

Summer 2008

BERKHAMSTED

Berkhamsted's award-winning magazine

Living

SADDLE UP

Pedal your way to a healthier lifestyle

CELEBRATE SUMMER

CHILDREN'S
HEALTH

PLUS

WHAT'S ON · EATING OUT · DEVELOPMENT · TOURISM · BEAUTY
FLIGHT PATHS · VOLUNTARY SECTOR · GIFTS · FASHION · GARDENS

Home alone

Leaving a pet behind can take the edge off your pleasure at taking a holiday. But with the right research, it can be a holiday for the pet too

For pet owners, the reluctance to leave an animal behind can be so strong that it begins to modify their holiday planning. There may be a generation of over-sensitive pet owners who, in the era before pet passports and microchips, habitually holidayed within the UK. And although this may have curtailed their choice, it can only have enhanced their enjoyment of the holiday. For one thing, a pet completes a family; for another, only a person with a heart of stone could enjoy a holiday in the knowledge that a much-loved member of the family was utterly miserable.

Bed and board

The idea that pets despatched to lodgings will inevitably be miserable is probably false more often than not. Most dogs and cats, however intelligent and responsive they may seem, are actually creatures of habit. A spell at a boarding kennel will merely superimpose a new set of habits on an old one. Simple everyday imperatives – feeding, exercising, barking for no obvious reason and, at length, sleeping – will elbow aside any anxiety about the absence of familiar faces. That isn't to say, of course, that you should just drop them off anywhere. Talk to friends with animals, and talk to the people you meet on your daily walks. Draw up a short-list from personal recommendations or other sources. Go to see places, and if you feel like it, go without warning.



Doghouse blues

People who board animals should not feel challenged when called upon to demonstrate the quality of their care at short notice. If they're busy with feeding or exercising, so much the better – you'll get a first-hand idea of priorities and procedures. The decision about which kennel or cattery to use will ultimately be founded on a number of factors, many of them intangible, so it may be important to get a sense of how the organisation operates. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Discuss any special dietary requirements, and ask about insurance and veterinary cover.

Kennels & Catteries

Beacon View Kennels & Cattery

St Leonards Rd, Chivery

01296 623021 / www.beaconviewkennels.co.uk

Cestreham Boarding Kennels

Springview Farm, Flaunden, HP3 0PR

01442 833368

Chiltern Boarding Kennels

Cottage Bottom Rd, St Leonards

01494 758533

Fredwell Kennels

Clipperdown Cottage, Ringshall

01442 851225

The Old Pastures

Icknield Farm, Icknield Way, Tring HP23 4JX

01442 824856 /

www.spoilyourdog.co.uk

Woodfield Springs Boarding Kennels

Hog Lane, Ashley Green HP5 3NX

01442 865408

Happicats Cattery

83 High Street, Northchurch HP4 3QL

01442 862547

Dogs' Holiday Homes

Barking Mad

01442 827237

Dog walking and Pet sitting

Amanda Randall

01442 824616

Carolyn Jasper

07960 415345

Walk the Dog

07976 743031 / www.walk-the-dog.net

It's great fun looking after friendly dogs whilst their owners are away, why not join us?



Suitable dogs selected for your home environment

Esther Matthews
01442 827237

email: esther.matthews@barkingmad.uk.com
www.barkingmad.uk.com

the same token, one of the things the kennel should most certainly ask of you is to see an up-to-date vaccination record your pet.

ay!

alternative to boarding (two, in the case of cats) is offered in the Berkhamsted area. It arises from the plausible idea that dogs miss human company. Esther Matthews' Barking Mad provides foster homes for dogs while their owners are away.

"I take a lot of trouble finding host families," says Esther. Obviously, they have to know dogs and care about them. A

Guidelines

Our listings are intended to be comprehensive, within the immediate area. No endorsement is implied. The only way to feel comfortable about putting your pet into someone else's care, after all, is to sit, look around and ask questions.

lot of our hosts are people who already have a dog, or young families and retired people who don't want a dog full-time." Esther also profiles her clients' dogs, to try to pick an environment that will suit it.

"We provide a collection and delivery service," she says, "and I won't put a Berkhamsted dog into a Berkhamsted home. They usually settle in very quickly."




Some pets take more sitting than others

Sit!

The second option is developed from the view that animals are happier in their own, familiar environment. Instead of taking them to the care service, pet-sitting brings the care service to them. It works well with cats and other small creatures.

A good pet-sitter will keep an eye on houseplants, open and close curtains and make sure there are no signs the house is unoccupied.

But their main purpose is to feed the pets, give them a little company and supervise their exercise if relevant. In these days of budget air-fares, a pet-sitter may be one of the most expensive elements of your holiday, but when you find one you can rely on your holiday will be much more carefree. 

pear shaped

Berkhamsted's FIRST Lifestyle Management & Concierge Service

Not enough hours in the day?



We can take care of any task for you... No Job is TOO BIG or too small

Call now for your **FREE** consultation

That TO DO List is now... **DONE!!**

www.pearshapedlifestyle.com

Phone 07770 746807

info@pearshapedlifestyle.com

Ruth 07850 712717