



Policies and Procedures

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Southpaws Playschool for Dogs and Puppies is to provide a safe, pleasant and stimulating environment in which our clients can leave their dogs and puppies with confidence during working hours. We will sponsor activities at our facility and in the community that will promote enhanced human/canine relationships.

Hours of Operation

Southpaws Playschool is open for drop-off from 7:00 am to 9:00 am Monday through Friday.
Saturday hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Please call Southpaws at 512-440-7529 before bringing your dog after drop-off time.

Dogs should be picked up by 6:00 pm unless prior arrangements have been made.

Late pickups without prior arrangement (at time of drop off or as soon as possible during the day) will incur an additional fee of \$5.00 per 15 minutes. Late fee is payable at time of pickup.

Pickups are not available after 7:00 pm. Your dog will be boarded at Southpaws. Boarding-without-notice fee is \$50.00 (does not include daycare fees or late fees) and is payable at time of pickup.

Holiday and Saturday schedules will be posted in a timely manner. Schedule changes will be communicated as far in advance as possible.

Eligibility Requirements

 All dogs must be leashed when moving between the building and the parking lot.

 All dogs should wear a properly fitting collar or harness and tags at all times.

Dogs:

Dogs All dogs older than six months must be spayed or neutered.

Dogs Dogs must be non-aggressive toward people and other dogs.

Dogs Dogs must have proof of vaccinations on file prior to first day of attendance. Required vaccinations are rabies, distemper, parvo and bordetella. Southpaws suggests that you follow your veterinarian's protocol for vaccinations. Titer results are accepted in lieu of vaccination records.

Dogs Dogs must be flea-free and on heartworm preventative medicine.

Puppies:

Puppies All dogs older than six months must be spayed or neutered. If your puppy is younger than six months but you have no intention of altering him/her, the puppy is not eligible for attendance at Southpaws.

Puppies Puppies must be at least 12 weeks of age and have completed the first two sets of puppy vaccinations (Rabies vaccination is not required prior to six months of age).

Puppies Proof of vaccinations must be provided prior to the first day of attendance.

Puppies Puppies must be flea-free.

Puppies Puppies are not required to be spayed or neutered during the course of the crate training program.

Fees

NOTE: Southpaws Playschool accepts cash or checks in payment. We do not accept debit or credit cards at this time.

All fees are payable at the time of service.

Daycare fee (per dog) \$20.00 per day (*\$100.00 per week*)

Half day/Saturday fee (per dog) \$13.00 per half day (*up to five hours*)

10 pack \$170.00 (*paid in advance*)

20 pack \$300.00 (*paid in advance*)

Crate training \$475.00 (*six week crate training session includes consultation as necessary*)

weekend/evening classes fee determined by class content and length

Southpaws offers a foster rate of \$10 per day for foster dogs that need socialization and activity. All foster dogs that attend Southpaws Playschool become eligible to be listed on our website's foster page.

There is no charge for giving medications or feeding puppies or special needs dogs. Please alert Southpaws to your dog's needs.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL VETERINARY FEES RELATED TO YOUR OWN PET.

Problem Behavior

Dogs must be non-aggressive toward people and other dogs.

Personality conflicts sometimes happen between dogs. We will do our best to separate two dogs that cannot be together in the same play area. This may include asking dogs to attend daycare on separate days. Both owners will be consulted prior to scheduling attendance in this manner.

Siblings may be asked to attend daycare separately if they are members of the same play group and as a set the siblings cause conflict within their play group.

Dogs that hurt or intimidate other dogs will be put in time out for an appropriate time. If the infraction is serious enough, the dog may be separated from the playgroups for the remainder of the day. If separated, the dog will still be allowed outside at regular intervals and will be given human interaction as an alternative to group play.

Aggression-related events will be recorded and tracked. Continuing or escalating patterns of aggression will result in the owner being required to attend training sessions or obedience classes with their dog. Attendance at Southpaws will be conditional until proof of completion of an appropriate obedience class is supplied.

Dogs that cause serious harm to others will be immediately expelled. It is the prerogative of Southpaws Playschool and no other party whether or not to dismiss a dog for any reason.

Dogs that are nuisance barkers may be removed from their group. If the barking continues to be a problem, owner may be asked to supply a bark collar for their dog in order to continue attendance at Southpaws.

Class Size

At this time, it is not necessary for owners to make reservations prior to attendance.

Class size is limited for each group. Dogs arriving between 7:00 am and 9:00 am will be guaranteed a spot in their group. Dogs arriving after 9:00 am will be taken on a space available basis unless previous arrangements have been made.

Please call Southpaws at 512-440-7529 before bringing your dog after drop-off time.

Children in the Dog Play Area

Some dogs have a very strong prey drive; running children may be viewed in that manner by a dog that has little or no experience with children. For this reason, we do not allow minors to enter the dog play area while dogs are present during the day unless accompanied by a staff member.

Food and Treats

Since food is often a big source of conflict between pack members, we do not feed dogs over six months old (other than those with special needs) during the day. However, fresh water is constantly available.

Dogs with special needs can be fed per veterinarian's instructions; please let us know if your dog needs to eat during the day.

Puppies are kept to their at-home schedules as much as possible. Please provide Southpaws with your puppy's food.

All food containers should be sealable and should be marked clearly with the dog's name. It is not necessary to provide the dog's food bowl.

Emergency Procedures

All Southpaws Playschool staff members are certified in animal first aid. We will use our best judgment to determine whether your dog needs emergency care or can be treated within our facility.

In the event of an emergency, your dog will be secured and taken to a safe place if necessary. You will be contacted by phone immediately if your dog has to be moved from the facility.

If the emergency is medical in nature, you will be contacted prior to your dog being taken to a veterinarian.

If the emergency is life threatening and you cannot be reached, emergency care will be sought for your pet. **You will be responsible for all costs incurred on your pet's behalf.**

Southpaws Playschool Bill of Rights

1. Your dog has the right to be treated humanely at all times.
2. You have the right to inspect our facilities at any time during business hours and by appointment after hours.
3. We have the right to interact only with dogs that are non-threatening and non-aggressive.
4. We all have the right to a healthy environment that is flea and disease free.

What to Expect from Free-Range Daycare

Most new dogs are nervous for the first few visits. Don't be alarmed. We will keep you informed of your dog's progress. Your dog will eventually become enthusiastic about playschool and begin to look forward to daycare with excitement.

Your dog should wear a properly fitting collar and tags at all times. Improperly fitted collars can pose a safety hazard for both your dog and its playmates. Southpaws staff members can advise you on how to fit your dog's collar. Please do not send your dog with an expensive collar as it might get chewed or broken. Chain collars and flea collars are not allowed and will be removed prior to the dog being allowed into the play area.

The first few times that your dog visits, he may be extremely tired after school. This is normal. As your dog gets used to playschool, he will rest as needed and you will see his energy level stabilize. Expect to have to wake up your dog in order for him to eat and go outside.

Your dog may be extremely thirsty after a day of daycare. While there is always fresh water available, some dogs simply prefer the taste of the water at home to Southpaws water.

Once in a while, your dog may be marked by scratches or bitten by another dog. Sometimes this happens in play, and sometimes it is due to friction within the group. We do our best to prevent this from happening. Since this is a free range daycare, it is more likely to happen here at Southpaws than at other facilities that crate or kennel the dogs for part of the day.

SPECIAL NOTE: Certain breeds of dogs, in our experience, have a higher likelihood of injury in a free range environment than other dogs due to breed/physical characteristics, demeanor, and play style. These breeds include boxers, Doberman pinschers, weimeraners, and the bully breeds among others. This statement is made in general and does not pass judgment on any individual dog of these breeds. Please take this into consideration when enrolling your dog.