

BOARDING YOUR DOG

Happily, more and more responsible pet owners are choosing to board their pets at professional pet care facilities rather than choosing alternatives which often prove to be both costly and dangerous. Even so, many pet care facilities still experience calls from people who have been asked to care for a pet, and find that they are unable to do so safely and quite suddenly need the professional pet care facility to come to their rescue.



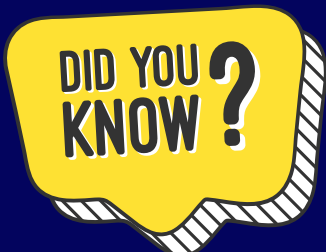
The Alternatives to kennels and why they are problematic?

Leaving your dog at home while others check in may seem convenient, but it comes with risks.

Doors or gates can be accidentally left open, inexperienced carers may miss signs of illness or injury, and some dogs may refuse entry to someone they don't trust while protecting the home. Without proper stimulation, boredom can lead to destructive behavior, and prolonged absences may increase the chance of escape attempts while you're away.

Leaving Your Dog with Friends

While leaving your dog with friends can feel reassuring, unfamiliar surroundings can increase the risk of escape, especially if the property isn't set up for visiting pets. Differences in routine, environment, or household dynamics, such as the presence of small children. This may also cause fear or stress for dogs who aren't used to those changes.



Did you know that quality boarding kennels are designed to provide dogs with a safe, structured, and enriching environment while you're away? With trained staff, secure facilities, regular routines, and plenty of care and attention, boarding kennels can help your dog feel comfortable, stimulated, and well looked after until you return.

Leaving Your Dog with the Vet

For some dogs, the vet is already a source of anxiety, and staying there may heighten stress as they associate the visit with treatment or discomfort. Many veterinary clinics also have limited space for long-term boarding, and your pet may be housed near sick or injured animals, which can create an unsettling and unhappy environment.

Note: It is worth considering that this may be a good option if your pet is very sick, or needs high care, or monitoring 24 hours per day. If you absolutely must leave your pet with someone else during this time, your Vet would be your only option as opposed to a pet boarding facility or Doggie Day Care.



Taking Your Dog on Holiday

While travelling with your dog can sound appealing, it often comes with challenges. Many hotels and motels either don't allow pets or enforce strict rules around noise and cleanliness, and in Australia it's illegal to take pets into National Parks. Travel can also make pets unwell, which is especially concerning in areas with limited access to veterinary care, and having your dog with you may restrict daily activities since they can't be left unattended in vehicles. Additionally, exposure to new environments increases the risk of parasitic infections, which can occur anytime, anywhere.

Why Should you choose a Pet Resort?

There are many factors to consider when deciding on the best option for your family pet. Choosing a Pet resort over other alternatives has many benefits! It is important to note that if you are looking at alternatives to a Pet Resort, such as a Pet Sitter, Pet Nanny, In Home Pet Boarding, or Backyard Boarding, many of the things below are not a requirement of people acting in this capacity.

- Run by trained professionals with qualified staff
- Strict vaccination requirements to protect all pets
- Licensed by local councils and held to clear welfare standards
- High hygiene and cleaning protocols
- All-day human interaction, not just short daily visits
- Secure facilities with safe fencing and controlled access
- Registered businesses with public liability insurance
- Staff on site at all times, not single-person services

Clear boarding agreements so expectations are understood by everyone

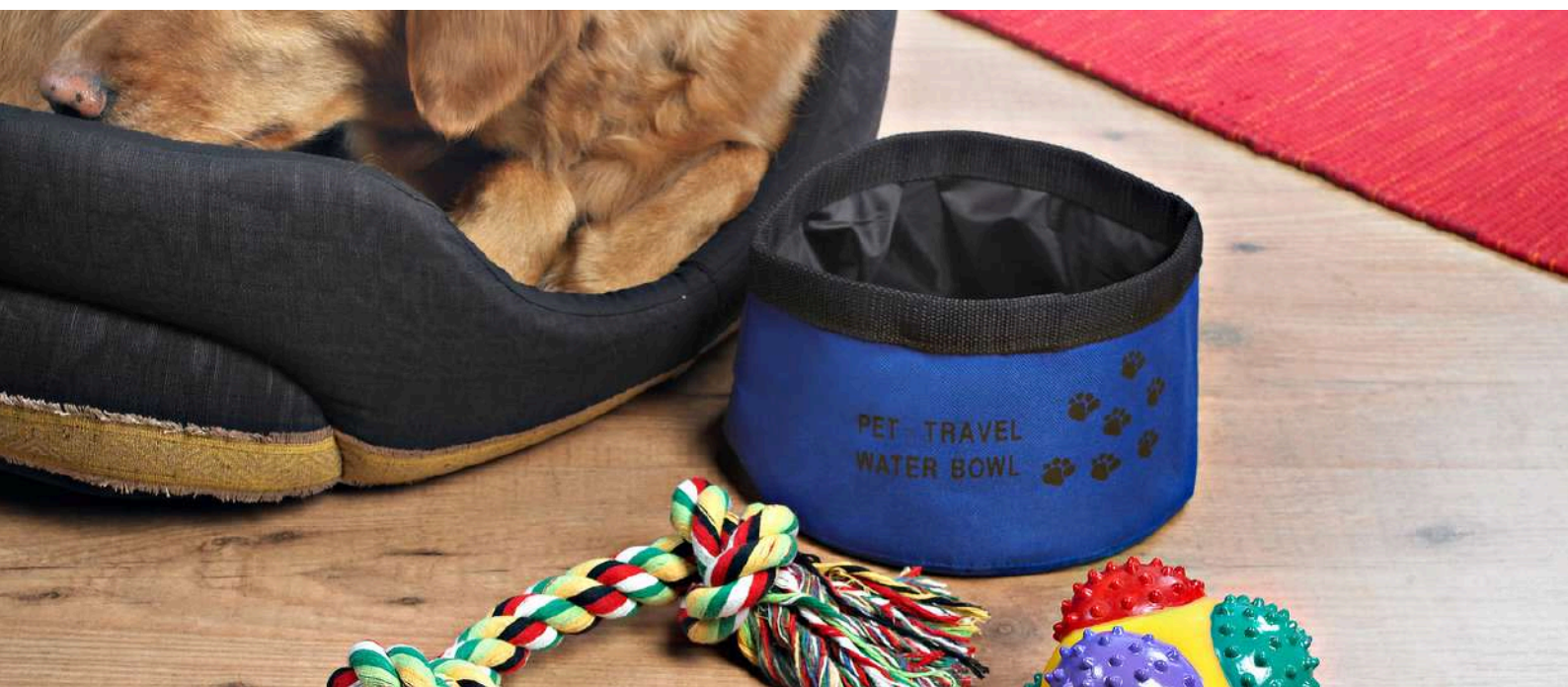


Why Choosing a Pet Boarding Facility Works!

The people who run kennels are well trained to look after your pet. Consider this; a Veterinarian may see 2500 pets a year, even a small kennel owner will see around 20,000 pets a year; that is an enormous amount of experience. They will call the vet to any pet they believe is ill and requires attention. Many times, a particular problem, eg blood in urine, or a warning sign that requires attention, will be picked up in a kennel quicker than at home. However, it is not the kennel's job to diagnose or treat your pet. If your pet requires treatment while it is boarding, you will be responsible for the account.

Remember:

- Kennel owners and their staff are passionate about what they do, they have made this their job, not their hobby.
- Business Professionalism is extremely important, and many boarding kennels adhere to a Code of Practice such as those who are Members the Pet Industry Association Australia. All reputable kennels have insurance.
 - Fun for your dog! If your dog is assessed as being suitable, he/she will be able to interact and play with other friendly dogs. There is nothing better than watching a dog bursting out their owners car because they know how much fun they are about to have at the pet resort.
 - Many kennels keep you up to date on how your pet is going via facebook, Instagram or email, providing the best peace of mind you can hope for.
 - Most kennels offer a certain amount of individual care (playing with, talking to, petting),
 - Make sure you understand the rate structure for all services and hours of operation. The fee for boarding not only includes the care of your pet but the peace of mind that goes with knowing your pet is with someone you can trust.
 - Visit your local pet boarding facility, meet the staff, inspect the premises, ask plenty of questions! The more information you can give your chosen pet care facility, the better, as it will help them settle your dog in and know what their insecurities may be.



A Partnership

Boarding your pet is a shared responsibility. There are a few things that you must do before boarding:

- Make sure all vaccinations are current. This must be a minimum C5 for dogs.
- Your pet should be wormed beforehand and not have been exposed to any contagious diseases and have been given their usual flea and tick treatment prior to their holiday.
- Always have control of your pet – for the safety of your dog always ensure that they are on a secure lead upon arrival at the kennel.
- Be sure to inform kennel owners of any special idiosyncrasies or medical problems that are applicable to your pet, for example a fear of thunder, or a food intolerance.

Puppies usually enjoy boarding. Some kennels offer day care services so that you can leave your dog for a few hours at a time, this is the easy way to introduce your dog to boarding. After a few visits, your dog accepts this as a normal way of life.

Understanding The Kennel Environment

The following outlines a few things that you might notice after your dogs holiday. These things not of any concern, providing your pet is otherwise well:

- They might be tired, this is because at home they spend most of their day sleeping, whereas in the pet care facility they spend a lot more of their day playing and “talking” to their friends.
- They might be a little hoarse. Some dogs like to spend most of their day “talking” to their friends as a result their voice might be like yours after a close game of footy. Don’t worry, it will go back to normal in no time at all.
- Their poop might be a little runny. This is usually due to a change of food, or it also could be that your dog is a little stressed at being away from you. Some owners feed their dogs a huge meal when they get them home, and this can also cause runny poop.
- Weight loss, which is most commonly due to your dog being far more active in the kennel environment and also missing out on those sneaky biscuits he gets at home.

Home Again

When you pick up your dog, they will be very excited to see you (dogs do not have a sense of time – 5 minutes or 5 days, there is no difference). Do not feed them for at least six hours (even though they will act hungry) and be careful not over feed them. Also, excitement will cause him to pant a lot and feel very thirsty. Give him a few ice cubes to tide him over to feed time.

Summary of Points:

Successful boarding depends on both the kennel and how well owners prepare their dog. Dogs who are comfortable meeting new people and pets tend to settle better, and allowing time to calm down before food helps avoid tummy upsets. Kennel staff own pets too and Trust that they truly love and care for your pet as much as you do.

For more information, contact the Pet Industry Association Australia by emailing us at info@piaa.org.au

