



Dear Potential Day Care Client,

Welcome to the wonderful world of dog day care! At Dances With Dogs, we are committed to providing excellent mental and physical exercise for your dog in a healthy social environment. At Dances With Dogs, the dogs enjoy a full day of off-leash playtime and learning time with their dog and human friends. The dogs are directly supervised at all times and the use of positive training methods and clicker reinforcement allow us to provide a structured, yet fun and rewarding program.

Our goal is not only to provide your dog with the fun and exercise they need, but to incorporate training during their day to improve on manners and skills. We love to hear our customers tell us that their dog is better behaved in social situations since coming to day care. This is our mission at Dances With Dogs. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Our facility consists of several indoor daycare rooms plus over 3,000 square feet of outdoor play area.

To apply for day care, you must fill out an application, obtain a copy of your vet records, and get the information to us in one of the following ways:

1. Mail to: Dances With Dogs, 557 Easthampton Rd., Northampton, MA 01060
2. Fax to: 413-586-9302
3. Drop off at 557 Easthampton Rd., Northampton, MA 01060 between the hours of 7:00 am – 9:30 am or 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Next, an appointment must be scheduled for you and your dog to go over the application with us. At this same appointment, we will conduct a “behavior assessment” with your dog (see Policies section for specifics of this test) as well as to give you a tour of the day care. The charge for this appointment is \$20 and takes around an hour to complete.

Please note that for the safety of our dogs, our doors are locked between 9:30 am – 3:00 pm and we operate **By Appointment Only**. Also, please note that our sister company, The Collared Scholar, at the same location offers dog classes, seminars, private sessions and behavior consultations. Visit both of our sites: [www.danceswdogs.com](http://www.danceswdogs.com) and [www.collaredscholar.com](http://www.collaredscholar.com) for more details.

The Valley Advocate readers voted us “Best Pet Day Care” in the Pioneer Valley for 2008 and we would love to show you why. We look forward to meeting you and your dog very soon!

Debra Wysocki, Owner



Pet Day Care

<b>For Office Use Only:</b> <b>Completed Application:</b> _____ <b>Vaccination Info:</b> _____ <b>Signed Waiver:</b> _____ <b>Behavior Assessment:</b> _____ <b>Computer Entry:</b> _____ <b>Notes:</b> _____ <b>Phone Interview:</b> _____
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Please fill in ALL information. An emergency contact is required.

**Owner Information**

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name 1<sup>st</sup> owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name 2<sup>nd</sup> owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information** (list at least 1 - up to 3 if you wish)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Veterinarian Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Questions:**

- 1) Dog's **Full first and last name:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ (if you don't know exactly, please pick a date)
- 4) How did you hear about Dances With Dogs Day Care? (Please be specific)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Where did you get your dog? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) How long have you had your dog? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Is your dog spayed or neutered? (Required by 7 mos. for day care) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Does your dog like children? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) If you have other household pets, how does your dog get along with them?  
 Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Has your dog had any type of training or obedience classes to date? If so, what  
 class(es)? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) How often are you considering daycare? \_\_\_\_\_



**Please answer the following questions about your dog.** These answers will not disqualify your dog from day care. The answers give us a baseline to understand the progress in your dog's development.

<b>Does your dog....</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Pull on leash when walking?			
If yes to pull on leash, have you tried the Gentle Leader or Easy Walker Harness? Indicate which: _____			
Jump on you?			
Jump on other people?			
Chomp your hand when taking treats?			
Play roughly with other dogs?			
Dislike being touched or handled? If so, where on his body? Answer in lines below: _____ _____ _____ _____			
Know basic commands (sit, down, etc.)? Indicate which: _____ _____			
Have hip dysplasia or any other physical ailment? If other, list below: _____ _____			
Have any other restrictions on activities or movements? If so, list below: _____ _____ _____			
Play bite at other dogs while playing?			
Destroy toys?			
Eat their own feces?			
Eat other dog's feces?			
Have allergies to certain foods?			
Jump over walls or other barriers?			
Have a special spot where they like to be pet or massaged? Indicate where: _____ _____			



Is your dog....	Yes	No	Not sure
Used to the company of other dogs?			
Used to playing with other dogs?			
Used to a crate (for naptime)? If your dog barks or stresses in a crate indicate which one here:_____			
Motivated by treats? If motivated by some other reward(s), please indicate below: _____ _____			
Treated with a monthly flea/tick preventative?			n/a
Treated with a monthly heartworm preventative?			n/a

Are you.....	Yes	No	Not sure
Willing to work at home on issues like jumping, mouthiness, discouraging rough play, etc. should your dog exhibit these behaviors excessively at day care?			
Willing to take a training class with your dog if they need behavior modifications?			
Comfortable with your dog receiving treats as rewards at daycare? (note: we use all high quality products in tiny sized pieces.)			
Open to the idea of a Gentle Leader being used on your dog if necessary at day care? See FAQ #17 on pg 11-12 for explanation.			
Able to conform to the arrival and departure times on a regular basis?			

How would you describe YOUR exposure to off leash, group dog play? Check one.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ none      \_\_\_\_\_ very little      \_\_\_\_\_ some      \_\_\_\_\_ quite a lot

Other comments about you or your dog that you feel might be helpful:

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## Policies

**AGE:** All dogs must be at least 8 weeks of age or older.

**SEX:** All dogs MUST be spayed or neutered BY 7 months old. This means that on their 7 month birthday, the procedure should be done. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**SHOTS:** All dogs must have up-to-date vaccinations. Owners must submit written proof of DHLPP and rabies vaccinations before first visit and every 3 years thereafter. Rabies is required for puppies over 3 months of age. All dogs must be parasite free. Heartworm preventative is required as well as flea and tick preventative. Titering is acceptable. Proof of health checkups (office visit) required every 2 years. You can bring in your vet receipt or ask your vet to fax updates to us at 413-586-9302.

**HEALTH:** All dogs must be in good health. Owners will certify their dog(s) are in good health and have not been ill with a communicable condition in the last 30 days. Upon admission, all dogs must be free from any condition which could potentially jeopardize other dogs.

Dogs that have been ill with a communicable condition in the last 30 days should have permission from their vet to return to day care. Please make sure that your vet knows that your dog comes to day care and plays off leash with many other dogs.

**NAILS:** We ask that you keep your dog's nails well trimmed. This prevents other dogs and employees from getting scratches.

### When you should leave your dog at home:

1. **Eyes:** If your dog's eye or eyes are red and have green or yellowish goop in them. This could be an eye infection and is contagious. Should be checked by vet before returning to daycare.
2. **Cough:** If your dog is coughing, you should not bring her to day care. This could potentially be canine cough and is highly contagious. (Note: upper respiratory infection, bronchitis, "kennel" cough and Para influenza are all bacterial infections that would fall under this rule). It is best to keep your dog home if you hear any coughing at all and see if the cough gets worse over the next 24 hours. Whether your dog is diagnosed with any of the above infections or not, they should not return to day care until the cough has been gone for five days. We will separate a coughing dog and call you to pick up as soon as possible.
3. **Diarrhea:** If your dog has had watery diarrhea for more than 24 hours, bringing him to day care is not a good idea. He may not feel well and might have a parasite that could be contagious. If the diarrhea persists, you should see your vet.
4. **Parasites:** If your dog contracts a parasite, they cannot come to day care until they have gotten a negative stool sample sign off from their vet. This is very important because the other dogs could become ill if they eat feces.
5. **Skunk spraying:** If your dog is sprayed by a skunk, they cannot come to daycare until the smell is gone. The smell gets in the daycare, on the other dogs and we have found that the dogs tend to bully or pick on dogs with skunk odor.



6. **Wearing an E-Collar** – dogs should not come to daycare if they are wearing an Elizabethan Collar (better known as a lampshade). The other dogs will try to pull it off and play with it.

**BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT:** All dogs must have a behavior assessment and owners will certify that their dogs have not harmed or shown any aggressive or threatening behavior towards any person or any other dog(s). Please remember: your pet will be spending time with other pets and the safety and health of all animals is our main concern.

The assessment tests your dog's:

- social tendencies towards strangers
- tolerance level with being handled and touched
- tolerance with being tethered (we do this for time outs & training sessions)
- tolerance at having a valuable food item being taken away
- tolerance at having a toy taken away
- social skills in meeting and playing with other dogs
- tolerance with food item and toy with another dog present

At Dances with Dogs, we work hard to keep your dog from learning bad behaviors and we do not allow them to practice bad behaviors. We use many tools, such as the Gentle Leader to discourage overly rough play, continuous barking, mounting, etc. The idea is to use the Gentle Leader to end the behavior, then to click and treat for more appropriate behavior. The hope is that the dog learns to play in a group without the Gentle Leader and without the undesired behavior.

**CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT:** All dogs must be on leash when arriving for day care and when leaving day care. **Please do not use retractable leashes** when coming to day care. No exceptions and even the occasional use of a retractable in our lobby can cause injury so please do not forget.

**PICK UP AND DROP OFF:** We offer a pick up and drop off service Monday – Friday. The cost is \$5 each way, \$10 for round trip. Pick up and drop off times will vary depending on where you live and how many dogs are picked up that day. Please ask us for more information on how this works.

**APPLICATION:** All dogs must have a complete, up-to-date and approved application on file.

**DAYS AND HOURS:** We adhere to our check in times of 7 – 9:30 am and pick up times between 3 – 6 pm very strictly. The doors are locked at 9:30 am, reopened at noon for pickup, and then closed again until 3:00 pm for pickup. Our business is by appointment only.

**RESERVATIONS:** Reservations are **required** to come to day care for the day. More than 24 hours notice is preferred, but we allow you to call the night before if you wish and leave a message. **We will only return your call if we are full and do not have room for your dog.**



## Services & Rates

### Daycare

You may pay for one day at a time if you wish or purchase a prepaid pass. The prepaid pass offers both a discounted price as well as faster check in and check out. See table below for prices.

Payment is expected the day service is rendered and we ask that you pay in the morning at the time you drop off. If you do not purchase a pass on the day it is due, you must pay for a single day as passes cannot be used for past days. Passes are valid for six months from date of purchase.

Below are the prices for full and half days of day care. If you send two dogs, see the price for the second dog in the additional dog/day column. For a third dog, add the additional dog/day price twice.

**Full Day:** A full day drops off between 7 – 9:30 am and picks up between 3 – 6 pm.

	Per day	Total	Add'l Dog/Day	Total 2 dogs
One Full Day	\$33.00	\$33.00	+\$24.00	\$57.00
Five Full Days	\$32.00	\$160.00	+\$23.00	\$275.00
Ten Full Days	\$31.00	\$310.00	+\$22.00	\$510.00
Twenty Full Days	\$30.00	\$600.00	+\$21.00	\$1020.00

**Half Day:** There are two half day options. You can drop off between 7 – 9:30 pm and pick up at 12:00 pm for a morning half day. You can also drop off at 3:00 pm and pick up by 6:00 pm for the afternoon half day. The cost is the same for morning or afternoon.

	Per day	Total	Add'l Dog/Day	Total 2 dogs
One Half Day	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$15.00	\$39.00
Five Half Days	\$23.00	\$115.00	\$14.00	\$185.00
Ten Half Days	\$22.00	\$220.00	\$13.00	\$350.00
Twenty Half Days	\$21.00	\$420.00	\$12.00	\$660.00

### Other Services:

**Pick up and Drop off:** We provide pick up and drop off service Monday - Friday. The charge is \$5 for one way, \$10 round trip. Please call for more information. We do not drop off midday, pick up and drop off requires a full day of daycare.

**Boarding:** For 2008 we are asking our customers to tell us when they need boarding and we will try to meet your needs. This includes a few options such as boarding at our facility, having an employee board at their home, or having an employee board at your home. Our boarding is based on availability of staff and suitability of your dog for homestyle .



## Understanding How a Dog Day Care Works

There are some important frequently asked questions about our day care that we feel are critical that you understand before enrolling your dog. Please feel free to call and ask additional questions about any of these topics and we would be happy to explain in more detail.

### **1) Q: Does my dog have to be trained to come to day care?**

A: No. We are here to provide a service to people who need help socializing and exercising their dogs. We would love to work with your dog to develop polite behaviors and an appropriate play style. We will be in constant communication with you about how your dog is doing at daycare and give you tips and tricks you can try at home to practice good behaviors. We may also strongly suggest or require that you take a training class with your dog if behaviors are not improving or causing problems in the day care. Please realize that with a large group of dogs, the day care employees can only do so much with one individual dog in a day. Their job is to make sure that all the dogs in their group are happy and content.

### **2) Q: My dog is a very rough player; can he still come to day care?**

A: There are many dogs that tend to play on the rough side. At dog day care, the trick is to keep the arousal level of all the dogs at a safe level. We will work with your dog to try to give them feedback when they are playing appropriately, and redirect them if they are not. We do not tolerate any bullying behavior, constant mounting, or constant grabbing of another dog's fur. If any of these behaviors occur regularly and cannot be modified within the day care environment, we may not be able to accept your dog at day care any longer.

### **3) Q: Do you group the dogs by size?**

A: We group the dogs by size, temperament and play style. For example, an older golden retriever who enjoys "dog watching" all day as opposed to running and playing might be grouped with a small terrier that plays nicely with another dog while the retriever watches close by. Younger labs who might like to wrestle and roll around would be kept separate from a small dog that might get rolled over. The great thing about our daycare is that we have more smaller rooms so as we grow, we can move dogs around if we feel they would be better in a different room.

### **4) Q: My large dog is afraid of or aggressive towards only small dogs, can she still come to day care?**

A: Our Behavior Assessment rules out any dog that has aggressive tendencies and they are not accepted at day care. We cannot accept a large dog that is aggressive towards small dogs, or a small dog who is aggressive towards large dogs. Even though the dogs will be separated by size in the day care, we cannot risk having a dog attack or harm a dog in the parking lot or in our front lobby. In order to come to day care, a dog must be tolerant of both large and small dogs.

### **5) Q: My dog has a sensitive stomach; do you feed anything to the dogs?**

A: As a positive training center, we use clicker training to control and teach the dogs. Some of the rewards we use include play, praise, ball toss, massage as well as food



rewards. We use a mixture of high quality dog foods (Red Barn & Solid Gold) mixed with Cheerios. Some day cares may elect not to use treats but we feel it gives us the most control in moving the dogs in and out of rooms, and is powerful enough to make the dogs listen to our staff in an environment where there are many distractions with all of the other dogs. Also, it allows us to teach and train in the day care which is what we feel is one of our biggest advantages. It is not possible for us to be sure your dog will not get treats as we often toss some to redirect the dogs. If your dog cannot have any treats at all, then our day care would not be the best choice for you.

**6) Q: My dog eats poop, can she still come to day care?**

A: An unpleasant fact of life is that some dogs eat poop. Some eat only their own; some eat other dogs' poop. At Dances With Dogs, we pick up poop in the play yard as it is produced. It is important that we keep our play yard as clean as possible and we are very diligent about removing poop. Still, proximity can be a factor and if a poop eater is right next to a dog that is going, try as we might, it is still tough to stop it sometimes. We do our very best to distract dogs who tend to do this as well as keep you informed if your dog does eat poop. Please also be advised that some parasites are contagious by eating feces and although dogs with known parasites cannot return to day care until they are no longer contagious, a parasite can be transferred if the infecting dog has not yet been diagnosed. If your dog has a persistent problem with eating feces, we may recommend that day care might not be the best environment for your dog.

**7) Q: I don't know if my dog would like day care or not, should I try it?**

A: There are many ways for a dog to enjoy day care. Dogs get mental stimulation from a variety of sources including just sniffing the various smells of the day care. While some dogs like to play with other dogs all day, some just want to play with the toys or sit and watch the activity from one of our play structures. Some dogs like to follow the employees around and others enjoy policing the activity of the other dogs making sure things don't get out of control. At Dances With Dogs, we will be honest and upfront with you about what your dog does at day care. It is very stressful for our staff to have a dog who does not want to be there, so you can be assured we will tell you honestly how they are doing. You may decide from our feedback that day care is not right for your dog, but understand that actively playing with other dogs is not the only way for them to have fun and enjoy coming to day care.

**8) Q: Can I come and watch my dog in the day care?**

A: This is probably the most asked question by our customers and one of the most important for you to understand the answer. When dogs come to day care regularly, which is the majority of our customers, they come to see the place as theirs. When strangers come walking in, the dogs get completely aroused and start barking which gets all the dogs barking. (If you drive to the back of our parking lot where the fenced area is and the dogs are outside, you will see this happen.) If the dogs are inside, they will jump at the doors and/or windows barking at the stranger. This causes complete chaos in the day care and heightens the arousal level overall in the day care.



**10) Q: I can't always leave my dog off between 7:00 am – 9:30 am (or 3:00 pm for the afternoon session) and pick up between 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Will this be a problem?**

A: Yes. It is very important that we stick to our check in and check out times. **Our doors are locked during the day for the safety of the dogs** when check in is over as our services are **by appointment only**. We close at 6:00 pm and charge \$1 per minute late fee. If you cannot adhere to the check in and check out times, consider not bringing your dog that day and rescheduling for another day. We can provide pick up and drop off service at your home if you cannot manage to make the check in and check out times. See Policies and Rates pages for more information.

If you are not here to pick up your dog by 6:00 pm and we have not received a phone call from you that you are running late, we will arrange for your dog to be boarded for the night with one of our employees. We will leave messages at the phone numbers you have provided to us as to your dog's whereabouts and there will be a \$50. boarding fee for the night. We reserve the right to charge the \$50. fee even if you decide to arrange to pick up your dog that evening. Otherwise, you can pick up your dog at our facility at 7:00 am the next morning.

**11) Q: Why are the pick up and drop off times so stringent and why is the door locked during the day?**

A: Dog day care is very similar to child day care or a grammar school. Obviously, if kids arrived at all different times during the day at school, it would cause tremendous disruption to the teachers as well as to the other students. The day care day is structured and the dogs are ready for a nap by 11:30 am. They are not ready at this point for an eager, energetic dog to come bounding in trying to get them to play. In addition, if a dog comes late, they are not ready for naptime and can be very disruptive to the other dogs trying to nap.

The door is locked after check in because we are by appointment only and all of the employees are with the dogs after check in. We also feel this is an extra precaution to make sure the dogs are safe inside.

**12) Q: I only want to bring my dog once in a while, maybe a few times a year, can I do that?**

A: We will always give a dog a try with doing this and some dogs come occasionally and do just fine. High energy dogs can sometimes get extremely over aroused and excited at only coming once in a while that they have a tendency to play inappropriately with the other dogs. Just like kids at school, it takes practice to gain good social skills and the same applies to dogs. Additionally, the dogs that come regularly are used to naptime and will take the opportunity for a quiet rest. Occasional dogs often have more difficulty with naptime because they are not used to the concept. If we feel that a dog who comes occasionally is interfering with our regular dogs' ability to have fun and get proper rest, we may suggest coming more often to help your dog hone his social skills and ability to nap in peace.

**13) Q: My dog has lots of energy and I am afraid that if she has a nap, she won't be tired at night. Should I be worried about this?**



A: NO. Dog day cares across the country have found that a naptime is better for the dogs. It gives them a chance to rest and by 11:30 am, the dogs are tired and ready for some downtime. The dogs are more rejuvenated for the afternoon session and are less cranky than they would be without naptime.

**14) Q: My dog does not like being crated, are there any other naptime options?**

A: Since our opening, we have found both sides of the spectrum – owners who think their dog would not tolerate a crate and the dog actually does fine in a crate at daycare, or owners who crate their dogs every night and the dog tries to pull a fast one on us and pretend they have never seen a crate! In any case, we like to try all dogs in a crate first. If they are very afraid in a crate, we can try them in a daycare room by themselves with a blanket, but they must not bark or be destructive or scratch at the doors. If your dog has consistent trouble napping and is disruptive of the other dogs, we might ask that you bring your dog for a morning half day and then pick up before nap time.

**15) Q: How will I know how my dog is doing at day care?**

A: We will be always be honest with you about how your dog is doing at day care. You should be prepared that sometimes dogs, just like people, can have a bad day. We will tell you if your dog has a bad day, is grouchy, not feeling well or showing any signs of distress or potential health issues. You should not be alarmed or feel bad if your dog has a bad day, it happens to the best of them! Of course, we will contact you during the day if we feel your dog needs to go home, but we can also bring them up into the office or another quiet place if you cannot come until the end of the day.

**16) Q: What do you do if a dog gets injured?**

A: It is normal for dogs to have little scrapes and scuffles when playing and interacting, it is how they communicate with each other. We call it being “snarky” and it generally means being grouchy and possibly instigating scuffles with other dogs. Dogs “correct” each other in more precise ways than humans ever could when they are not happy about something. Dog to dog corrections typically end in a hurt feeling or a lesson learned and sound much worse than they really are. Sometimes dogs, like children, can misjudge either play or a correction and inadvertently cause an injury. If your dog gets a scrape, cut or bruise, this doesn’t mean that the dog who gave it to them is aggressive and shouldn’t be at day care. The analogy of kids on a playground is a good one in that dogs can hurt each other without setting out to do so. This is something that you should be aware of and prepared for when bringing your dog to day care. It is not common, but it can happen.

When a dog is hurt, we contact the owner (or the emergency contact) and inform them of the injury. We can then decide with the owner the best course of action. If the owner and the emergency contact cannot be reached, Dances With Dogs will take whatever action they feel is appropriate. If a vet visit is required, Dances With Dogs will take your dog to the Northampton Vet Clinic (413-584-6309) because of their proximity to the facility. We will continue to try to reach you as soon as we can.

**17) Q: You say you do “positive training”. What does that mean?**

A: We use clicker training to help reinforce good behaviors in your dog. The clicker can be used to practice commands like “sit”, “down”, “watch me”, etc. We also use the clicker to tell the dogs when they are doing something good, like playing appropriately



with other dogs, sharing a toy, waiting patiently by the door, etc. We also use whistles frequently throughout the day to practice the whistle recall. When the dogs hear the whistle, they come running for a treat. This helps us to control the dogs' movements, redirect rough play, and interrupt a scuffle.

We often use the Gentle Leader as a tool to teach the dogs. The Gentle Leader, known commonly as a way to stop your dog from pulling on leash, is also effective as a way to calm a dog, to inhibit excessive barking, or even to discourage jumping. The Gentle Leader is designed to hit pressure points on the dog's nose and back of the head for a calming effect. We have found this to be an invaluable tool in day care to try to teach dogs appropriate behaviors.

For bad behaviors, we use redirection, time-outs, and techniques such as a startling noise or a water squirter. These methods do not hurt the dog in any way, but discourage bad behavior. We also seek to reward the opposite good behavior when it is displayed. We always encourage our day care clients to attend one or more of our training classes at The Collared Scholar, owned by Dances With Dogs where they can learn clicker training techniques along with their dog.

**18) Q: What about illnesses? Is it possible for my dog to catch something at day care?**

A: Dog day care, as we have mentioned, is very much like child day care. It is possible, just like kids, for dogs to spread illnesses to each other; especially since dogs often play with their mouths. In order to come to day care, you must believe that the benefits of socialization, exercise and stimulation are more important and outweigh the potential for occasional illness. It would not be realistic to expect a child never would get sick at day care or at school and the same applies to dog day care. Also, like children, some dogs have stronger immune systems than other dogs. There might be a child at school who picks up every illness that comes around and another who has the same exposure, but never seems to get sick.

We ask that our clients also give the benefit of the doubt to other clients who may have brought a sick dog unknowingly to day care. Sometimes illnesses are not apparent right away and a dog may expose other dogs. For example, kennel cough can be as mild as a little bit of congestion which may not be noticeable on the first day, or a slightly red eye may turn into an infection which was not severe at first.



**Owner Liability Waiver and Health Certification  
Owner Agreement  
(This must be signed before your dog can come to day care)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that my dog(s):  
is/are in good health and has/have not been ill with any communicable condition in the  
last 30 days. I further certify that my dog(s) has/have not harmed or shown aggressive  
or threatening behavior towards any person or any other dog. I have read and  
understand the following:

1. I understand that I am solely responsible for any harm caused by my dog(s) while  
my dog(s) is/are attending Dances With Dogs Day Care.
2. I further understand and agree that in admitting my dog(s) to Dances With Dogs  
Day Care, the staff have relied on my representation that my dog(s) is/are in  
good health and has/have not harmed or shown aggressive or threatening  
behavior towards any person or any other dog.
3. I further understand and agree that Dances With Dogs Day Care and their staff,  
will not be liable for any problems that develop, provided reasonable care and  
precautions are followed, and I hereby release them of any liability of any kind  
whatsoever arising from my dog's/dogs' attendance and participation at Dances  
With Dogs Day Care.
4. I further understand and agree that dogs can sometimes receive minor cuts and  
scratches at daycare and any problems that develop with my dog(s) will be  
treated as deemed best by staff and volunteers of Dances With Dogs Day Care,  
at their sole discretion, and that I assume full financial responsibility for any and  
all expenses involved.

I certify that I have read and understand the policies of Dances With Dogs Day Care as  
set forth on the preceding pages and that I have read and understand the conditions,  
and statements of this agreement as well as the application.

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

