



Potter League  
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## CHOOSING A BOARDING KENNEL

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Need to go out of town? A boarding kennel can give your pet quality care while you're away, giving you peace of mind. However, before you load Fido and Fluffy into the car and drive them to the nearest kennel, it's important to do your homework and find the right facility for your pets. You'll then need to prepare your pets for boarding.

### **What are the pros and cons of using a boarding kennel?**

Your pets depend on you to take good care of them, even when you're out of town. Friends and neighbors may not have the experience or time to properly look after your pets, particularly for longer trips. So, next time you have to leave your pets behind for a while, leave pet care to the professionals by finding a reputable pet sitter or boarding kennel.

A facility specializing in care and overnight boarding allows your pet to:

- **Avoid the stress of a long car or airplane ride to your destination.**
- **Stay where he's welcome (unlike many hotels).**
- **Receive more attention and supervision than he would if home alone most of the day.**
- **Be monitored by staff trained to spot health problems.**
- **Be secure in a kennel designed to foil canine and feline escape artists.**

Potential drawbacks to using a boarding kennel include:

- **The stress related to staying in an unfamiliar environment.**
- **The proximity to other pets, which may expose your pet to health problems.**
- **The difficulty of finding a kennel that accepts pets other than dogs and cats.**
- **The inconvenience of the drive to the kennel, which can be especially hard on a pet easily stressed by car travel.**

### **How do I find a good kennel?**

Ask a friend, neighbor, veterinarian, animal shelter or reputable dog trainer for a recommendation. Keep in mind that some non-profit animal shelters, like the



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Potter League, cannot give specific referrals to privately owned businesses. However, you can also check the Yellow Pages under “Kennels & Pet Boarding.” Once you have names, even ones you received from reliable sources, it's important to do a background check.

First, find out whether your state requires boarding kennel inspections. Check, too, with your Better Business Bureau to see whether or not any complaints have been lodged against a kennel you are considering. Online reviews from consumer websites such as [www.yelp.com](http://www.yelp.com) and [www.cityvoter.com](http://www.cityvoter.com) can also be helpful and provide feedback from other customers' experiences.

After selecting a few kennels, confirm that they can accommodate your pet for specific dates and can address your pet's special needs, if any. If you're satisfied, schedule a visit to tour the kennel yourself and make an informed decision before leaving your pets.

### **What should I look for?**

On your visit, ask to see all the places your pet may be taken. Pay particular attention to the following:

- **Does the facility look and smell clean?**
- **Is there sufficient ventilation and light?**
- **Is a comfortable temperature maintained?**
- **Does the staff seem knowledgeable and caring?**
- **Are pets required to be current on their vaccinations, including the vaccine for canine kennel cough (Bordetella)? (Such a requirement helps protect your animal and others.)**
- **Does each dog have his own adequately sized indoor-outdoor run or an indoor run and a schedule for exercise?**
- **Do outdoor runs and exercise areas provide shelter from wind, rain and snow?**
- **Are resting boards and bedding provided to allow dogs to rest off the concrete floor?**
- **Are cats housed away from dogs?**
- **Is there enough space for cats to move around comfortably?**
- **Is there enough space between the litterbox and food bowls?**
- **How often are pets fed? Can you bring a pet's special food?**



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- **What veterinary services are available?**
- **Are other services available, such as grooming, training or bathing?**
- **How are rates calculated?**

### How do I prepare my pet?

Be sure your pet knows basic commands and is well socialized around other people and pets; if your pet has an aggression problem or is otherwise unruly, she may not be a good candidate for boarding. Before taking your animal to the kennel, make sure she is current on vaccinations. It's also a good idea to accustom your pet to longer kennel stays by first boarding her during a short trip, such as a weekend excursion. This allows you to work out any problems before boarding your pet for an extended period.

Before you head for the kennel, double-check that you have your pet's medications and special food, if any, your veterinarian's phone number, out-of-town contact information for you and a local backup.

When you arrive with your pet at the boarding facility, remind the staff about any medical or behavior problems your pet has, such as a history of epilepsy or fear of thunder. After the check-in process, hand your pet to a staff member, say good-bye and leave. Avoid long, emotional partings, which may upset your pet. Finally, have a good trip, knowing that your pet is in good hands and will be happy to see you when you return.

### Area Pet Sitters

Organization	Contact Details	Comments
<b>Salty Paws In-Home Pet Care</b>	<b>401-602-2626</b> <b>www.saltypawspetcare.com</b>	<b>In-home care serving Tiverton and Little Compton</b>
<b>Happy Tails Dog Walking</b> <b>Based out of Tiverton</b>	<b>Mashia &amp; Jason McCullough</b> <b>MJHappyTails14@yahoo.com</b> <b>802-353-0971 or 802-234-5971</b>	<b>In your home Pet Sitting, long or short-term and Dog walking</b>



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<b>Lucky Paws Pet Care Based in Newport</b>	<b>Denise Di Gangi 401-855-1468</b>	<b>Dog Walking/Pet Sitting</b>
<b>Petscort Services Aquidneck Island and parts of Tiverton</b>	<b>Michelle Pasquale 401-841-5330 Petscortservices.net</b>	<b>Dog walking, in your home care for all pets, pet taxi, yard clean-up</b>
<b>Korey's Pet Sitting Aquidneck Island, Tiverton, Wakefield, Narragansett, Kingston</b>	<b>401-862-1421 – Korey Morris</b>	<b>Dog walks, Pet Sitting, Daily Visits, Overnights in your home</b>
<b>Antoinette Clark All Island</b>	<b>401-487-9403</b>	<b>Pet Sitting for BIRDS only.</b>
<b>Janeen Danenberg</b>	<b>401-742-9565</b>	<b>Pet Sitting; walking &amp; overnights in Providence area; overnights only in Newport County; Veterinary Tech – can administer medications.</b>
<b>The Wiggle Room in Middletown</b>	<b>401- 849-0044</b>	<b>Doggy Daycare</b>
<b>TLC Pet Services based out of Newport</b>	<b>Christine Block 401-846-1812-home; 401-662-6840 cell christineblock@verizon.net</b>	<b>Daily visits or overnights in your home, dogs and cats</b>
<b>Ann Bernard, based in Bristol but covers All Locations</b>	<b>Ann Bernard 419-4599</b>	<b>Pet sitting day or overnight and dog walking</b>
<b>Island Dog Walking and Pet Services</b>	<b>(808)722-4682 islanddogwalking.com, info@islanddogwalking.com</b>	<b>Pet Sitting, daycare, dog walking and nature adventures, puppy care</b>
<b>Tails of Newport Pet sitting serving Aquidneck Island</b>	<b>Susan P. Richardson 401-835-2205 Tailsofnewport@gmail.com</b>	<b>Cats and Dogs; Special Needs pets are welcome!</b>
<b>Austin Flis Pet Care and Dog Walking</b>	<b>401-855-3806</b>	<b>Covering Aquidneck Island; Dog walking, Pet care visits, overnights in your home.</b>
<b>Purple Sky Pet Care Newport County</b>	<b>401-207-9324 - Annette Bryant spirit621@cox.net</b>	<b>Dog Walking, Cat Care &amp; Medications, Overnights</b>
<b>Happy Paws Pet Services</b>	<b>401-862-1167 – Cindy Silvia</b>	<b>Dogs &amp; Cats – Portsmouth, Middletown, Bristol &amp; Tiverton Can do overnights at homes</b>



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