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We had to deal with this when one of our dogs suddenly was spotted with crystals in her urine while we were in Hawaii. Because we had a long term relationship with the kennel and they were in tune with our needs, decisions as to vet checking, testing and dietary restrictions were easily handled by email and one simple call.

Plan ahead. Top pet accommodation often books out over school holidays and special periods of the year so make sure to book in well ahead of your time away. Make yourself aware of the list of services available and choose the degree of care you want for your pet in advance as opposed to on the day of drop off.

Dog Day Care should be chosen as carefully as any other service for a family member. The facility should be convenient, the cost within the budget, the staff well-trained and tuned in to dog behavior, and the surroundings clean and appropriate for groups of dogs running together. You should visit any nearby facilities first and compare services and experience before making a choice. Check with local vets and pet stores as to any they know of or can recommend as new ones crop up regularly.

Picking the right dog day care centre, like choosing a facility for longer term care as a kennel or cattery, is like picking the best school for your children. Owners and staff of well-managed and caring facilities will be happy to put your mind at rest as you get ready to put your dogs at play in their care and assure you as well as prove they have the highest standards for the price.

As for pricing, compare facilities online or call but realize that prices vary according to time and facilities, special deals may apply and discounts may be given. Check if there is an assessment fee, if they offer pickup or delivery service, any extra charges and cancellation penalties.

Just as with reserving space at a kennel, numbers should be regulated so not showing means another pet may have lost out on having its day with the kool kids by your absence.

It's good to have a relationship with the operators and know that you are both on the same page when it comes to policies, procedures and what to do if something goes wrong with your pet.



At Play at For Dog's Sake. Photo by Animax