

Leave your pets in safe hands! : some simple steps to make sure your pets will get the care they need while you're away / RSPCA.

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Leaving your pet in the care of friends

Dogs and cats

The safest alternative is always to leave your pet in the expert care of a good boarding kennel.

If friends offer to look after your pet while you're away, make sure it will be welcomed by every member of the family and by their own pets too. Will they be able to give your dog the exercise it needs? Make sure your pet has an identification disc giving its temporary address.

Your cat may be happier if it's left at home, not necessarily safer. Make sure a responsible friend or neighbour will visit twice a day to feed and water it - ideally, invite a relation or friend to stay in your home while you are away.

Remember, your friend will be responsible for all aspects of your pet's welfare.

Caged birds, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs
These animals too can be looked after by a reliable friend or neighbour. Remember to leave clear instructions on how to feed and care for them.

Checklist

- ☐ **Have you given your friend or neighbour clear instructions about how to feed and care for your pet?**
- ☐ **Have you left the name and telephone number of your vet and, if possible, a number where you can be contacted in case of emergencies?**
- ☐ **If your cat or dog is staying with friends, does it have an identification disc with its temporary address?**
- ☐ **Will cages and hutches be in the shade all day? Remember - they should NEVER be left in direct sunlight.**

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Looking after school pets

Pets used to living at school are much happier staying there during the holidays providing they can be kept warm and that someone will feed and water them each day.

But if these pets can't be cared for at school, teachers or pupils may want to take them home to look after them during the holidays.

Suggestions for teachers:

- ☐ **Ask parents to sign a form accepting responsibility for the animal.**
- ☐ **Attach instructions on how to feed and care for each animal to its cage.**
- ☐ **Provide the name and address of the vet who normally cares for the animals, and tell parents how the cost of any vets' bills will be met.**
- ☐ **Make sure the child knows how to handle, feed and water the pet.**

Finally... safe in the knowledge that your pets are enjoying their holidays, you can relax and enjoy yours!

Remember, it is a criminal offence to leave any animal without making proper arrangements for its welfare.

For further information, please contact your local RSPCA branch:

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RSPCA Pet care

Leave your pets in safe hands!

Some simple steps to make sure your pets will get the care they need while you're away



10-10-74 : SRL : Swift (at the Library) -



Holidays and weekend breaks are exciting and need careful planning. Have you got your toothbrush? Have you packed the right clothes? Things can easily be forgotten. But be certain of one thing – you haven't forgotten about your pets. It can be easy to overlook the fact that pets need looking after when you're not there. Animals used to regular care and loving attention can suddenly find themselves abandoned by thoughtless owners. So if you're making plans for your own holiday, why not arrange one for your pet at the same time?



Kennels and catteries

Reliable kennels and catteries ensure your cat or dog gets the care it needs while you are away. If you haven't boarded your pet before, your vet may be able to suggest a reputable kennel or cattery. Visit several kennels so that you can see for yourself which will best suit the needs of your pet. You will find many of their names in the 'Yellow Pages' directory.

Most kennels will not accept your cat or dog unless it has been vaccinated by your vet or has a valid certificate of inoculation. Make sure your pet's certificate is up to date. And if you are boarding your dog, remember to ask your vet about protection against 'kennel cough'. Once you have chosen a kennel, don't forget to make a booking for your pet – you may be disappointed if you leave it too late.

If you'd like more information about boarding your cat or dog contact...

- Your local RSPCA branch. They often have their own boarding kennels or facilities at their animal homes.
- The local council. They will have the names and addresses of all the registered boarding kennels in your area, but do remember to go and inspect the boarding kennels for yourself.

Checklist

- ☐ Is your pet's inoculation form up to date? Remember to take it with you to the kennels.
- ☐ Does your chosen boarding kennel have an insurance scheme? If not, have you taken out a policy

in case your pet needs emergency care?

- ☐ Have you given the boarding kennel your vet's name and telephone number and, if possible, a number where you can be contacted in case of emergencies?



Taking your pet with you

If you decide to take your pet on holiday with you, make sure it will be welcome wherever you go.

Get a copy of *Pets Welcome!* from your local newsagent. It's a useful booklet which lists holiday accommodation where you and your pet will be made to feel at home.

A safe journey

Many dogs and cats become distressed and sick on long journeys. Check with your vet to see if tranquillisers or drugs will be able to help your pet. Your pet could be more worried by being in the car than the travelling itself so try getting it used to the car before you leave for your holiday. And when you finally set off, remember to make regular stops to exercise your dog and give it water.

If you are taking a cat with you on holiday, remember to keep it in a proper travelling box or basket during the journey and do not let it roam in a strange location.

Checklist

- ☐ Does your pet have a new identification disc giving your temporary holiday address?
- ☐ Do you have enough water for your pet to drink during the journey?
- ☐ Have you asked your vet about tranquillisers for the journey?
- ☐ Is your pet up to date with its inoculations? (If you are going to a new area, some diseases may be more prevalent.)
- ☐ And remember...
- ☐ Never leave your dog in a car on a hot or even warm day.
- ☐ Do not take your pet out of the UK. You will not be able to bring it back unless it goes into quarantine for six months.