

## **DRAFT Dog Day Care Performance Standards Introduction**

- Below you will find DRAFT performance standards for dog day care operations in the Middle Canyon area. These standards, if adopted, would be added as item “H” in Chapter 4 of the Canyon Area Land Use Regulatory System (CALURS).
- If this amendment to CALURS were to be adopted, “Dog day care” would ultimately be listed as a “Major Land Use” in the Middle Canyon Region in Chapter 6 of CALURS.
- If these standards were to be adopted, any dog day care operation proposed in the future would require review through a public process to ensure compliance with these and all other applicable performance standards.
- These DRAFT performance standards are the result of public input at a community forum that was held on June 30, 2009 and represent a compromise achieved through the subsequent involvement of citizens who want to run a dog day care and those who are concerned about possible impacts.
- A public workshop to discuss the DRAFT performance standards below will be held at the Glacier National Park Community Building at 7 pm on November 17.
- PLEASE feel free to call BJ Grieve at the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office at 751-8200 if any of this information is unclear or if you have any questions regarding the content or procedure of this DRAFT amendment to CALURS.

## **H. DOG DAY CARE OPERATIONS**

*The proximity of the Middle Canyon region to Glacier National Park and the Park's restrictions on recreating with pets makes dog day care an appropriate low-impact commercial accommodation within CALURS. Visitors that have a safe and convenient daytime activity for their dogs are more likely to spend time and money with local businesses. Furthermore, dogs at a day care facility are not tied up to trees, wandering the community or at worst, locked in warm cars.*

*However, the primarily residential nature of the Middle Canyon region and all of CALURS warrants special performance standards for dog day care so the operations do not negatively impact neighbors, visitors or the character of the region. A community forum on the topic of dog day care held in West Glacier on June 30, 2009 was well attended by residents. Business owners expressed a need for dog day care, while residential land owners expressed concern over potential impacts. Most forum participants agreed that if potentially deleterious impacts were properly mitigated through performance standards and county review of permits, the new land use could be an overall benefit to the community.*

*It is important to note that there is a critical distinction between dog day care operations and boarding kennels. The typical dog day care and the manner in which it is operated suits the unique needs of the Middle Canyon region. Overnight boarding kennels are higher impact commercial operations which threaten the primarily residential character of the region. Therefore, overnight boarding kennels are not permitted in CALURS.*

*Performance standards for dog day care were developed and reviewed by many diverse interests specifically to ensure that the unique need of the Middle Canyon region for daytime dog care is met while impacts to neighbors are kept to an absolute minimum. In addition to other applicable standards outlined within CALURS, dog day care operations must comply with the following performance criteria. The ability to meet all of the performance standards below shall be demonstrated prior to issuance of a Major Land Use permit. Violation of any of these standards will be grounds for revocation of Major Land Use permit.*

### **Dog Day Care Performance Standards:**

- 1. No overnight accommodations shall be allowed for customer's dogs in a dog day care facility. Hours of operation shall be limited to 6 am to 9 pm.*
- 2. Dog day care facilities shall have an owner and/or manager residing full-time on the premises. However, dog day care facilities are not "home occupations" because the dwelling may be incidental to the primary use (dog day care) of the property.*
- 3. To prevent monotonous barking by bored dogs, and in keeping with typical dog day care operations, activities shall generally be provided for dogs during hours*

*of operation. If offered, outdoor activities shall be supervised and barking dogs shall be brought indoors.*

- 4. A “double-gated” system for entering and exiting the dog day care operation from the parking area shall be used to prevent dogs escaping.*
- 5. Any outdoor portion of a dog day care operation shall be entirely fenced to a height of no less than 8’ to prevent dogs escaping. Fences may follow property lines, however fences shall be set back at least 50’ from buildings on adjacent property to provide some buffer for noise. Dogs shall not be caged individually, except for an area in which aggressive dogs can be separated.*
- 6. A minimum staff to dog ratio of 1:12 shall be maintained (no more than 12 dogs per one staff member).*
- 7. In order to prevent the overcrowding of people and dogs and accommodate necessary setbacks, a dog day care operation offering outdoor activities shall have at least ½ acre of fenced land and no more than 50% of a property may be utilized for the outdoor portion of dog day care operations.*
- 8. No dog day care facility shall care for more than 24 dogs at any given time.*
- 9. The indoor portion of the dog day care operation shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the maximum number of dogs that the operation will care for at any one time.*
- 10. Dog waste shall be picked up from the outdoor portion of the operation on a daily basis. Storage of dog waste shall utilize airtight containers or in-ground, septic-style digesters.*
- 11. Excessive barking by dogs at a permitted day care operation will be grounds for revocation of Major Land Use permit. (“Excessive” barking that can be attributed to a poorly run operation rather than one particular dog being cared for shall be defined as monotonous barking for more than 30 minutes at a time for more than 2 days.*