



What to Look for When Evaluating a Boarding Kennel

Most dogs consider spending time at a well run kennel like spending a week at the beach. Think about the kind of hotel you want to stay in and apply the same criteria to your dog's kennel.

- The kennel should have both indoor and outdoor runs.
- The kennel should be cleaned and disinfected every day.
- The kennel should have good ventilation as well as adequate heating and cooling.
- The kennel runs should offer protection from the weather especially in hot, humid climates.
- The kennel suites and runs should have adequate space for the size of the dog.
- It is ideal if the kennel offers 24 hour service with someone living on the kennel property.
- The kennel should be staffed by kind and gentle people with many years of experience and who have pets of their own.
- The kennel should be able to accommodate any special dietary requirements your pet might have and be able to feed your pet on his own schedule with his own diet. (Abrupt changes in your pet's food can cause gastrointestinal issues).
- The kennel should provide comfortable bedding for your pet as well as be willing to house your pet on the bedding that they are used to.
- All bedding should be kept clean and dry.
- If your pet is on medication, make sure that the staff will be able to administer the medications appropriately. **Nighttime medications are a particular concern if there's no staff on duty at night!**
- The kennel should contact your puppy's own veterinarian if necessary. You don't want a strange dog vet treating your puppy in your absence.
- Use only a kennel that requires that pets are current on all vaccinations, including Bordetella vaccination for kennel cough for dogs.
- Get references for the kennel of your choice from friends, groomers, or other dog owners and then make an appointment to visit it and ask for a tour.