

How to prepare your pet for boarding

- **Vaccinations:** Reputable boarding kennels and catteries will all want to know that your pet's vaccinations are up to date. Unvaccinated pets won't be allowed to stay, as there's a risk they'll pick up or pass diseases on to other pets. Speak to your vet about when your pet needs their boosters and get any necessary vaccinations well in advance. Make sure your pet's vaccination record is up-to-date and take it along when you drop your pet off for boarding. Don't leave vaccinations until the last minute, [especially kennel cough!](#) There may be a specific time frame between [vaccination](#) and them accepting your pet to board.
- **Medication:** If your pet must take regular medication to keep them well, make sure you have enough to cover the time you're away. Speak to the person who's looking after your pet and leave written instructions for them to follow. They'll need to know what medication to give and when (e.g. morning, evening, before food, after food) and the best way to get your pet to take it, [if it's a tablet](#). Make sure that the person looking after them is confident giving the medication and knows what to do if there are any problems or side effects seen.
- **Contact details:** Make sure the person looking after your pet has your vet's contact details in case of emergencies. They'll also need your contact details for while you're away – extra info like the name, address and telephone number of your hotel can be useful as a back-up as well as your mobile number. Find out their protocol if they can't get in touch with you and need to take your pet to a vet and make sure these fits with your wishes.
- **Food and exercise:** A sudden change in your pet's diet can give them an upset stomach. Provide more than enough of your pet's usual food to cover the time you'll be away. Leave written instructions about how much food should be given and when, and how much exercise your pet usually gets.
- **Toys and blankets:** Blankets which smell of home can help your pet to settle into their temporary home. Their favourite toys will help stop them from getting bored if they're in a kennel on their own.