



How to Choose a Boarding Kennel

Kennels are becoming more pet-friendly. However, you need to do your research and certainly you should visit a kennel before leaving your pet.

Some new trends in boarding kennels are:

- ❖ Special rooms that are quieter than a normal kennel run and have furnishings similar to a home.
- ❖ For an extra fee, many kennels now offer individual time with your pet — either playing games, walking, or just sitting and petting. If you are going to be gone for any length of time, this is a very nice option for your pet.
- ❖ Some kennels will let dogs and cats from the same household stay together in the same run; this can provide an extra measure of comfort for your pets. However, think about the effect this will have on your cat if s/he is in the dog area of the kennel.
- ❖ Many boarding kennels now offer play groups for dogs. Be very careful about allowing your dog to play with other dogs at the kennel. Although it sounds like a good idea, there are often incidents that result in injury or behavioral problems. Only allow this if you know the kennel personnel (or your trainer has recommended them)



Things to Consider

When hiring a boarding kennel, some things to consider are:

- ❖ Are they insured?
- ❖ Are they a member of the APBG (Association of Pet Boarding and Grooming, QLD)?
- ❖ Have they received any accreditations?
- ❖ Are they knowledgeable about the business i.e., do they appear confident and comfortable around the animals; do they ask informed questions about medications, feeding, etc.
- ❖ Will they let you visit the kennel area; will they let you visit without an appointment?
- ❖ Do they have access to emergency medical care?
- ❖ Do they perform services beyond kenneling (i.e., exercise, etc.)?
- ❖ Are they aware of all legal issues that might affect your pets?
- ❖ Do the animals at the boarding kennel appear reasonably happy or unduly stressed?



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- ❖ How do the employees interact with the animals — are they patient and kind, or do they appear under pressure to get their job done?
- ❖ Do you feel comfortable with the boarding kennel and confident about leaving your pets there?

Don't hesitate to interview several boarding kennels — you should approach hiring a boarding kennel exactly the same as you would hiring someone to care for your children. Price is important, but you don't necessarily want the least or most expensive boarding kennel — unless your boarding kennel has come highly recommended by more than one person, their pricing should be in line with other boarding kennels in the area. Interviewing several boarding kennels will give you an idea of what boarding kennels in your area are charging.

Probably the single most important thing you should do when hiring a boarding kennel is to check their references. Remember that the boarding kennel is caring for your pets. It is imperative that they are professional and responsible.

Once You Decide on a Boarding Kennel

- ❖ If you have a pet that thrives on human attention, or a pet that requires physical activity, be sure that you make arrangements to fulfill these needs.
- ❖ Decide whether you will provide your pets' food or have the kennel provide the food. If you provide the food, be sure to provide enough to last a few days past your scheduled pick-up day in case of an emergency.
- ❖ If your pet is on medication, be sure you provide the boarding kennel with enough to last a few days beyond your scheduled pick-up day in case of an emergency.
- ❖ Bring bedding and toys for your pets.
- ❖ Fill out a *Boarding Kennel Guide* for each pet so the boarding kennel will have easy access to any information they may need.
- ❖ Make arrangements to communicate with the boarding kennel at least once per week while you are gone.

Plan ahead! Boarding kennels fill up fast — especially around the holidays!



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