Pet Boarding Checklist

A pet boarding checklist for owners covering booking, vaccines, supplies and instructions.

Choose and book a facility

- [ ] Research facilities and read recent reviews.
- [ ] Tour the facility and check cleanliness and safety.
- [ ] Ask about staff ratios, supervision and emergency plans.
- [ ] Confirm pricing, hours and drop-off and pickup times.
- [ ] Book early, especially around holidays.
- [ ] Ask whether a trial day or meet-and-greet is required.

Vaccines and health

- [ ] Request the facility's required vaccine list and timing.
- [ ] Confirm rabies and other core vaccines are current.
- [ ] Check whether kennel cough protection is required for dogs.
- [ ] Ensure flea, tick and parasite prevention is up to date.
- [ ] Bring proof of vaccination records to drop-off.
- [ ] Confirm your pet is healthy enough to board.
  Verify vaccine and health requirements with your veterinarian beforehand.

Supplies to pack

- [ ] Pack enough food for the full stay plus a few extra days.
- [ ] Pre-portion meals to make feeding easy for staff.
- [ ] Bring medications with clear dosing instructions.
- [ ] Add a familiar blanket, bed or toy for comfort.
- [ ] Include a collar with ID and a leash if needed.
- [ ] Label every item clearly with your pet's name.

Care instructions

- [ ] Write out feeding amounts and a clear schedule.
- [ ] List medications, doses and timing in detail.
- [ ] Note allergies, dietary restrictions and sensitivities.
- [ ] Describe your pet's routine, quirks and comforts.
- [ ] Flag any anxieties, fears or behavior triggers.
- [ ] Explain how your pet usually signals needs or stress.

Emergency information

- [ ] Provide your contact number and travel dates.
- [ ] List an emergency backup contact who can act for you.
- [ ] Share your veterinarian's name and phone number.

- [ ] Authorize emergency care and note any cost limits.
- [ ] Include microchip details and a recent photo.
- [ ] Note any conditions staff should watch for closely.

Drop-off day

- [ ] Confirm the reservation and required paperwork.
- [ ] Hand over food, medications and comfort items.
- [ ] Review feeding and medication instructions with staff.
- [ ] Keep the goodbye calm and brief to ease stress.
- [ ] Confirm how the facility will reach you if needed.
- [ ] Verify pickup time and any pickup requirements.
- [ ] Important: This is general information, not professional advice. Confirm vaccine and health requirements with the facility and your veterinarian before boarding your pet.