



*Grooming, lodging and non-stop pampering*

Many of our clients have been asking if we can give them a referral to another place for boarding. It is very difficult for us to recommend other places or in home pet sitters with which we do not have the personal experience of using their services.

We can however provide some guidelines and questions to ask that you may find useful in your search:

- Schedule a visit for you and your pet to tour the facility or home of the pet sitter.
- Look for clean and sanitary conditions.
- How many pets do they have boarding at one time?
- Observe how they interact with your pet and/or the pets in their care.
- Do the accommodations look comfortable and secure? Do the pets that are there have adequate water and appear comfortable?
- Will your pet have adequate play time outside of their accommodation?
- Is their outdoor play area safe and secure?
  - What type of fencing do they have?
  - Will your pet be supervised while outdoors?
- Ask how they handle emergency situations if your dog has any healthcare needs while in their care. Is their team certified in pet first aid?
- What are their hours/staffing levels, is there someone there with the pets 24 hours a day?
  - If not, how many hours are they away from the pets?
  - Do they have a camera/monitoring system?
- Do they have a security/fire alarm system?
- Ask out what their immunization requirements are – do they require Bordetella/Rabies vaccinations?
- If you are considering an in-home pet sitter, either in your home or theirs here are some additional considerations:
  - Do they have pets of their own?
  - What is their back up plan? How will your pet be cared for in the event of a personal emergency?
  - Do they work outside the home? If so, will your pet be left alone in their home (or yours) for long periods of time?
  - Will your pet be leash walked or do they have a secure yard for them to have outdoor time.
- Ask for references.
- Consider doing a short one or two night trial stay to see if it's a good fit for you and your pet.

Most importantly always follow your intuition, how did you feel while you were there? Do you have a good feeling about the conditions, the demeanor of the staff or pet sitter, and did the pets that were in their care seem calm and comfortable or were they stressed?