

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

Where Should I Board My Pet?

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

Everyone loves a vacation, but not everyone can enjoy their vacation to the fullest unless they know their pet will be well taken care of while they are gone. If you are planning a get away, take the time to check into several pet boarding possibilities.

Option number one is to take your pet along. Although many pets would prefer this option you had better check with your destination to make sure all is ok with them. It is also very important to make sure your pet is current for all vaccinations and free of parasites. Many resorts and most family and friends would frown on keeping a flea infested pet on their premises. You may also need a Rabies certificate and a health certificate, especially if your pet will be flying.

If you feel the stress of a long trip would be too much for your pet, or if your destination does not allow pets, you will need to leave your pet at home. Option number two is to hire a house sitter to watch your pet. You may need to call on a friend or neighbor that you trust and that you know is responsible to come over several times a day to check on your animals. The best alternative is to have someone who will actually "move in" especially if you will be gone for a week or more. This way your pets will not be alone all day and night where they can get into trouble. Call your veterinarian for possible reference numbers for house sitters or watch the papers. Always ask for references.

If circumstances make the first two options impossible, consider boarding your pet. Call your veterinarian to see if they board or if they are associated with a particular boarding facility. You will most definitely want your pet to be current on vaccinations and free of parasites when he arrives and when you take him home. Look at the boarding area and try to make your arrival unannounced. Some noise and odor is to be expected, but if you aren't comfortable with what you see, leave. If you like what you see, make your reservations well in advance, especially if it is for a holiday weekend.

Ask if you can bring your pet's own food (sudden changes in diet cause diarrhea) and a bed or blanket. Make sure your pet has a collar

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with a tag or some kind of identification so that there is no confusion as to who he is and who he belongs to. In most cases, indoor boarding with heat and air conditioning is best, but some dogs do better with runs that are partially outdoors. As a general rule, the more strict the boarding policies, the more reliable the boarding facility. Responsible boarding facilities will require proof of vaccinations for many of the common diseases and parasite treatment if your pet is infected. Once again, check on references.

If you have any questions or would like to board your pet, please call us at the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 🐾