



Plan an alternative break for your pet

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 kennel or utilising a pet-sitting service. No matter which option you choose, there are a few key things to ensure before you set off.

Leaving pets with friends or family

- Provide comprehensive information on their usual diet, exercise routine, medical or behavioural needs.
- Leave contact information for your local veterinarian.
- Choose someone who can ensure your pet can receive the same routine in your absence.
- 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.

Mobile pet-sitting services

- 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.
- 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 kennels

- Provide comprehensive information on their usual diet, exercise routine, medical or behavioural needs
- Ensure your pets are vaccinated - many facilities will not accept unvaccinated animals
- Research a number of facilities and compare them - read reviews and inspect the premises before committing to leaving your animal
- 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.