

2 Plumbers Lane

Shortwood

Nailsworth

Gloucestershire

GL6 0SD

26/04/22

REF: GREEN MEADOW DOG DAY CARE

Original ref: 19/0935/FUL

Dear Planning Team,

We are writing to request that our number of individual dogs at any one time be permitted to increase from 20 dogs to 30 dogs. Change to condition 5 on planning ref 19/0935/FUL

Back ground

We have been operating now since September 2020. We have been a crucial business for people struggling to meet the needs of their dogs whilst working at home as well as providing care for dogs whilst their owners are out at work. Lock down for many was extremely stressful and we alleviated the guilt and stress our customers were feeling on the days their dogs were with us and this is what we continue to do.

During this time we filled to capacity much quicker than we anticipated and have a waiting list of over 30 people with enquiries daily.

Our customers vary from Doctors, Solicitors, Teachers, company Directors and owners to retired people who want to give their dog a nice day out.

Our service

People throughout lockdown were buying puppies as they were home all day however due to not being able to go anywhere however this has presented issues for the dogs themselves through lack of socialisation and exposure to new things which is vital to a dog's development.

We have been able to help many families with dogs lacking in confidence, often fear related and at times heading towards aggression. Our intervention has meant their dogs are now well socialised happy, friendly dogs which for them has been life changing.

As lock downs have ended people that bought their puppies as they were working from home are now going back the office our service still remains crucial as owners do not want their dogs left at home all day. For some leaving their dogs is not an option as many now suffer with separation anxiety.

We have been operating since September 1st 2020. Our times for being onsite are between the hours of 10am and 2pm, 4 hours per day Monday- Friday. Before and after these times we are collecting the dogs and then returning them home.

Employment opportunities

To date we provide full time employment for my Husband and I, part time employment for a working single mum, we also provide employment as well as ongoing training for a young adult who is seeking a career working with dogs. We are also a provider of valuable learning opportunities.

Green Meadow Dog Day Care has 4 paid staff.

Learning opportunities and Equal opportunities

We are on the list for work experience providers for both Hartpury College and SGS College.

We have to date provided 1 student from Hartpury and 1 student from SGS beneficial experiences by being able to work with so many different types of dogs in a unique environment. One student achieved distinction * distinction *distinction * grades. The other we are continuing to support through their final year.

As well as providing placements for college we also have volunteers who work with us. Two of our volunteers have additional learning needs and due to our background with working with people with associated Learning disabilities we are in a great position to provide a fulfilling and highly beneficial work experience where achievements are made on a daily basis.

We have also had students from Rednock School and Kings School Gloucester complete work experience combining their love of dogs with planning for their futures and gaining the all important work experience.

By increasing our numbers would allow us to be able to provide more work experience and learning opportunities for those wanting a career working with dogs, those looking for general work experience or those looking to volunteer. We can also continue to provide this for people with additional needs.

Benefits of a service like ours to dogs

Our service is unique. We provide an enriched environment allowing dogs to display natural behaviours outside of the home. The effects of this to our dog's wellbeing is really beneficial.

Dogs learn and enjoy to socialise with many different dogs safely as all our dogs are assessed on their nature. This, owners could never reciprocate. We have had great results helping many dogs with confidence issues, behavioural issues as well as providing the all important day care whilst owners are at work. We have so much positive feedback from owners where we have been crucial in making their and their dog's life better. We achieve this daily.

Demand and further employment opportunities

We have an extensive waiting list with enquiries daily. We have a great facility and reputation. With the way our site is set out we can easily accommodate more dogs without compromising the space and quality of the service we provide. Increasing the number of dogs daily means we can help more people desperate for our services as well provide more employment opportunities.

Longevity of the business

Due to the nature of our business, there are some common infections that are highly contagious. We have been unfortunate to have had 2 cases in the last 18 months. These infections affect the number of dogs that attend during these periods. The impact this has on our income is very significant. By being able to accommodate more dogs daily we can budget for these times without it affecting our income, thus allowing us to maintain staff wages and our income. At the current time our earnings are our earnings. We do not have the ability to earn "overtime" therefore we don't have reserve money to fall back on should we need to earn more money if an emergency arose.

Our wellbeing

As with most people that own their own business, if we are not open we do not earn. Last year we were only able to close at Christmas, this had a massive impact on our wellbeing. We were under extreme pressure and were totally exhausted throughout the year.

We would like to be able to take a holiday when we need one without being financially worse off. By having a few more dogs daily would mean we can budget for our leave time without having to worry that we are not earning.

Effects on the highway

We consider there to be no increased impact on the highway. At present we have 3 owners a week drop their dog. This is not even one per day. We don't envisage an increase in this as the majority of our owners and people making enquiries are wanting to use our collection and return home service. Owners that drop off and collect their dogs are with us less than 5 mins at a time.

Noise report

More dogs does not mean more noise. The majority of our dogs do not bark. We have dogs that are more prone to barking, however this is generally through excitement or to get our attention. Both causes are easily diverted therefore barking is limited. We use all of our space effectively so any noise is minimal in any one area. The motorway continues to be a constant source of noise, as well as the repair garage opposite us.

We have in place a noise management scheme condition 3, which we feel is more than adequate in addressing any actual noise concern and was agreed. Every day is different as we have different dogs in. Noise like most things varies from day to day. We are satisfied we are aware of our neighbours and do all we can to limit any brief noise for them. To date we have not received any noise concerns or complaints.

Conclusion

- 1, In our opinion the wider setting will not be impacted negatively by our increase in numbers of dogs attending.**
- 2, Instead the learning opportunities as well as the potential for further employment opportunities will be of great benefit to the area.**
- 3, We are unique and can offer many things that are not available anywhere else. For dogs, owners, staff, students and volunteers.**
- 4, So many people are in need of our services it will be nice to be able to help more people. Turning people away who are desperate is an awful feeling.**
- 5, Our site easily accommodates 20 dogs. We separate easily into groups due to our lay out and each dog has plenty of space whilst enjoying the different environments and enrichment opportunities. Increasing our numbers by 10 will have very little impact.**
- 6, We are generally only onsite with the dogs between the hours of 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday.**
- 7, We maintain our land to a high level. It is well kept and boundaries secure.**
- 8, We have interest from local residents who often walk past and even stop for a chat. A few have become customers.**
- 9, Additional dogs allows us to earn more income. This extra income will be budgeted and used when we suffer infections that cause a loss of income.**
- 10, Additional income daily will allow us to budget for leave opportunities. These are paramount for our wellbeing. At present we do not have the option to earn more money, therefore we carry the stress and worry of, if we close, we do not earn.**

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration,

Yours Sincerely,

