

Start With the Basics of Health, Nutrition and Information

By Nancy Secrist, Easdale: the best pet care

You have booked the airline tickets, the hotel, and the rental car - but wait! What about your pets? How to prepare for that moment when you entrust your precious pet to the care of your chosen pet professionals? Plan in advance and start with the basics of health, nutrition, and information.

Your pet should be fully up to date on vaccination records with a recent negative fecal check for parasites. If your pet has an immunity disorder and uses titers or other ways to evaluate immunity levels, inform your pet care provider and ask about their policies. Be sure to fully document any health issues such as hip dysplasia, arthritis, skin problems, or ear infections,



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to name just a few examples. If your pet has recurring health problems, for example, bladder infections, send along medication or provide your veterinary prescription history, just in case it's needed.

For short stays, special diets, or just to eliminate one more variable in your pet's stay, providing their regular food is both thoughtful and practical. The food should be in a sealed sturdy container or pre-measured into serving portions. If you like to add supplements, include them in the serving portion size or provide easy to use pill dispensers marked with the days of the week. Take a moment to explain your pet's feeding routine or have it written down. Avoid easily torn grocery bags or huge heavy containers holding far more food than necessary.

Information - Accurate contact information for yourselves, your vet, and an emergency contact are vital to a successful safe stay. Provide all numbers that can reach you and be sure that your voice mail is set up and is ready to take additional messages. Email is an excellent alternate contact. Let your emergency contact person know that your pet professionals could call. Talk with your pet care pro to let them know of any character quirks, Houdini skills, or stress behaviors your pet may exhibit.

If this is a first time stay, you might try a short overnight or two day stay just to let your pet get used to the new place. You will be in town and available in case of a question or a problem. As hard as it is to walk out that door - on the way to your European vacation, family event, or just having some work done on the house - laying your ground work with careful preparation is the secret to success and providing a happy stay for your pet!