

# DOG ACCEPTANCE POLICY

## Happy Tails Day Care and Pet Resort

At Happy Tails Day Care & Pet Resort we strive to ensure the physical and emotional safety of each dog in our care. We provide off-leash play for the dogs that are enrolled in our Day Care program. The dogs that board overnight also participate in our Day Care program. To that end we have established guidelines for all dogs that participate in our program.

- **All dogs over the age of 7 months must be altered if participating in group play. This is mandatory and there are no exceptions to this policy.**
- We accept puppies at four months of age. Puppies under four months require the approval of their veterinarian.
- We do not have breed restrictions. However, the evaluations of the bully breeds (Mastiffs, Bull Terriers, Pit Bulls, Bulldogs, etc.) and herding dogs (German Shepherds, Cattle Dogs, etc.) are more stringent because of certain breed specific tendencies which can make them more difficult to manage in an off-leash environment.
- Every size of dog can be accepted because the groups are separated by size, play style, age, and/or personality.
- We require the following vaccines:
  - Rabies
  - Distemper/Parvo
  - Bordetella (aka "Kennel Cough")Proof of current vaccinations must be on file with Happy Tails.
- A dog recently adopted from a shelter or relocating to this area should be in their new home for a minimum of 1 month to acclimate to their new environment before being evaluated for services.

There are certain behaviors that raise a red flag for us. We have 8-foot-high fences around most of our play yards. However, if a dog spends their time walking the perimeter of the yard looking up for ways to escape it is likely too risky for us to have them here. There are also a few dogs that can open gates to escape and while we can clip the gates so they cannot be opened, it presents a great risk to the whole group of dogs therefore that dog would not be allowed to continue coming to Happy Tails. Lastly, herding dogs with high prey drive are difficult to manage in off-leash play and may be a cause for dismissal even after the dog has passed an initial evaluation.

The dogs that fit in best at Happy Tails are dogs that cannot wait to get here to see their friends. They respond to basic obedience cues and can be called off if play becomes over-stimulating. They love to play and share toys nicely. They enjoy interacting with our staff and accept when new staff are working with them. We have a staff ratio of one person for every 10 to 15 dogs depending on the size of dogs in attendance any given day.

