



Plan an alternative break for your cat

It's not usually feasible to take your cat on holiday with you, so it's likely you will need to make arrangements for their care while you are away. There are many options for taking care of your pet in your absence, whether it's leaving them with family and friends, boarding your animal at a cattery or utilising a pet-sitting service. No matter which option you choose, there are a few key things to ensure before you set off.

Enlisting a trusted friend, neighbour or family member

Have a trusted neighbour or friend visit your house at least once/twice per day to feed your cat, change litter trays and provide company and enrichment. Alternatively, take your cat to the sitter's home for them to stay for the duration of your holiday.

Remember:

- Provide comprehensive information on your cat's usual diet, routine, sleeping arrangements and medical or behavioural needs.
- Leave contact information for your local veterinarian.
- If your pet won't be staying in your home, provide the sitter with a couple of favourite toys and bedding to help your animal adjust to a new environment.
- Ask the sitter to ensure your cat stay indoors if possible, especially if they will be in an unfamiliar environment.

Mobile pet-sitting services

Employ a reputable agency to find someone who can attend your home once or twice each day to provide the care your pet needs, including feeding, change of litter trays and provision of company and enrichment. Alternatively, you can make arrangements through an agency for a sitter to look after your cat in the sitter's home. We recommend your cat stay indoors if possible, especially during this change in environment/routine.

Remember:

- Provide comprehensive information on their usual diet, exercise routine, medical or behavioural needs.
- Be comfortable requesting references and asking for photo updates during your time away.
- If your pet won't be staying in your home, provide the sitter with a couple of favourite toys and bedding to help your animal adjust to a new environment.
- Ask the sitter to ensure your cat stay indoors if possible, especially if they will be in an unfamiliar environment.
- Assess your animal's suitability - while arrangements to visit your pet once or twice daily may be suitable for some animals, keep in mind that animals such as cats or dogs are social creatures that require affection, attention and care. If you're going away for an extended period of time you may want to consider other options (or take your pet with you!)

Catteries and boarding facilities

Boarding facilities offer professional minding services where your cat will be safely confined and will have regular attention. Consider if this arrangement will be suitable for your cat, as it may not be appropriate if your pet becomes stressed by other animals and/or new environments.

Remember:

- Research a number of facilities and compare them - read reviews and inspect the premises before committing to leaving your animal
- Ensure your pets are vaccinated - many facilities will not accept unvaccinated animals
- Provide comprehensive information on their usual diet, exercise routine, medical or behavioural needs
- Provide the facility with a couple of favourite toys and bedding to help your animal adjust to a new environment.
- Book ahead, especially in peak holiday periods

Finding a good boarding facility

To find a good boarding facility it's important to visit the boarding facility site in person to check out the living conditions and housing areas for yourself.

- > Are you comfortable with the space provided and the general condition of the surroundings?
- > What daily procedures are in place for providing food and water, exercising, cleaning and observation/care of the animals?
- > Does the facility have contact with a veterinarian in the area in case of any medical problems arising?
- > Does the facility have good reviews from owners who have utilised their services?

If you are looking for recommendations, you can also contact veterinary clinics in your area - many vet clinics provide boarding services for pets onsite at the clinic or they may be able to provide advice about boarding facilities in the region. Alternatively, seek recommendations from family or friends.



Whichever option you go with, make sure that your cat is microchipped and that your contact details are up to date on the microchip register and registered with council. That way, you'll be able to be contacted if your cat accidentally becomes lost while you are on away.

Make sure your cat will have access to veterinary care if require and provide whoever is caring for your cat with any regular medication and your veterinarian's contact details. If you cat is not going to be staying in your home, taking a favourite toy or bed can also be a source of comfort in an unfamiliar environment.

Cats can become stressed by changes in their environment or routine so no matter who is looking after your pet, it's important they closely monitor their health and well-being on a daily basis and ensure they are eating, drinking, urinating and defaecating.