

PREP YOUR PET FOR A HAPPY BOARDING EXPERIENCE

Leaving your pet at a traditional boarding facility, alternative kennel, or a home-style service provider is always a stressful event, especially the first time. Visit several kennels to determine which one is best suited to your pet's needs.

Here are some tips to help you overcome your anxiety and to decrease your pet's stress:

- If possible, do not pack your own suitcase before you take your pup to the kennel. This will alert him to changes in his home routine and cause undue stress.
- Be sure you have all of the required paperwork for your pet's kennel file, including kennel information and boarding agreements, your pet's veterinary records and health certificates, feeding instructions, and contact information in case of emergency.
- Pack your pup's over-night bag with enough food, medications, supplements and treats for his visit plus an extra day in case you are delayed. Include a toy or two, and an old t-shirt that you have slept in, this will embed your scent for added security. If your pup still enjoys his crate, take it with him, if permitted.
- Your pet should be current on flea, tick and heartworm prevention. If he is due for a treatment, administer it a few days before leaving him or ask the kennel staff to treat him after he arrives.
- For coated breeds that require special grooming, have your pet groomed/clipped before going to the kennel. This will keep him cleaner and more comfortable during his visit.
- Allow plenty of time to get to the kennel so you are not rushed. Once there, resist the urge to get your dog settled in for his visit, it is best to hand him over to the kennel attendant and not linger. Long good-byes will only heighten the anxiety for both of you. He will calm down after you leave.

Your dog will adapt to his new surroundings and routine. When you return, he will be excited to see you and happy to go home and be the "TOPDOG" again.

Jackie Farrow Toth, Full-Stride Kennel, LLC