



Get Competition Ready!

Objective: Prepare the team and get organized for the upcoming Daycare Games.

**Registration for the 2018 Daycare Games opens January 15!*

Content: This Lunch & Learn is designed to get your team excited for some fun competition! Open with an overview of The Daycare Games and how it can be an amazing time for your team, the dogs, and your pet parents. Discuss with your team how to get organized for the events and decide who will be in charge of what. Finish with a video of the previous daycare games so everyone leaves the meeting energized and excited!

Tip for Owners and Managers: *The Daycare Games is a ton of fun, but it is also very effective at getting the team focused on leadership skills and safety in the play yard. Be present and provide plenty of praise and encouragement. The Games is also very effective in highlighting your commitment to safety to your pet parents, local vets and community. Have a strong marketing plan prior to the start of the games.*

Prior to Lunch & Learn Session:

- Print description of Daycare Games (see link below)
- Print Competition Guidelines (see link below)
- Determine how the video will be viewed during the meeting

During Lunch & Learn Session:

- Review The Daycare Games description
 - Bring attention to the fact that this is a fantastic way to engage with the customers and highlight what makes your pet care center special!
 - Encourage improving existing leader skills by challenging each team member to progress to the next level of benchmarks (Apprentice, Leader, Master). **See page 10 of the Leadership Exercises for a detailed description.*
 - Consider establishing goals for each team member that will challenge them and remember to reward as they progress based on their overall level of experience.
- Review The Daycare Games Competition Guidelines (link below)
- Review important dates
 - **Registration** – Opens January 15
 - **Benchmarks** – February 5 - February 9
 - **Event 1: Recall** – February 12 - February 16
 - **Event 2: Group Sit** – February 19 - February 23

- **Event 3: Gate Boundary** – February 26 - March 2
- Suggested Roles and Responsibilities (these may vary depending on the size of your center)
 - **Judge:** Tasked with knowing and educating the team on the competition guidelines
 - **Coach:** Print and explains event rules for each week and monitors progress of the team
 - **Score Keeper:** Print and share tracking sheets for benchmarks and events. Enters scores online by each deadline
 - **Media:** Coordinates social media posts, lobby displays, and submitting images/videos to The Dog Gurus
 - **Master of Ceremonies:** Prints and presents participation badges and medals. Coordinates efforts with Media
- Discuss how and when the events will be completed and documented
- Discuss creative ideas on how to involve pet parents, social media
- If you are offering prizes/rewards/incentives, now would be a good time to announce them to get the team even more motivated!
- Play Daycare Games video (link below):
 - Get input from your team on what they saw in the video. Some may not have confidence that they can perform like the teams in the videos. Give encouragement and positive motivation if it is needed!

Additional ideas to keep the fun factor high during the Daycare Games:

- Loop in the customers to have them practice the skills at home with their dogs.
- Purchase Daycare Games gear for your team! (link below)
- Run a torch through your facility
- Hold medal ceremonies
- Offer special prizes and rewards
- Recognize dogs that perform exceptionally well



Supporting Education Articles/Tools: The articles listed and linked below provide additional information on the topic and can be introduced or refreshed as part of your training.

Leadership Exercises (skills to prep for the DC Games)

<http://thedoggurus.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Leadership-Exercises.pdf>

Dog Daycare Games Website (main page)

<https://www.thedoggurus.com/the-daycare-games/>

Competition Guidelines

<https://www.thedoggurus.com/the-daycare-games/competition-guidelines/>

Dog Daycare Games Video

<https://www.thedoggurus.com/the-daycare-games/results-medals-2017/>

Marketing Tips

<https://www.thedoggurus.com/the-daycare-games/marketing-tips/>

Dog Daycare Games Online Store

<http://fieldhouse.com/Stores/FHShop1.aspx?PON=74953>