**Exercise Policy**

Exercise

* Puppies

Dogs under a year old will receive five mins of exercise for every month of their life up to the age of six months.

* Senior Dogs

All individual needs will be addressed with older dogs having a different type and duration of exercise. Guidance will be sought from the client regarding any specific needs, health issues and medication. We also use aids such as a doggy pushchair and a harness for longer walks where dogs require support.

* Adult Dogs

As a general rule, the Cavalier will need around one hour of physical activity a day to keep it fit, healthy and happy. This could take the form of playing with a toy, running after balls, playing with a fellow dog or going for a walk. Adult dogs in good health will get two walks a day. We have a walking form which we ask all clients to complete in order to obtain as much information as possible about your dogs usual exercise regime and we will mirror that as much as possible. We do, however, like to go out for trips to the forest, canal, parks, beach and secure field and will gain your consent to do this. We also have an off-lead consent form which we will ask you to sign. We will never take a dog off their lead as our recall is very different to yours and cavaliers are very easily distracted, therefore this will only ever be done in a secure space.

Every care will be taken to ensure dogs individual exercise needs are met with the agreement of the client. All walking equipment must be provided by the client. We encourage our clients to use secure harnesses and soft leads. No retractable leads are permitted due to unreliability. All equipment provided must be in a clean and safe condition.

All dogs must have a collar/harness with the client/dog’s name on. We will only walk boarding dogs with one of our identity tags on, which we will place on your dog’s collar/harness once they arrive for boarding. Our tags include our business name and contact details.

When the boarding dogs are not walked they have frequent access to the garden. The garden has two outer lockable gates, so they have two barriers to get to the outside. The garden also has a seven foot timber fence which is checked daily.

Lighting is provided by an LED solar light which is activated when the dogs go outside at night. There is also a doggy door which is lockable.

In the case of extreme weather the type of exercise will be modified. In cases of extreme heat the boarders will have shorter walks in the early mornings and late evenings. Enrichment will be provided at home with a padding pool provided and also cooling mats. Breeds with shorter noses will have limited exercise and watched very carefully with access to a fan at all times.

In the case of snow, exercise will be limited, clients will provide coats for their dogs. Boarders will be dried off and heating used to keep them comfortable. All paws will be rinsed after walking on pavements due to gritting. Dogs will be monitored during their walk and if in distress the walk will be stopped and we will turn back home. We will endeavour to not walk dogs during thunder and lightning storms. If dogs are boarding at a time of fireworks and they are in use, the walks will be during daylight hours.

Enrichment Activities

All boarders will have enrichment activities within the home and garden. Enrichment games, toys, paddling pool during summer and a water fountain. Licky mats, kongs, cold chew toys and snuffle mats.

Dogs that on restricted exercise will have access to puzzle toys. These toys are a great way to bond and interact. All toys will be supervised with consent agreed before use by the client prior to boarding. Clients are encouraged to bring their own toys along too.

Grooming and interaction will take place multiple times a day. All dogs will live as part of the family and will interact with all members throughout the day and evening.