



Happy Paws Unleashed



Integrating Your Dog To Daycare

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Introduction

Welcome to the Happy Paws Unleashed Training Series. This is your handbook for our Daycare integration. This 3-week integration process is to ensure your dog is introduced safely and humanely to our daycare environment. The goal is to allow your dog the time and space to explore, learn and (above all) PLAY! We have found that introducing dogs in this way gives them the best chance to enjoy every day they are away from home. If you have any concerns or questions at any time, please give us a call and let us know!

About the Trainer

Denise Garner, our trainer, is a local native. She was born in Brunswick, grew up in Topsham and graduated from Mt Ararat in 1992. She attended SUNY Oswego for a Biology/Psychology double major. She began working professionally in the Information Technology (IT) field just outside of Washington DC in 1997. During her successful tenure for AOL, Inc. she volunteered for the Humane Society of the United States in Washington, DC. When the dot com bubble burst she left IT and traveled, eventually finding herself in San Francisco. She continued volunteering, but this time for the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF/SPCA). By 2008 she had graduated from the prestigious SF/SPCA Academy for Dog Trainers under the direct tutelage of Jean Donaldson ("The Culture Clash") and Janis Bradley ("Dogs Bite: But Balloons and Slippers are More Dangerous"). She received her Certificate in Training and Counseling (CTC) and ever since Denise has been working with shelters, grassroots dog businesses and private clients from California to Maine. She specializes in anxiety and fear-based behaviors in dogs as well as communication (dog-dog and dog-human).

About HPU

The owners of Happy Paws @ Unleashed are Suzanne Dell and Robin Biedrzycki. "Our love of animals beginning in childhood, developing into adulthood has influenced how our businesses have been shaped. As a combined effort it will influence how our business grows. Our goal is to provide the best pet care solutions for our clients! From tailoring your pets grooming experience to customizing your pet care package!" We are Topsham's premier pet salon and self-serve dog wash. We offer dog daycare and training, as well as dog walking and pet sitting. We have professional groomers on staff at our salon (one of the largest pet salons in Maine) and qualified dog trainers on site in our daycare. All so we may better service the demand in the area. We are bonded and insured.

Daycare & Your Dog

People have different goals for daycare for their dogs. Some want to give their dog something to do while at work, some want to get their dog better socialized, others need to give their dog time to run each day. Whatever your reasons for seeking daycare, your dog is in it for one reason: PLAY!

Play is a huge part of your dogs life. It is an audition for all things that your dog will ever do. Play is everything. Dogs that regularly engage in play and are given the chance to interact with many different breeds develop a vast array of skills for social interactions. This translates to a dog that walks politely on leash, can greet stranger dogs appropriately and enjoys new experiences.

This program for integration takes your dog from their first few steps into our daycare all the way through their final integration into the main group where all dogs mix and play with each other. We average 30-35 dogs per day in our daycare. We have tiny toy breeds, bully breeds, guarding breeds and a good mix of working breeds.

Special considerations are made for the very shy or working breed dogs. These dogs may require more time to integrate or have energy needs that require more than your average dog. If you have a dog that has special considerations, please let us know at orientation and our trainers will provide you with more information.

Week One:

Orientation : Our first meeting. Your dog meets us and has the first interactions with our mildest dogs. During the evaluation, the trainer will explain what they are seeing in your dog and what would be the best schedule for integration. We do our best to fit your schedule. If the evaluation is passed, we move on to the first day of daycare.

All sessions during the first 3 weeks are monitored and evaluated by our on-site training staff to ensure the safety and progress of your dog. Feedback is sent home with your dog daily on the report card.

Day One : FREE DAY. Your dog gets their first day for free with us. We are so sure that your dog is going to love it here we want to PROVE IT to you with a great first day that rewards both you and your dog. Your dog will meet and mix with their introductory group. This will be 3-5 dogs that are approved for the first day. Generally these are very mild, well socialized dogs that can handle the stress from a new dog being a little anxious or nervous.

Day Two : Now the fun begins. By this day your dog will know what to expect from daycare and be looking forward to more. We try to start your dog with the same 3-5 dogs from the previous day and add in 1-2 more high-energy dogs. These dogs tend to be slightly more energetic and engaging than the mild dogs. As long as all is still going well, we may add up to 1 more dog on this day.

Day Three : Still building on the progress of the previous day, more dogs with slightly higher energy levels and different play styles are added to the mix.

Week Two:

Day Four : Check-in day. This day we back up slightly and put your dog back with the mild group. We get an opportunity to gauge if your dog wants to mix with the high energy dogs or if they simply want to give it more time. At this point, we let the dog choose where they are most comfortable. This step is essential to know if your dog will be ready by the end of the 3 weeks.

Day Five : Dogs choice. Your dog can choose today to mix with some new dogs or hang out with the same ones they already know. This choice helps to remove any pressure of forcing your dog to interact before they are ready to with dogs they may not understand well.

Day Six : Push day. By day 6, we are looking to push slightly to get your dog to interact with dogs they may have been reluctant to meet. We may do this one on one or in group, depending on how your dog has progressed so far. We try to get your dog to interact positively with each dog they have not shown great interest in on this day. This will allow your dog to make proper introductions and establish a relationship under careful supervision.

Week Three:

Day Seven : Final evaluation week begins. The final 3 days will determine what services will best benefit your dog. By this week we can provide you with a tremendous amount of feedback on what your dog is doing on a regular basis and anything we may see that needs a little attention. Day seven is a lot like day six, we will try to push slightly to have your dog interact with everyone in group.

Day Eight : Check-in with you. Towards the very end of the integration process we will be asking for feedback from you on anything you may have noticed during the first two weeks and goals you may want to set for your dog. We can discuss training as a regular part of daycare for your dog and set up regular appointments for grooming when your dog is going to be with us for the day.

Day Nine : Graduation! Any lingering questions, concerns or scheduling can be made this day. If all has gone well, your dog will now be ready to come in and join the group from this day forward. It is helpful if we have a set schedule going forward from this point so it is easier to ensure all your goals are met and your dog comes home to you exactly the way you would like.

The conclusion of the three week period will include a brief write up of the progress your dog has made during the integration into daycare. Any questions or comments are always welcome. You can always reach us by email happypawsunleashed@gmail.com or during business hours by phone 207-725-7990.