



A quick guide to opening your own home doggie daycare

BUSINESS, MONEY

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By [Brette Sember](#)

Are you looking for a new business opportunity? And how do you feel about dogs?

Starting a home-based doggie daycare is potentially a great way to make some money while laying the groundwork for a successful long-term venture, all while spending quality time with some furry new friends.

Do your research

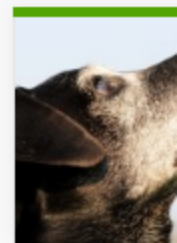
However, before you can open your puppy palace, you'll need to do a little legal research. First off, make sure your local zoning ordinances and/or [homeowner's association rules](#) allow you to run a business from your home. Determine if there are specific laws and requirements for pet-related businesses that could affect you.

Next, apply for a [business license](#) from your town or county. Also, use this handy [checklist](#) to determine whether you'll need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) to report your taxable business earnings.

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Inside A



Plan your facility

Choose the section of your home you'll use (an indoor area with concrete or other easy-to-clean flooring is ideal) and make sure you have a fenced outdoor area for your canine charges. You will most likely need to apply for an animal care license that requires an inspection, so research the requirements and set up your facility to meet them. Buy the supplies you'll need—toys, food, dishes, beds, crates, and pooper-scoopers to start.

Do more paperwork

But you're not quite ready yet. You'll need to establish a price list and then work with a business attorney to create a contract for your clients, which, among other things, establishes responsibilities, spells out rules and policies, and specifies the cost of your services. You'll also want to consider the benefits of business insurance for some additional financial protection, and set up a business banking account.

Spread the word

Next up you need to advertise and let people know about your great new service. Use social media, pass out flyers in your neighborhood, and consider running ads in a local paper or online.

With some “dogged” preparation, your doggie daycare can be a great way to make money and have fun.

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[Brette Sember](#) is a former attorney and author of more than 40 books, including *The Divorce Organizer & Planner*, *The Complete Divorce*, *How to Parent with Your Ex*, *The Essential Supervisor's Handbook*, *The Complete Credit Repair Kit*, *The Original Muffin Tin Cookbook*, and *The Gluten-Free Guide to Travel*. She writes often about law, parenting, food, travel, health, and more. She blogs at PuttingItAllOnTheTable.com.

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