



ROLAND'S DOG DAYCARE EVALUATION GUIDE

a quick reference guide for evaluating
potential daycares for your silly goose



SILLY GOOSE

fighting for

serious change.

Roland's Silly Goose Crew was founded to remember Roland, who tragically died at an Austin dog daycare in 2022. **Our mission is simple yet powerful: to advocate for change in the dog boarding and daycare industry, support local animal shelters and rescues, and educate the community on dog safety.** We want to make a difference in the lives of dogs and their families in Austin, and beyond. Our ultimate goal is to create more consistent safety standards and push for more accountability in the industry, so that no family ever has to experience the same tragedy as Roland's.

Our hope is that this guide will help dog parents across Austin make informed decisions about the care of their four-legged family members. Roland was our first dog and it was so overwhelming trying to figure out what was best for him. We compiled this questionnaire from a variety of sources as a "jump start" guide for you.

This is not intended to be a checklist, nor is this intended to dissuade you from enrolling your pups in a dog daycare. Daycares can play an important role for dog families everywhere, so we believe it is important to hold them to a higher standard.

This should act as a tool to think through the factors that are most important to you and your family so you can make a more informed decision for your silly goose.

“Much like dog training, dog daycare is an unregulated industry,” says Mandy Eakins, KPA-CTP, CPDT-KA, owner and trainer at Manners Matter Dog Training and Daycare in Nicholasville, Kentucky. “Anyone can open a daycare. Just because someone really likes dogs, and has had dogs, does not make them qualified to oversee groups of dogs.”



**the roland
foundation**
for dog advocacy

*Roland's Silly Goose Crew is a registered
501c3 Non-Profit (EIN: 92-2542861).*



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DOG SAFETY

Does the facility have secure fencing?

!! There shouldn't be spaces in the fences, and the doors dividing the play areas and those leading to the street should be secured with double gates.

Is the area free of hazards, like electrical cords, wires or broken toys?

Does the facility have minimal odors and a comfortable temperature?

Does the facility have procedures in place for emergencies, like natural disasters or injuries?

What happens if a dog is injured while at daycare?

- ? How do they assess injury severity and treatment plans?
- ? How soon is the owner notified of any injury?
- ? Does the daycare have a veterinary office close by that they have an agreement with for emergency and non-emergency care?



COMMUNICATION & TRANSPARENCY

!! "...the most important quality is transparency. This means that daycare staff is willing to answer your questions thoroughly, openly discuss their policies, talk about pack management and training philosophy and methods, and be honest when discussing your dog's behavior in the daycare environment."

Will you receive daily or weekly reports from them?

Will they notify you promptly if they see a change in behavior or well-being?

In the case of an injury or an emergency, what is their communication protocol to the owner?

If a dog is seriously injured or dies in their care, what are their communication protocols to other clients?

Will they share if a dog has died or been seriously injured in their care?

YOUR DOG'S DAYCARE EXPERIENCE

Will they do a behavior assessment, temperament test or trial process ?

Are there a variety of activities to appeal to varying energy levels, temperament, or personalities?

Do they require proof of current vaccinations or a Titer test?

What are the spay and neuter requirements?

How many dogs are in each playgroup?

Are dogs separated by size, temperament or playstyle?

How are the play areas organized?

Do they have indoor and outdoor facilities?

? Are there certain temperatures or weather that require indoor play only?

Are you allowed to tour the facility before signing your dog up?

STAFF, TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

What type of corrections do they use, if any?

What is the ratio of daycare staff to dogs?

What certification and training does the daycare staff have?

Ask what training staff has received in regards to pet first aid and CPR, reading dog body language, how to manage dog play, how to prevent / break up dog fights, and training methods they use with daycare dogs.

Ask the question: "If my dog <insert bad behavior here>, what do you do?"

!! "Their answer should never include physical punishment, aversives, intimidation, or other dominance-based methods. Make sure you are comfortable with their training philosophy and methods."

SOURCES

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