



OVERNIGHT MEMO

To Our Valued Passengers,

An extremely common question we get asked is, “Does anyone stay overnight with the dogs?”

The short answer is no. We leave at night and return in the morning.

The long answer is the dogs are never left longer than ten hours - the average amount of time a pet owner sleeps. The reasons for this are multilayered.

1. The building has sprinklers and an elaborate alarm system that notifies staff in the event of a fire or break in. The closest staff member lives one block away.
2. The facility has an extensive camera system that staff has mobile access to, 24 hours a day. They are checked repeatedly during the hours we are closed to keep an eye on everyone without disturbing the sleeping dogs.
3. From a behavioral standpoint, constant activity is extremely detrimental to dogs. Dogs are naturally curious creatures. If a person, even just one person, was in the facility milling about, the majority of dogs would not sleep. And just like their human counterparts, sleep is essential to dogs. They need that time to recharge the same as we do. “The average dog should get somewhere in the area of 10 hours of sleep per day,” says Dr. Nicholas Dodman, professor emeritus at Tufts University and author of *Pets on the Couch*. Since we are fully interactive and our clients are playing all day, the only solid block of time they get to have this restorative sleep is overnight.
4. If a staff member were to stay overnight, he or she would need to be in an entirely separate area so to not disturb the dogs. Thereby rendering it impossible to hear any potential issues that may arise. In reality, having cameras to check is actually more effective and accurate.

Hopefully this clears up any concerns you may have regarding our overnight policies. The only exceptions that are made to this policy is during extreme weather. Hurricanes, blizzards, etc. In those events, staff will stay overnight to ensure the building and all its furry inhabitants are kept secure.

If you have any further questions, please always feel free to reach out to me any time!

Sincerely,
Marianne
Head Canine Conductor,
All Aboard Port Jeff