed and type considerations

Depending on what breed or type you choose (or what breeds make up your puppy), you may find that you have to pay more attention to certain things. Here are some starting points to help you:

Toy/Companion breed – more prone to separation anxieties. Spend more time making sure they are happy being left alone both when you are in the house and then when you leave.

Working breeds – spend lots of time making sure they are well socialised to other dogs and strange people/ visitors, and that their natural working instincts are utilised and appropriately channelled onto toys and games.

Hounds – try and encourage them to pay attention to you when there are interesting smells or small animals around. Work hard on recall and following you. Be careful around small animals.

Pastoral/herding breeds – make sure that you provide them with plenty of mental stimulation, and have things to occupy their minds so they do not go self-employed chasing or herding things.

Terriers – use toys and games/yummy treats to distract them from small or fast moving animals and to prevent them ignoring you. Be careful around small animals.

Remember – think about what the breed was originally bred to do – this will give you clues to what you need to socialise for and habituate against.

Insurance

Even if you choose not to have health insurance for your dog, it is a good idea to have third party liability insurance as accidents can happen even with the most well-behaved of dogs and you can easily find yourself liable for compensation or any financial claims made in connection with any damage or injury caused by your dog.





Dear Luke,

After discussing your concerns raised regarding the socialisation of puppies under six months within your day care not being allowed due to restrictions on your 'Animal Boarding Licence'. We are writing to show our support for your application to have this removed.

We as veterinary professionals believe that the most crucial part of a dogs learning and development would be between the ages of 12-26 weeks. During this part of a dog's life it is important to introduce and socialize them within a controlled environment.

We as veterinary professionals with many years of experience believe that it is vital for puppies to be introduced to a variety of experiences one of the main ones being other dog's of all different sizes, ages, breeds and much more. The purpose of this is to ensure the dog develops in to a confident, friendly and playful dog.

Failure to follow the above can result in more complex issues to deal with. If a puppy is not socialized nor experienced different environments from a young age this could result in a fearful/anxious adult dog or even an aggressive adult dog.

We believe that within a controlled environment like yours with the facilities to segregate and integrate if needed would be an ideal place for the socialization of puppies ensuring they turn into happy and confident adult dogs.

M.J.Beck - Many Veterinary Nurse.

J.Briggs - J.Briggs - RVN.

S. Shrapp RUN

32 Bradley Fold Cottages Bolton BL2 RN

Dear Luke,

After meeting with yourself to discuss your concerns regarding your license and not being able to provide day care for puppies under six months due to the condition imposed by Bury Council. I write this letter to show my support for you to appeal this condition.

As a registered veterinary professional for just over 16 years I firmly believe believe that the most important part of a dogs learning is between 12-26 weeks. It is really important to introduce puppies into new environments and to socialize with dogs of all ages, sizes, breeds and so on.

The purpose of this is to ensure the dog develops in to a confident, friendly and playful dog. Failure to follow the above can result in more complex issues to deal with. If a puppy is not socialized nor experienced different environments from a young age this could result in a fearful/anxious adult dog or even an aggressive adult dog.

I believe that within a controlled environment like yours with the facilities to segregate and integrate if needed would be an ideal place for the socialization of puppies ensuring they turn into happy and confident adult dogs.

Yours truly,

Ruth Unsworth

RVN Cert SAN ONC HYDRO

Puppies have periods of development which can be thought of as windows of opportunity which open and close during the first year of life. It is extremely important to introduce puppies to different situations and environments, this also includes play and social behaviour with dogs of all shapes, sizes and ages during the first window of opportunity usually 12 - 26 weeks of age.

A puppy that has a positive experience through play with dogs of all ages and sizes is less likely as an adult to react badly in a challenging situation or an unfamiliar environment. If this is done properly we end up with a relaxed, confident adult who is at reduced risk of aggression because play and correct body language with other dogs of all ages has already been learned. There are no separate areas of play in the local park which can be stressful for both dog and owner if socialisation has not been handled properly.

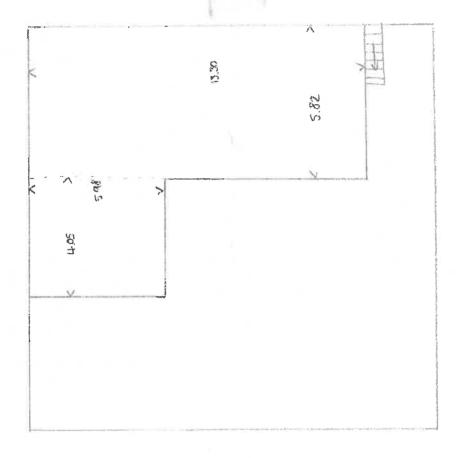
At approx. 6 months of age puppies go through the second window of development. During this time puppies can show extreme fear of new and even familiar situations. It is important that this stage of development is handled carefully as it can have a lasting effect on the dogs' future behaviour. For this reason it would be wrong to isolate younger pups and then put them into a group of adults at this age this would have a negative effect on both puppies and older dogs they would not know how to interact and could be fearful when placed in this situation resulting in exactly the behaviour we are trying to avoid. At 6 months they are also teenagers and have to cope with all the hormonal changes which can also cause stress for the youngster (especially males)

At around 12 - 14 months the window of socialisation closes making it much harder to integrate and help a dog to get over his now established fear.

Socialisation from the earliest age possible is vital to development. Many dogs that develop problems though lack of socialisation end up in Rescue or at worst euthanized because their owners can no longer handle them

• We prefer not to use a separate puppy area; over the years we have come to realise that segregated pups want to be out in the unit with the bigger dogs and can become stressed when being kept apart. Instead we issue the pups with their own minders. The staff are always happy to take their 30 minute slots of puppy minding. The puppy then learns to play with the other dogs, while their minder is on hand to 'slow down' any over-exuberant behaviour. When a puppy needs to sleep, it will enjoy one of the comfy beds in the office.

- Fire



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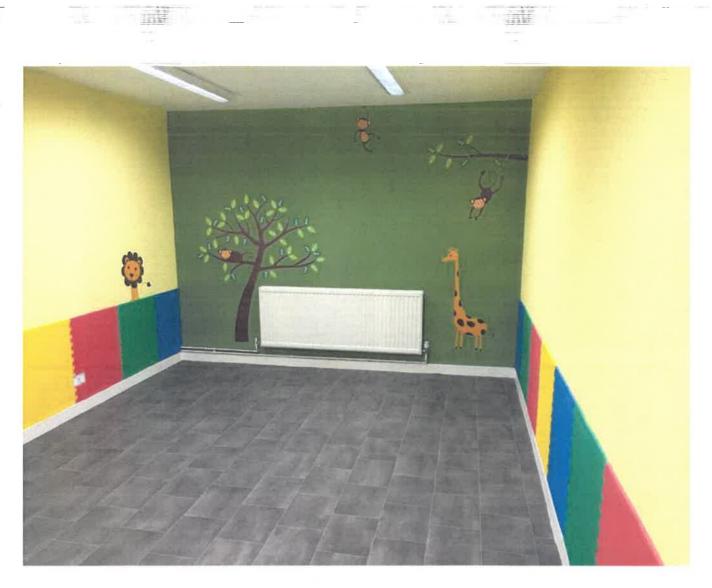


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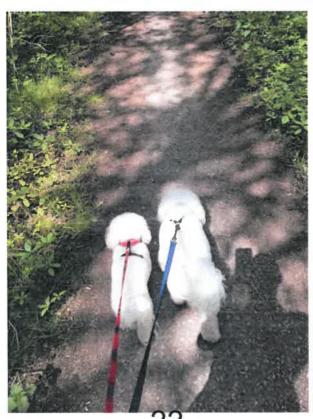


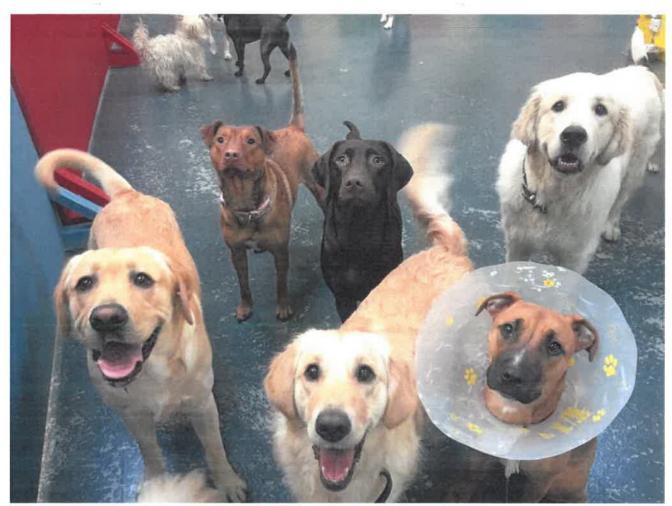




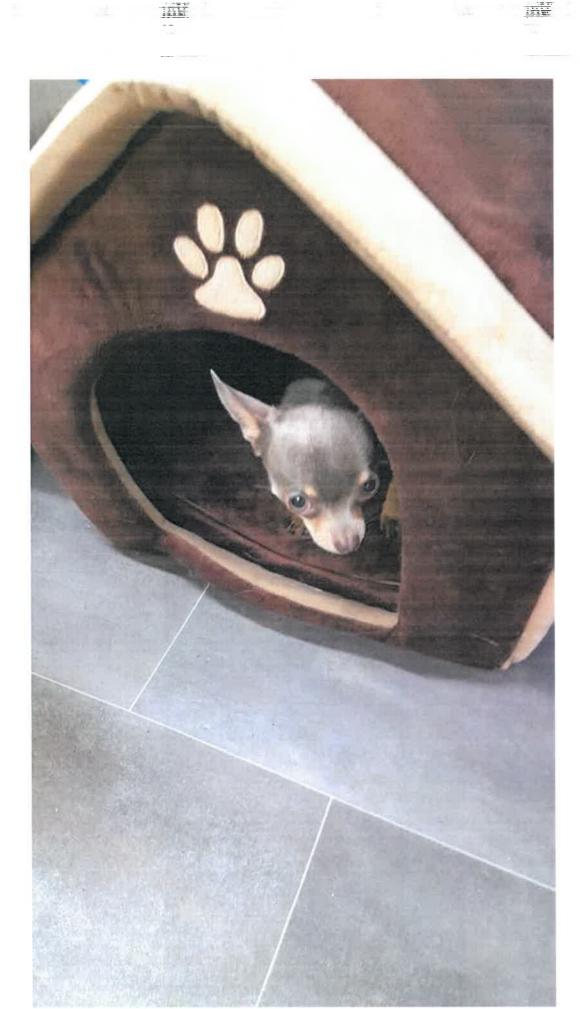


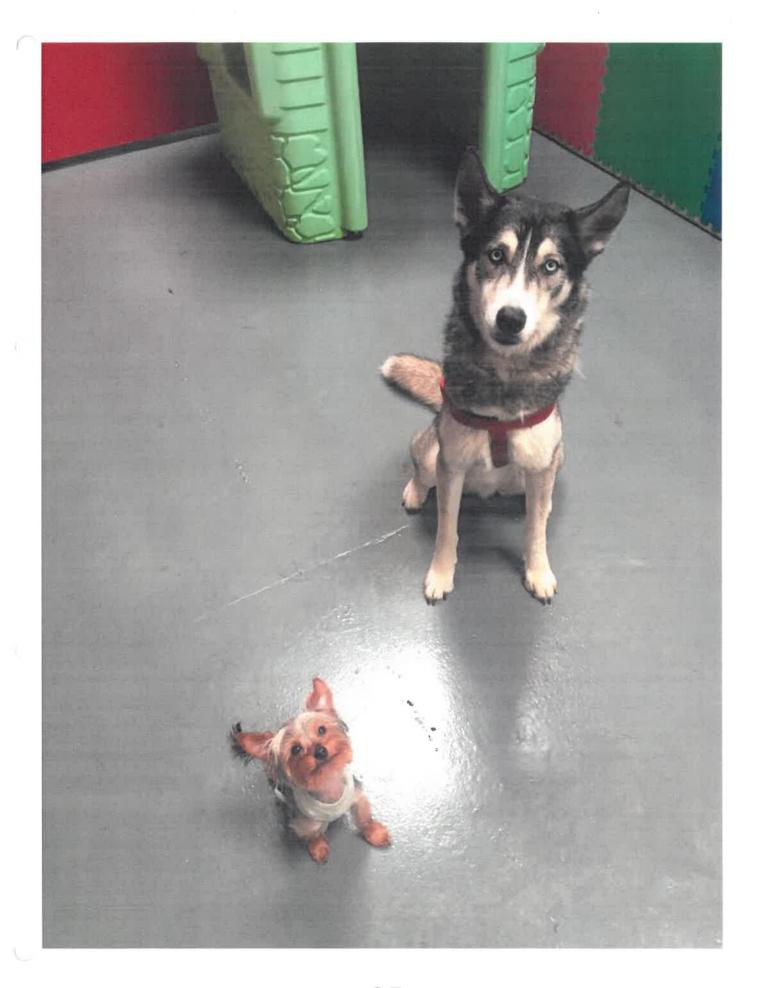












Qualifications

Luke Millington:

OPLEX CPD ACCREDITATION

Animal Care CPD Accredited
Animal Management CPD Accredited

ADTB – ACADMEY OF DOG TRAINING AND BEHAVIOUR

BRONZE LEVEL INSTRUCTOR COURSE SILVER LEVEL INSTRUCTOR COURSE GOLD LEVEL INSTRUCTOR COURSE

GITY & GUILDS

LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE DOG GROOMING LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN DOG STYLIST

THE ACADEMY AT FIR TREE DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL DOG STYLIST

<u>IOA – INTERNATIONAL OPEN ACADEMY</u> CERTIFICATE IN DOG TRAINING AND BEHAVIOUR

<u>ICOES – INTERNATIONAL CONCIL FOR EDUCATION STANDARDS</u> CERTIFICATE IN DOG TRAINING & BEHAVIOUR

PRO TRAININGS

CANINE FIRST AID

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATE IN CANINE BEHAVIOUR TRAINING

OTHER TEAM MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

ICOES – CERTIFICATE IN ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGY ADTB – BRONZE LEVEL INSTRUCTOR COURSE CITY & GUILDS – LEVEL 2 ANIMAL CARE CITY & GUILDS - LEVEL 3 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT BTEC – LEVEL 2 DIPLOMA IN ANIMAL CARE



REVIEWS

Reviews from the web

Dog day care center in Radcliffe, England

OVERVIEW

5/5 Facebook 65 votes

Google review summary



Stay N Play Doggy Daycare





OVERVIEW

REVIEWS

Google reviews

Most helpful ▼



Sharon Finlay

2 weaks ago

*** * Just had my dog casper in for grooming. Really pleased very friendly staff and a neat job. Will definitely use them again.



Response from the owner

2 weeks ago

Hi Sharon, thanks for such a lovely and prompt review. Much appreciated. Casper is a lovely boy we look forward to seeing him soon. And best of luck.



haylz89ish

5 months aco

**** I originally went to puppy training classes at Stay n Play, which were fantastic and very helpful. Ellie and Luke were patient and very informative, but most importantly you felt like they genuinely cared. We now take our beagle to the doggy day care roughly once a week. He absolutely loves going and comes home knackered. I would recommend Stay N Play for all dog owners whether you need training, grooming or just want your dog to have a fab day.

Helpful?

Response from the owner

5 months ado

Hi Hayley,

Thanks for a lovely review. Buddy was a pleasure to have on the course and in daycare. He so energetic its great to watch him play with his friends and howl too of course. See you very soon :-)

Thanks,

The Stay N Play Team

Q a stay n play doggy day care radcliffe



Stay N Play Doggy Daycare



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OVERVIEW

REVIEWS



Neil Caldwell

5 months ago

**** Our cockapoo Chester has a great time at Stay N Play each week. Being so close to home is a bonus and the opening hours are brilliant making it so convenient for commuting to work when need to be in early or leaving late. The place has lots of room for the dogs to run around and an outdoor area too which is great for the dogs to get out. Chester comes home really tired which is helpful as does not need a long walk in the evening when had a long day myself. Earning points for discounts is good too and with grooming as well it really is a one stop shop. I hope the business grows and grows as we (and Chester) would not like to go anywhere else

Helpful?

Response from the owner

5 months ago

Hi Neil,

Thank you so much for a lovely review. The detail is great too as we're able to see what we're doing right and where we can improve. Chester is a wonderful dog and he has defiantly made lots of friends whilst he's been here. He loves the outdoors and running up and down the stretch grassed area. We look forward to seeing him tomorrow.

Thanks again and see you soon.

The Stay N Play Team



Carl Newall

5 months ago

*** Stay n Play Doggy Daycare is fab! Maggie isn't allowed off the lead on walks as she doesn't like to come back so it's great for us to bring her to play and mix with other doggy friends where she can run around as much as she likes in a safe environment. Much better than her being at home alone whilst we are out working

Helpful?

Response from the owner

ta mootha ago

Hi Carl.

Thanks for the lovely review!! Maggie is a wonderful girl too!! She has made lots of new fiends whilst she has been with us which is great!! We look forward to seeing her soon!!



Stay N Play Doggy Daycare





OVERVIEW

REVIEWS



Craig Clift

5 months ago

**** This is our first experience of doggy daycare but now we wouldn't go anywhere else! Luke and the team are amazing with Axl and were very patient with Ziggy. They absolutely love it there, we wouldn't hesitate to recommend them to anyone who's looking for a fun, safe and trustworthy place to leave their best friends!!



Response from the owner

5 months ago

Hi Craig & Rachel,

Thanks your your kind words. We are glad you've had a great experience with us and we look forward to your visits. Your boys are lovely and very people orientated.

Hope to see you soon,

The Stay N Play Team



kim maclean

5 months ago

*** ** Milly has been attending Stay N Play since they opened, on her first visit she was a little nervous Luke and his staff were aware of this and took time with her to settle her in and they text me throughout the day to let me know how she was doing, if Milly did not like attending Stay N Play then I would know but she now goes in with her tail wagging and is happy and a lot more confident. The secure outside play area is an added bonus in the warmer months as Milly likes being outdoors all the staff interact and play with the dogs Luke will always give you advice on training etc.

The dog walking service that they now offer to Stay N Play clients is something I will be considering. During my recent illness Luke has gone out of his way to ensure that Milly has been able to attend playschool and I very much appreciate that.

I would highly recommend Stay N Play it is a safe and clean environment in which to leave your dog . If Milly is happy then I am happy



Response from the owner

5 months ago

Hi Kim.

Q a stay n play doggy day care radcliffe



Stay N Play Doggy Daycare





4 4

OVERVIEW

REVIEWS

Response from the owner

5 months ago

Hi Kim,

Thanks for such a lovely review! Millie is now apart of our Stay N Play family and we love seeing her little face. She has made lots of new friends whilst been here! It has been great to socialise her within the pack and we look forward to seeing her very soon. It's been our pleasure to help out where we can and we are glad that are back on the mend.

Thanks again,

Luke & The Team



Stephanie Thomas

5 months ago

You couldn't ask for a better place to take your dog when you need to go out for the day or go to work. Our dog loves going to Stay and Play and he gets excited as we drive up to the building in a morning. Stay and Play also offer grooming; our dog came back looking and feeling lovely and the standard was much higher than Groom room where we have taken him previously.



Response from the owner

5 months ago

Hi Stephanie,

Thanks so much for a lovely review!! He's a gorgeous boy and so playful too!! He's part of the family/pack and we look forward to seeing him. Hope to see you all soon. And he loves his ramp too!!

Thanks.

The Stay N Play Team



Colin Gibson

5 months ago

*** The girls absolutely love Stay N Play Doggy Daycare they come home smelling fresh then they like to fall into there sofa and have a sleep. Luke and his team do an amazing job Thanks A

Stay N Play Doggy Daycare





OVERVIEW

REVIEWS

★★★★★ The girls absolutely love Stay N Play Doggy Daycare they come home smelling fresh then they like to fall into there sofa and have a sleep. Luke and his team do an amazing job Thanks A ++++++++





Helpful?

Response from the owner

Hi Colin, thanks for a lovely review!! We love having the girls and seeing how excited the come in, in the morning!! Look forward to seeing them next week!!

Thanks,

The Stay N Play Team



Sarah Hayton

5 months ago

🖈 🖈 🖈 🌟 Stay n play has helped my puppy a lot helping him socialise and play with other dogs, the staff are lovely and really helpful, I emailed enquiring before sending my puppy as I was anxious to leave him, they completely put my mind at ease and I was so happy with the information I received I sent him the next day and now he absolutely loves it, the building is exceptionally spacious, and clean my puppy loves going and I wouldn't send him anywhere else would highly recommend to any dog owner wanting a safe, happy clean environment for their dog to enjoy.



Response from the owner

Hi Sarah, Thank you so much for a lovely view. We love having Dexter and he's welcome any time!! And thank you for the detail in your review its great to hear this feedback and we will continue to keep improving the service(s) we offer. Look forward to seeing you both soon.

Thanks,

The Stay N Play Team

Q a stay n play doggy day care radcliffe



Stay N Play Doggy Daycare



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OVERVIEW

REVIEWS



Danielle Rostron

7 months ago

*** † I took my puppy here for training classes and now he goes to daycare twice a week. I love this place so much the staff are amazing and become friends for life for me and Toby!! Can't recommend this place enough. They update you with pictures on Facebook of your pooch to put your mind at ease each day and Toby always comes home happy and very tired after a long day of playing with his friends!! Definitly the place to be for all pooches!!!



Response from the owner

7 months ago

Thanks Danielle it's great to hear your thoughts!! We love having him and he's welcome anytime See you soon!



Andrea Lennon

9 months add

*** * * Marshall attended Stay N Play Doggy Day Care yesterday and he absolutely loved it. The staff have been very helpful in ensuring that Marshall settled in. We could not be happier with our choice to send Marshall to Stay N Play. The updates on the facebook page are a great idea too. He cannot wait to go again.



Response from the owner

9 months ago

Hi Andrea, thank you! We love seeing Marshall - he's so full of energy and personality. Paw the love

The Stay N Play Team



Rochelle Blades

9 months age

Brilliant place my doggy has loved his days here and has come home one very tired doggy the staff are brilliant and put you at ease about leaving my dog there. And the updates throughout the day are brilliant love seeing what he is getting up to good work guys will definitely be taking my dog again

Helpful?



Stay N Play Doggy Daycare





OVERVIEW

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Response from the owner

9 months ago

Hi Rochelle, thank you! We look forward to seeing you both again soon, such a pleasure.

Paw the love

The Stay N Play Team



Donna Patten

5 months acc

★★★★★ My two furbables love going to stay n play daycare.....They always come home tired out after playing with all the other dogs that go...I'd recommend to anyone x



Response from the owner

5 months ago

Hi Donna,

Thank you for a lovely review. Your babies are welcome any time they're lovely to have around. Rowlf is everyone's best mate.

Thanks.

Stay N Play Doggy Daycare



Kornelia Bielec

a months ago

★★★★★ Amazing place and amazing people! My dog has stayed there for 8 hours. Rambo has been soooo tired and happy! Will definately come back!

Helpful?

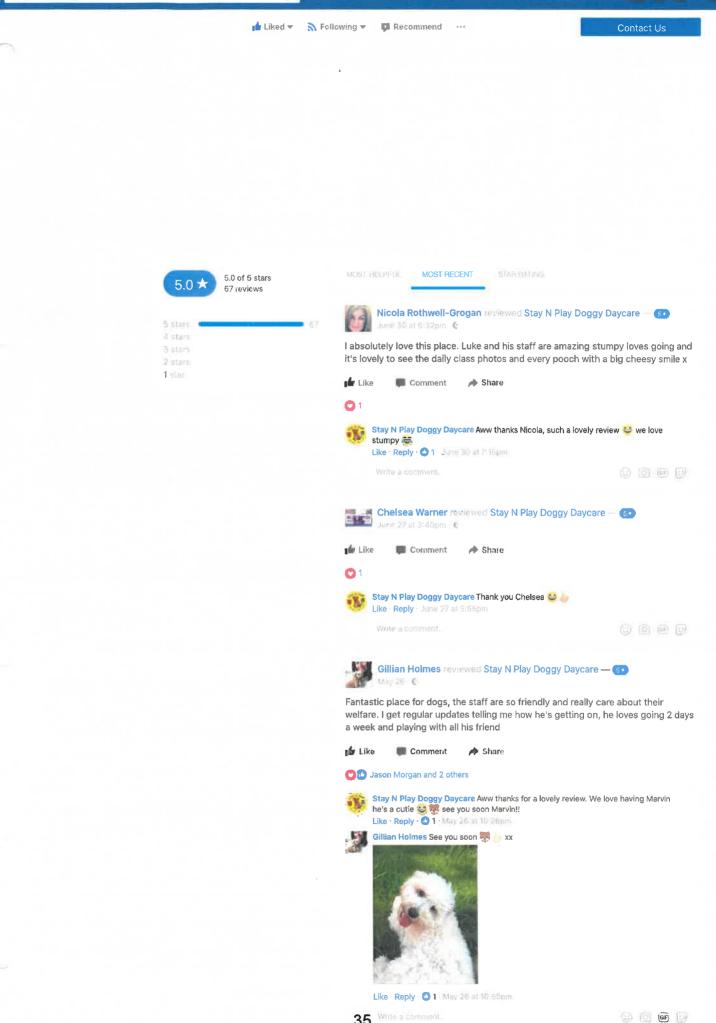
Response from the owner

9 months, add

Hi Kornelia, thank you! We look forward to seeing you and Rambo again soon, such a pleasure.

Paw the love

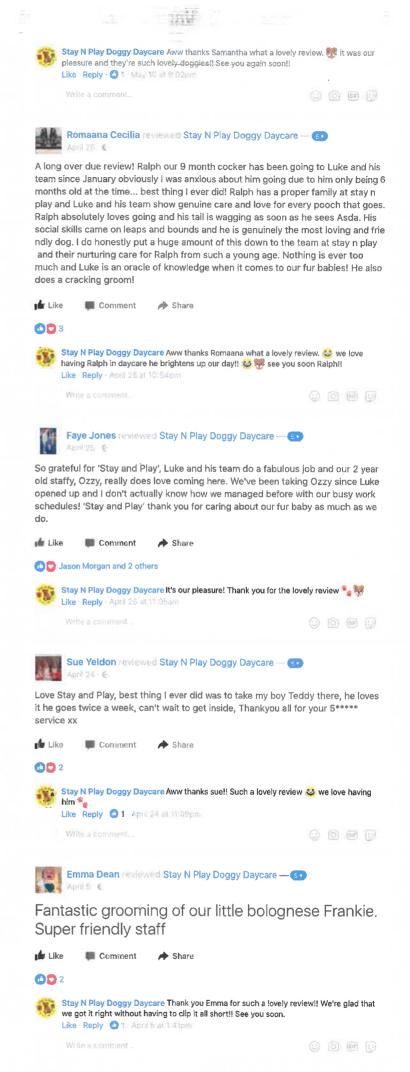
The Stay N Play Team

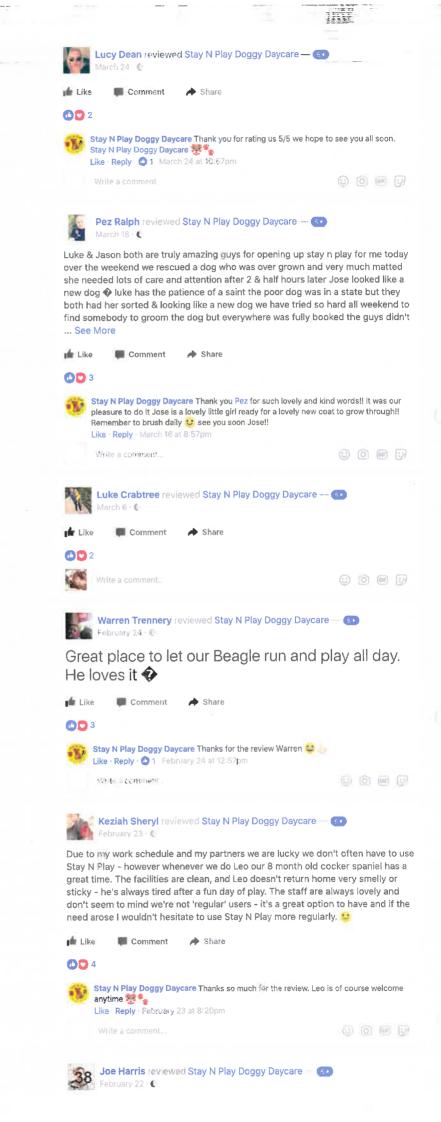


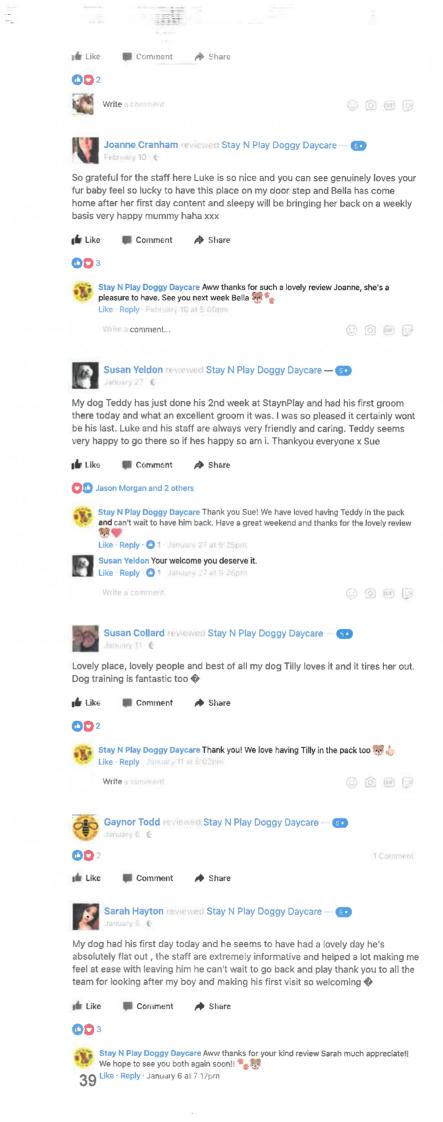
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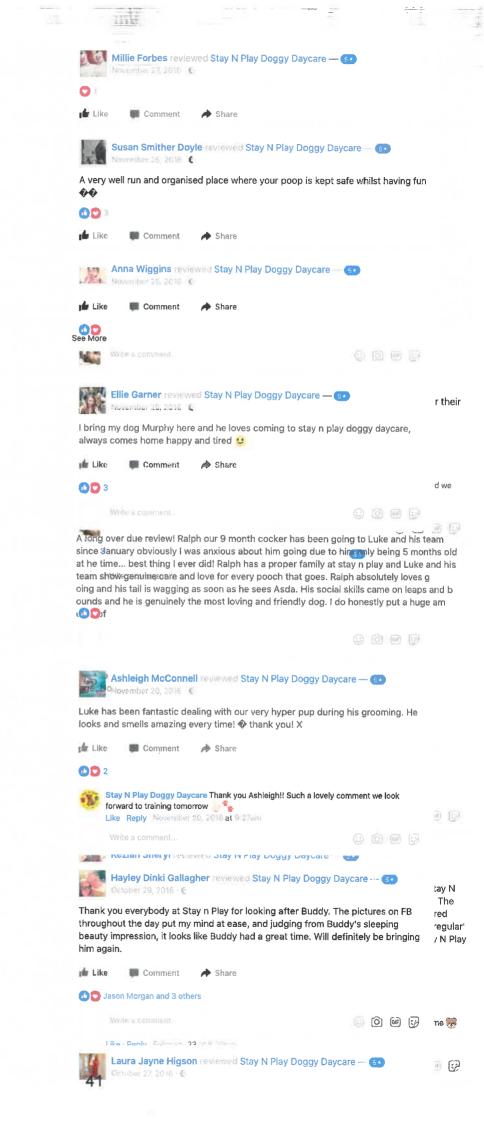
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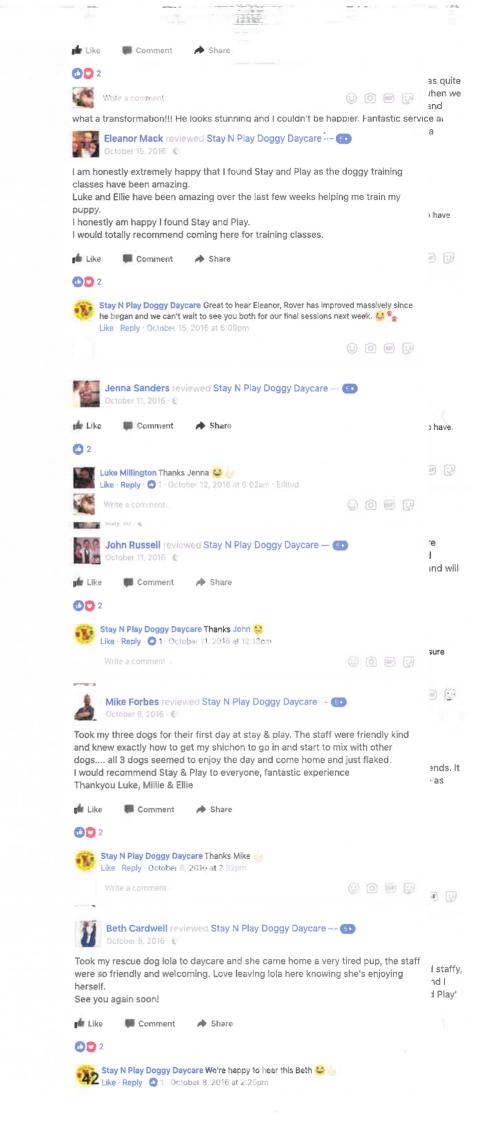


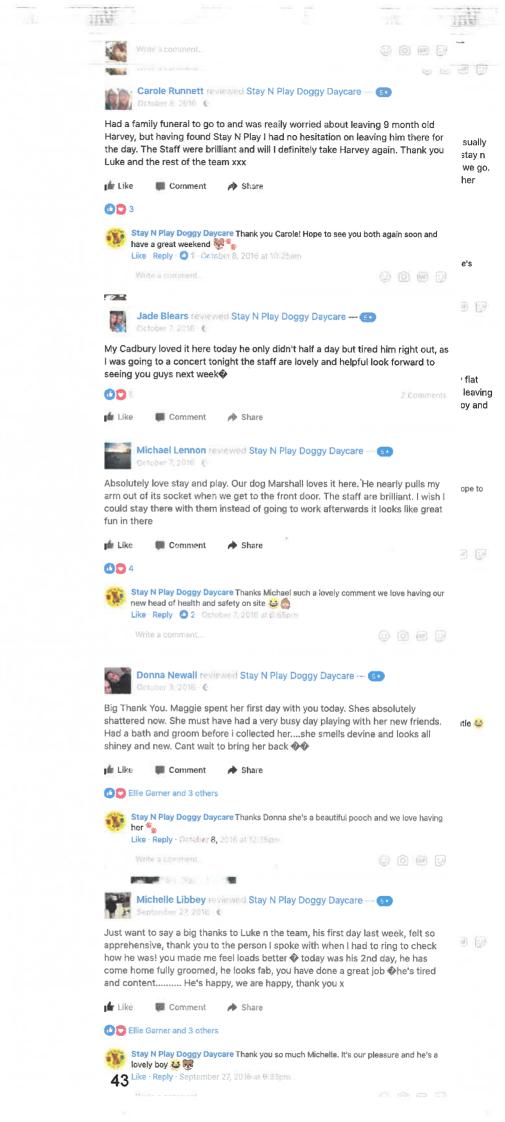




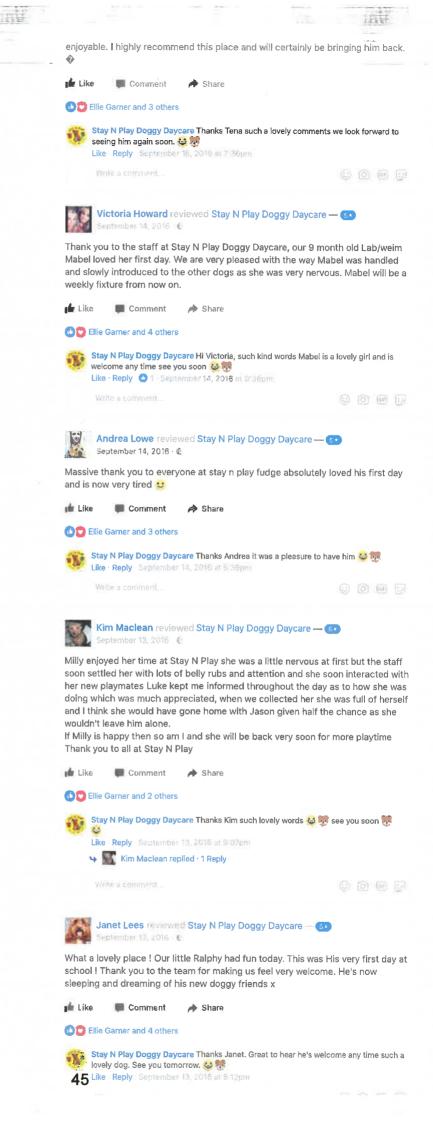












journey home so I'm sure she has been worn out playing with the rest of the pact and with the staff! Really recommend their services to anyone who cares a lot about their pooch and has been Hesatent on leaving there dog at day care rest assure they will be happy and safe with these lot



Stay N Play Doggy Daycare ❷

@staynplayddc

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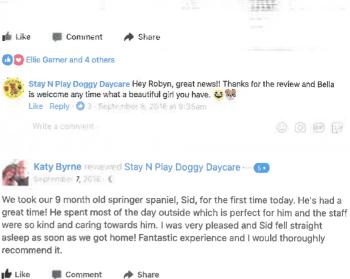
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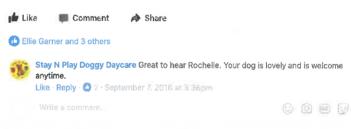
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Brilliant place my doggy has loved his days here and has come home one very tired doggy the staff are brilliant and put you at ease about leaving my dog there. And the updates throughout the day are brilliant love seeing what he is getting up to good work guys will definitely be taking my dog again •





My two pugs Richie and George are their while we're on holiday for two weeks. George has mobility problems which is a struggle for him_at times. The way the staff have looked after the two of them the last few days has been brilliant. George has perked up and even his mobility has improved. Getting constant updates and photos is fantastic. First impression is a lasting one. Well done to Luke and the whole team for putting in so much effort



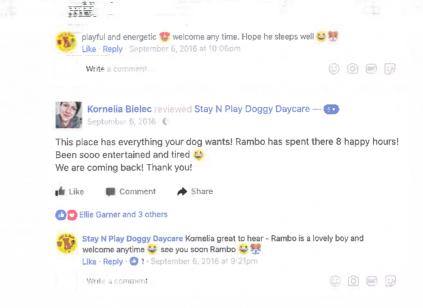


Great service from drop off to pick up. I was shown around the facilities, then Luke integrated Harley with the other dogs with ease. Posts were added during the day which were a bonus showing how Harley was doing. I have a very tired but very happy puppy. Look forward to coming again.



Ellie Garner and 4 others

47 Stay N Play Doggy Daycare Hi Cheryl, that's great Harley is a beautiful dog very



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EVEIRS

Likes

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Notes

Create a Page

To whom it may concern

I have been using Stay N Play Doggy Daycare since they opened last year and my Yorkshire Terrier Fudge loves going. The staff are very welcoming, friendly and helpful and are willing to do anything they can for you. It is open 7 till 7 which is very convenient as I work varying hours which Stay N Play are able to accommodate by opening at these times.

I also take Fudge to doggy training every week which has been absolutely fantastic for him, he has been so much easier to walk and I am looking forward to completing the course. Whenever I have needed help they have always been there with brilliant advice and made me and Fudge feel very welcome. In addition, I have also used the grooming service and I asked for Fudge to keep his 'scruffy' look and this was done perfectly.

All of the services are fair and well priced, and I will continue to use Stay N Play Doggy Daycare for as long as they exist. Many thanks for all you do.

Kind regards

Andrea Lowe

Caroline Kenny East View Top O'Th Lea Bury Old Road Ramsbottom BLO ORX

23rd March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Reference for Stay N Play Doggy Daycare

As a dedicated pet owner, I searched long and hard for a day care where I felt comfortable leaving my precious puppy Barney. After doing plenty of research, and visiting several other day cares in the area, I found Stay N Play Doggy Daycare.

Barney has been attending Stay N Play three days a week since he was 6 months old; he's always really excited to see the staff and his fury friends.

During our time at Stay N Play we have attended training classes which were relaxed, enjoyable for both dogs and owners and extremely informative.

Stay N Play also offer a grooming service which I have used, when I picked Barney up from day care he looked and smelt amazing.

Luke and the staff at Stay N Play are knowledgeable, courteous and friendly. They truly care about every pet as if they were their own and they offer a safe and clean environment. They also post updates on Facebook to reassure you whilst you are separated from your pet.

I highly recommend Stay N Play Doggy Daycare to care for your fury friends.

Yours faithfully

Caroline Kenny

C-1 Ceruy

Carolinek45@icloud.com

175 Bolton Road

Radcliffe

M263QN

25th March 2017

To Whom it may concern

My dog Milly has been attending Stay N Play Doggie Daycare since it opened in September 2016 .

Milly had previously attended another daycare establishment for a number of years but I thought that it would be benificial to her to have a change of scenery so to speak ,it was my original intention for her to attend Stay N Play for one day a week and to continue at her previous daycare centre for one/two days a week also but I have been so impressed with the facilities and the standard of care she receives at Stay N Play that she no longer attends the previous daycare centre , I feel that the environment is safer for Milly as there are fewer dogs but more staff at Stay N Play Luke and his staff are very knowlegable and they take the time to get to know each dog individually.

I would not leave Milly in the care of anyone if I thouhght that there might be even the slightist possibility of any harm coming to her or her being unhappy but I am perfectly happy to leave her in their care.

I have reccommended Stay n Play to a number of friends and family and will continue to do so as it is a safe, clean and stimulating environment in which to leave a much loved member of the family whilst you are at work etc and at the same time your dog is making new friends and socilalising with other dogs which I feel is very important and I feel that socialising them from an early age is vital if you want a well behaved dog it is all very good that we teach them to sit ,stay fetch etc but it is other dogs that teach them manners and how to behave around other dogs .

Yours Faithfully

& P. Wadean



Customer Experience Survey

Considering only your most recent experience, how likely would you be to recommend the use of Stay N Play Doggy Daycare to a friend or colleague? (0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)

colleague? (0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)
Not at All Likely (0)
(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
Extremely Likely(10)
Considering your complete experience with our company, how like
would you be to recommend our company to a friend or colleague
(0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)
Not at All Likely (0)
(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
Extremely Likely (10)
(FEEDBACK FOR IMPROVEMENT) What can we do in the future to
earn a score of 9 or 10?

What did we do really well? welcoming, very professional is set up of company + security negarating collection of annuals at . excellent procedures in place - field with confidure that pets well confidure that pets well rand for.

What can we do to be even better?

Are there any additional services you would like to see us do?

Finally, please tell us a little about yourself... What is your gender?

Male

Female 🗸

How old are you? 18-25

26-34

35-54

55-64

65 or over



Customer Experience Survey

Considering only your most recent experience, how likely would you be to recommend the use of Stay N Play Doggy Daycare to a friend or colleague? (0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)

Not at All Likely (0)

(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Extremely	Likely (10)

Considering your complete experience with our company, how likely would you be to recommend our company to a friend or colleague? (0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)

Not at All Likely (0)

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)
- (6)
- (7)
- (8) (9)

Extremely Likely (10)

(FEEDBACK FOR IMPROVEMENT) What can we do in the future to earn a score of 9 or 10?

What did we do really well?

- opening hours are convenient
- au staff are friendly + good for advice.
- au stoff love the clogs.
- training is great.

What can we do to be even better?

NOE a clue

Are there any additional services you would like to see us do?

Home visit + touch braining visits at none.

Finally, please tell us a little about yourself... What is your gender?

Male



How old are you?

18-25

26-34

35-54

55-64

65 or over



Customer Experience Survey

Considering only your most recent experience, how likely would you be to recommend the use of Stay N Play Doggy Daycare to a friend or colleague? (0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)

colleague? (0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)
Not at All Likely (0)
(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
Extremely Likely (10)
Considering your complete experience with our company, how like
would you be to recommend our company to a friend or colleague
(0 is not at all likely, 10 is extremely likely)
Not at All Likely (0)
(1)
(2)
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(7)
(8)
(9)
Extremely Likely (10)
(FEEDBACK FOR IMPROVEMENT) What can we do in the future to
earn a score of 9 or 10?

What did we do really well?	
Excellent core of the dogs	
Very Mexible service	
Very reasonable prices	
What can we do to be even better?	
Pick up & drop off service would	hel

Are there any additional services you would like to see us do?

Weekerel care Overnight core

Finally, please tell us a little about yourself... What is your gender?



Female

How old are you? 18-25

26-34

35-54

55-64

65 or over

