

# Sit, stay: homes-away-from-home for pets

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Stella the Labrador enjoys pool time at Canyonwyck.



Canyonwyck owners, sisters Maureen Beasley (left) and Carol Beasley enjoy a moment in the sunshine with a bulldog puppy they are boarding.

Veterinarian Mona Miller recommends pet owners update vaccines — Bordetella vaccine, core Rabies and Distemper-Parvo for dogs and core Feline Distemper (FVRCP) for cats — provide extra food and medication, appoint local surrogates and specify financial spending limits and level of care before they board. “It is very difficult for the pet caregiver and the veterinarian to make emergency decisions without guidance,” Miller said.

The pet care industry has changed dramatically over the past 25 years, Colleen Prouty said. Today’s kennels offer doggy day care and nearly individualized service for each four-footed customer, knowing pet parents treat their animals like people. “We provide the service through (the animal’s) lifetime,” Chris Prouty said, adding “the hardest part is when they pass.”

Running a boarding facility is not for the faint of heart, either. It requires round-the-clock attention, 365 days a year. “Even when we’re closed,” Colleen Prouty says “we still have to feed and care for the pets.”

## Get the most of your boarding experience

Before you leave, check:

- Is the kennel clean?
- Does anyone live on-site?
- How are pet emergencies handled?
- How’s Fido’s temperament? Carol Beasley says the best boarder is a “well socialized dog.” Colleen Prouty suggests starting with short visits when your dog is younger.
- Provide a comfort toy, regular food and meds, and ask how they’re fed.
- Provide the following information, preferably in writing:
  - General information including pet’s name and breed, age, general health and medications, plus diet and restrictions. Designate local care providers (preferably more than one) and include their names and phone numbers.

Medical authorization and financial responsibility for your pet:

- Primary veterinarian office, address and phone number
- Emergency vet hospital info, if different.
- Authorized level of pet medical care:
  - Everything, including open chest CPR
  - All except open chest CPR
  - Moderate care (includes lifesaving and urgent)
  - Life saving treatment only
  - No treatment; euthanasia only
- Financial pet care limits:
  - Any amount
  - Up to \$2,000
  - Up to \$1,000
  - Up to \$500 (likely basic care and minimal diagnostics)