



Why does my dog need an Evaluation Day?

At Happy Tails Dog Ranch, we require an "Evaluation Day" prior to long term boarding. There are multiple reasons for this, all for the good of your dog!

- A day of Doggie Day Care at Happy Tails Dog Ranch is a fun get-away for your dog! They come to co-mingle and play with the other dogs. In this way, we can learn your dog's personality and what his/her preferences are as to favorite kinds of play and favorite doggie friends. We carefully mix new dogs into the group with our known, easy-going regulars to watch for any signs of aggression, intimidation, or fright. Then we slowly add in the more exuberant players. We are then able to determine which play groups your dog is happiest with.
- We also have to evaluate your dog to make sure they are not a habitual barker in the kennel or outside. Most of the dogs, by naptime, are nice and tired and very ready to settle down for the quiet time. However, if one dog is not happy being in a kennel, and won't stop barking, it upsets the other dogs. If a barker responds to a citronella collar, that will solve this problem.
- Sometimes a new dog will start out shy in the mornings, but by the end of the day they are joyfully playing and having fun. Even the "lap dogs" that like to stay at our feet, or in our laps initially, get excited and jump and run off to play by the afternoon! Therefore, a full day of Day Care is best for the evaluation day to give your dog every chance to feel comfortable and happy.
- We like to customize each dogs boarding stay by placing them in a kennel opposite other dogs that they like and are most comfortable with. They feel better at night that way. We can do this once we know your dog's personality from their Evaluation Day.
- Perhaps, most importantly for your dog's well-being and happiness, the Evaluation Day allows your dog to get to know us as nice people and our ranch facility as a very fun place! When you come to pick them up at the end of their Evaluation Day, they are happy knowing that you didn't run off and leave them forever! Then, when they come back for a longer period of boarding, they are comfortable and unstressed! In fact, they often will drag you through our door because they are so happy to be here and ready to go out and play!
- And finally, this is a one-time requirement. The cost for the evaluation day is our normal \$15 Day Care charge. Once we get to know your dog, the personality profile is entered into our database so we will always have it and remember how best to treat your dog while here. After the initial Day Care day, you may board your dog with us at any time without further requirements, other than making sure immunizations are up to date.