

Boarding kennels

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

There will be a time when you will need the services of a boarding kennel. Don't wait to check out boarding kennels; start looking even if you don't plan to board anytime soon.

Always make a list of questions and approach the kennels with your questions. The response you get from the kennel will either make you consider it or not. It is always best to check out their credentials and talk to people who have used them. Look at their facilities and their schedule of daily care when your pet is being boarded.

Make sure your dog is up to date on its shots for its own safety and that of other dogs. Once you have decided on a kennel, it is always good to do a trial run. You can board your dog overnight or have Fido spend the day and pick him up in the evening. If it's the first time ever that your pet will be boarded, the trial run is well worth it. It will be a gradual integration into the facility and staff before you leave Fido for an extended period of time.

Boarding facilities should be able to offer your pet a bath or complete grooming before pickup. The cost will be well worth it, one thing less on your mind.

Boarding facilities should be able to accommodate according to the needs of your pet. There could be certain medication to be give, a special diet and more. The kennel should be able



to handle older dogs with special needs, and the facility should have ample play areas outdoors for play time. Some dogs don't get along with other dogs, so make sure the kennel is well aware of your dog's behavior pattern, and they will know how to match your dog with the others gradually.

The facility must be clean and sprayed for any form of pests to ensure optimum cleanliness, indoors

and outdoors. Boarding facilities should always have a professional trainer on hand if any issues arise, or if the client wishes to have their dog obedience trained while being boarded. They should also have direct access to a reputable veterinarian and be able to call upon your dog's regular veterinarian if needed.

A one-stop boarding kennel should have all the services needed to take care of and pamper your dog, includ-

ing pickup and delivery for a minimal charge.

Have a woof woof of a month.

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