

Choosing the right kennel before you travel this holiday

Posted by [Joy Shrum-Reporter](#) On 11/29/2016

Hollywood, MD- It's one of the biggest travel seasons of the year. Before you head off to grandma's house, make sure you have a solid plan in place for all of your family members, including the four-legged ones.

Many Americans will decide to leave Fido and Fluffy at home when they head out of town. A boarding kennel can provide you a peace of mind as you leave your furry family member behind. You might feel bad leaving them for an extended period of time, but a kennel can be very beneficial to everyone.

The Humane Society of the United States says a boarding kennel allows your pet to avoid the stress of a long car or plane ride, they'll receive more attention and supervision, and they'll be monitored by trained staff.

Here's what you should look for in a good kennel for your pet:

- Ask your veterinarian for a recommendation. Once you have the name of a few kennels, be sure to do a background check and read reviews.
- Make sure the kennel displays a license or certification showing it meets mandated standards.
- After selecting a few kennels that meet your needs, be sure to schedule a visit.
- During your visit make sure pets are required to be current on their vaccination.
- Does each dog have his own adequately sized indoor/outdoor run?
- Are exercise areas protected from wind, rain and snow?
- Are cats housed away from dogs?
- Are veterinary services available, if needed?
- Most importantly, does the staff seem knowledgeable and caring?

Once you've selected a kennel, it's important to prepare your pet for boarding. If possible, board your pet for a short stay to work out any problems before boarding for an extended period of time.

Also, make sure your pet's vaccinations and records are correct and up to date. You'll also need to make sure you have enough medicine and special food for their stay.

Finally, when it's time to say good-bye, avoid a long, emotional parting, which may upset your pet. Enjoy your trip and know that your pet is in good hands and will be happy to see you when you return.

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