

My name is Lauren and I am a staff member here at The Acre. I have experience working at other facilities here in Austin as well as an emergency vet tech.

My time at the acre has been nothing short of exceptional. I have never worked for a facility that focuses on safety and procedure as much as they do. I have grown personally and professionally under their management and am very proud to work at such a top notch facility here in south austin. They are extremely selective about the animals they accept into their program and ensure that as staff members we are supported when it comes to executing a high quality service for all the dogs who come in.

Personally, having a job with consistent hours and a positive work environment has meant everything to me. I have made huge strides towards saving up to move out to get a place on my own and affording a car. When I first started working and was getting back on my feet they covered the costs of my Ubers to be able to get to work for my early morning shifts so I did not have to get on the bus at 5am.

Madalyn is a supportive manager through and through. I think of a time when I was having a really down day and I was able to come into her office and just unload everything that was on my mind. I think the past jobs I have had would have sent me back to work and brushed it off but she stopped and listened to what I was personally going through and drove me home, let me have the afternoon off to rest and personally covered my shift with no strings attached.

For me and the rest of our team this job is more than just a job. It is a place where we are supported and able to thrive while doing what we love. I like to call it my soft landing. We are all anxiously awaiting your vote and hope you consider us and our team when making your decision.

Lauren district 2

We are a growing family with two young children and two high energy labs. When we travel or have a busy day with the kids, having the acre to help support taking care of the whole family makes all the difference. They have shown us incredible kindness and when my second child was born they helped me immensely by making sure the dogs were always exercised and taken care of after their time at doggie day camp. I couldn't imagine not having that support during my early postpartum days.

Before this I would have just thought of dog camp as a luxury but when you are really strapped for energy and time it really is essential to making sure that everyone is taken care of. We see our dogs like our first children and they are a service in the area that really embodies the principle of "it takes a village". There are a ton of support systems in place when it comes to help with our kids but not as many high quality options for when it comes to our pets.

We are so grateful to have found them and I know our dogs are too.

Cody and Alyssa

Hi everyone,

We have been taking our dog Maverick to The Acre since we first got him. My boyfriend and I both work and although we always wanted a puppy we wanted to be sure we could balance the responsibility while also managing our full time jobs.

Before we adopted him we did some research and ended up falling in love with The Acre's strategy on physical activity as well as fostering good socialization for young dogs in their daycare program. This gave us the confidence to adopt our first puppy together and the transition has been so smooth.

Having support in the beginning helped us make sure that his daily needs were met. The long term aspect we were unsure of is how it would shape his personality. At daycare they not only monitor the dogs the entire time but also keep detailed notes on all the dog's temperament. He was a wild puppy at first so I was a little worried that he might annoy the other dogs. In the beginning he started in the puppy group and over time as he developed better social skills his friend group has grew tremendously.

After seeing all the photos, report cards and notes we get I am always confident to integrate him into all parts of our life whether it is out at Zilker Park or at a farmers market. We are so grateful to have support like this in the neighborhood.

Payton

Dear city council,

I am writing in support of The Acre's rezoning application. I live in district 9 and have been depending on The Acre while I travel to California and across Texas for work. My dog Franklin is obsessed with going to "camp".

I avoided going to boarding places because I always assumed that it was just a place where he would be cooped all day and stressed out. For a long time I was able to have friends watch Franklin here and there, but after I got my most recent promotion I have had to travel more. Having a place to send him that is like a vacation for him has helped me be able to take on my new role guilt free while I leave behind my furbaby.

The staff at The Acre is attentive, responsible and consistently gives him the best experience. When I pick him up he is EXHAUSTED from all the activities they do like group play, solo fetch sessions, pup cups, bubble baths and pool time. Franklin already has over 50 friends from all the different visits and it is always fun to see him playing with his little friend group while I am gone.

For us The Acre is an essential service that directly correlates with my ability to thrive at my job as a single pet parent. Both Franklin and I are planning to be clients of The Acre for years to come and hope you support their rezoning along with us!

Brie District 9

My name is Maggie and I have been taking my dog Spooky to The Acre for awhile now. I feel like their team is a second family. I recently accepted a new job that happened to be fully remote. Concentrating at work while having Spooky stare at me for attention and playtime proved to be a little harder than I expected.

Having the acre there to help keep Spooky on a good play schedule has really helped the transition go smoothly. He absolutely loves going to daycare and is thrilled every time we pull up. I thought initially I would need to take him more often but he plays so much when goes that he is napping for the next few days after every visit.

If Spooky could take he would ask you to support their rezoning!

Maggie - District 5

I have been a patron of the Acre for several years now, after being lucky enough to discover them through a flyer left at the Tomlinsons', where I was shopping. They were a newer business at the time, and I was happy to discover that they were a local and family-owned establishment. Since the beginning, they have gone above and beyond for my pup and me. I once forgot to grab Shae's harness when I picked her up, and instead of making me come all the way back to grab it the next morning, they kindly offered to deliver it since I wasn't located too far. Having them in South Austin, closer to where I live, has made going to school and working while making sure my dog has a fulfilling life a possibility. I recently graduated, but continue to rely on their quality of care both when I am working and when I leave town.

Anytime Shae, my pup, has been sick, dealing with an injury, or in any kind of need, Madelyn and Barrett have given her the utmost care and attention, making accommodations when needed, and often taking note of details to inform me of upon pick up that allowed me to better care for her. They are exceptionally thorough in vetting the best staff to care for the dogs, and Shae has bonded with all of them, making it not just a place for her to socialize with dogs, but a secondary family for her. I cannot say enough positive things about how much they care about every dog and making sure they have the best and most enriching experience each and every time they are dropped off.

Dear city council,

My name is Andrew and I am one of the team members here at The Acre. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to be trained by everyone here at The Acre.

My managers here really see me as a person and make accommodations for me that I have not had at any other job. I expressed to them my aspirations of going back to school to become a therapist - they were supportive off the bat but I was still nervous for what this would mean for my ability to work consistent hours and make sure my bills were paid.

After meeting with my advisor at Austin Community College I let them know my hours might need to change. Instead texting back Madalyn requested my class schedule ahead of time and scheduled a one on one meeting to talk through everything. I was definitely a little nervous!

When it came time to meet she sat me down and let me know how much they valued all of my hard work and how excited they were for me to further my education. However they did not think it was reasonable for me to keep working 40 hours a week plus taking so many classes. Their solution was to give me a raise so that I could continue earning the same amount of money but work fewer hours so I would still have time to study and rest. They also helped create a consistent schedule that was based around my classes!

I am so grateful to have an employer who sees me as more than just someone on the payroll and supports my growth. They really take the time to make sure that you are taken care of in and outside of work because they understand that those are connected.

I understand that with this rezoning it might jeopardize my ability to keep this job. They are unique and care about their dogs and their people immensely. They are an amazing employer and I hope that they can continue to be a service that supports so many in the community.

Andrew District 2

My dog Dewey and I have been attending the acre for almost a year now. I recently moved to Austin from San Antonio to begin my dream job at a local news network. However, the office is in north Austin which made it difficult to make sure Dewey was taken care of. Thus I began my search for dog daycares.

In our area it seemed like the only option was an overcrowded small turf yard. Nothing was working well for Dewey. He was getting overstimulated due to daycares who prioritize profit over quality of service. When I would drop him off he would not want to get out of the car.

Unfortunately it got to the point where I was questioning my ability to continue to give Dewey what he deserved and I was beginning to consider rehoming him. Fortunately a friend told me about The Acre.

From day 1 things just felt different. At no other place have I gone to where the owners are actually present and involved on a daily basis. Madalyn took the time to get to know me and my story and make sure that Dewey was set up for success. He is naturally nervous so she personally supervised a multiday evaluation to ensure nothing was rushed. She also clearly explained what she needed to see in order to accept Dewey into The Acre. This gave me the reassurance that they were not just accepting every dog that came in to maximize their own profits. I cannot tell you how different and personal this was compared to my other experiences.

Having a place where he can go a few times a week while I am focusing on my career has enabled me to have the best of both worlds. Without having The Acre 10 minutes from my house I really do not know what we are going to do moving forward.

Madison district 5

To whom it may concern,

I have been going to The Acre for a little more than a year now. While they have always been a consistent and reliable place to take my dog for daycare they also were a huge support system when my mom was sick last year.

She unexpectedly became ill and I needed to go help her. I hardly travel and when I realized I needed to go stay with my mom for a few weeks I immediately was overcome with stress about what to do with my dog Maggie. I called Madalyn and explained my situation. She immediately calmed all my concerns and helped give me discounted services that I could afford in my time of need as well as a payment plan to be able to afford the unexpected expense. To say they went above and beyond for us and our family is an understatement.

When I checked in Maggie I was overwhelmed with emotions and concern for my mom, but having Maggie take care of her in a happy place gave me the peace of mind to really focus on helping my mom. I got photo updates 2-6 times a day and they always picked up the phone immediately when I called to check in on her. When I came to pick her up it was like a kid at summer camp who didn't want to leave.

They have explained their situation with their zoning process and the approval of the need to continue being a service in the neighborhood. To lose this business would be a huge step back for District 2. Not only is this a step above any other dog daycare in the area when it comes to the quality of the facility - these are also amazing people. They employ an amazing team of animal lovers who love their job.

Please consider my story when you are deciding your vote.

Rebecca District 2