



Photo courtesy of sheknows.com

Preparing for Boarding or Petsitting

August is a huge month for family vacations, one last hurrah before school starts. But what to do with your furbabies while you are gone? If you are going to be boarding your pet or having a petsitter come to your home, here are a few recommendations.

Choosing a boarding facility or petsitter:

- 1.) Ask friends, family members, and your veterinarian for referrals.
- 2.) Ask a boarding facility or petsitter for references (at least 3)-they should be prepared to provide this information.
- 3.) If your pet has special medical or behavioral needs, ask the caretaker if they have dealt with this before and if they are comfortable taking care of your animal.
- 4.) Observe the facility or petsitter interacting with your pet-is your pet comfortable and happy?

Boarding:

- 1.) Ask about vaccines, parasite prevention (fleas AND worms), and annual fecal testing requirements. When your pet is boarding, the stress leads to a compromised immune system. You don't want them coming home sick!
- 2.) What is their protocol for emergency care: Will they transport the pet to your vet? Do they utilize an emergency hospital you trust? Can you make requests?
- 3.) Will they show you the entire facility? Be highly suspicious of any place that won't show you behind the scenes. Some facilities have webcams where you can observe your pet if you'd like to check in!
- 4.) Can you speak to the person that will be taking care of your pet?

Petsitting:

- 1.) Has a criminal background check been performed on the person you will be letting into your home?
- 2.) Let your sitter know how you would like them to use their time in terms of walking, playing, feeding, cleaning, etc. How long will your dog go without a trip outside to go potty? Are they staying at your house or coming by during the day?
- 3.) Ask what their backup plan is if they have an emergency. If they end up in the hospital, will your pet be taken care of? Is it a plan you are satisfied with?

Things you can do to help ensure a smooth transition:

- Contact your veterinarian regarding what you want done in your absence. If you can't be reached, what guidelines should they use to determine care and cost limits (including CPR)? Is there someone who can make those kinds of decisions on your behalf?
- Have written instructions, contact information, medications, and food all in one central location.
- Prep your pet for an environment change. Consider an Adaptil collar or Feliway diffuser while you are packing/gone. Introduce the caretaker when your pet is hungry and let them give a favorite treat.

It is not crazy to ask for a picture to be texted or emailed to you daily while you are away. ☺

We are happy to make recommendations for petsitters and boarding facilities!



Adopt Ward Corner

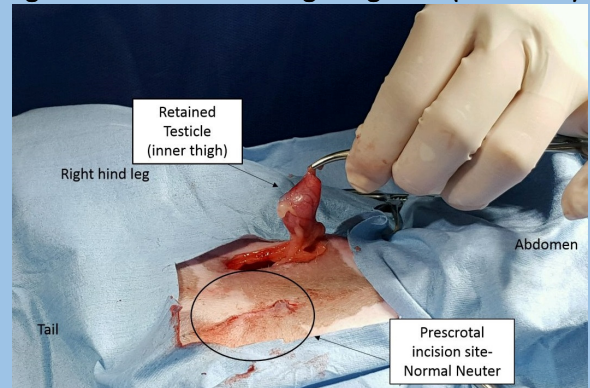
New Adoption Ward Resident! Winston was caught in a feral cat trap and brought in to Bonnie Hays Animal Shelter, but it turns out he is quite the sweetheart! Winston is a neutered male, is microchipped, and just had a dental here with us to remove some fractured canine teeth. He is now feeling MUCH better and is ready for a new home. He's a pretty low-key guy

It is recommended he be with children over the age of 12. He is available for \$50 and can be visited any time in our lobby (likely on the receptionist's lap!).

What is a "Cryptorchid"?

"Cryptorchid" is the term for when an animal's testicle has not descended into a normal position (Greek: "Hidden Teste"). The testicle that has not dropped may be retained in the inner fold of the hind leg (inguinal canal) or in the abdomen. Removing a retained testicle is usually more complicated and takes longer than a traditional neuter, but should be done as it is a high risk for testicular torsion or cancer.

Most dogs have both testicles present in the scrotum by 2 months of age, but it can take up to 6 months. This condition is rare in cats, but fairly common in dogs. A testosterone test can differentiate between a testicle being retained versus missing altogether (VERY rare).



Finding Rover-Facial Recognition App for Dogs (FREE!)

This awesome app has been responsible for reuniting 620 dogs with their owners using facial recognition software. A cat version is due out soon.

This is NOT a substitute for microchipping, but when your pet is missing, it helps to use all the tools available to you!

Check out their website for more information:

<http://www.psfk.com/2015/07/facial-recognition-lost-pets-finding-rover-app.html>



*Finding Rover App: **Step 1**-Take a forward facing picture of your dog's face. The app actually barks to get your dog's attention before you take the picture! **Step 2**- Highlight the nose and eyes by dragging the corresponding shapes over them as directed. **Step 3**- Facial recognition software scans your dog's unique features and keeps them on file to search against a database of shelters and rescue groups.*