

Paw Talk With Lynne

By Lynne, our Mt. Sinai Resident & Pet Expert

Congratulations! You've been able to get time off from work and are ready to take a vacation. But what to do with Snoopy? You don't want to feel guilty. You want him to have as much fun on his vacation as you are on yours. So what are your options? Well, that all depends on your dog. Here are some basic questions to ask yourself before making a decision:

- How old is my dog?
- Has my dog ever stayed away from home before?
- Has my dog ever been around other dogs before off a leash? A dog that's being controlled by a leash can act very differently around other dogs than a dog that's not on a leash.
- How active is my dog?
- Has my dog ever been in a crate or kennel before?
- Is my dog a homebody?
- How well trained is my dog?
- And finally, is my dog used to being home alone for hours at a time?

Now you can make your decision!

Hiring a professional pet care provider to come to your home to make "visits" is great for an older dog, a dog that is a homebody or one that has not been socialized around other dogs before. The typical visit is 30 minutes. That doesn't sound like a lot of time, but a half hour spent completely focused on your dog is more than enough for most. The added benefit to this is having your home cared for in terms of turning on lights, watering plants and bringing in mail and packages. If something goes wrong, like a water leak, your pet sitter can call the plumber so it doesn't turn into a disaster.

Home boarding at a professional pet care provider's house is a great option for a dog that is house trained, not destructive, loves the company of other dogs and people and is used to having lots of love and attention. Most have fenced yards where your dog will get lots of exercise. Ideally, you will find someone that will treat your dog

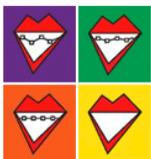


as a member of the family.

Finally, there is the kennel option. This is great for high energy dogs and dogs that maybe don't have the house manners required to stay in someone's home. They get to play all day and are then crated at night.

Whichever option you choose, it's important to bring your dog for a meet and greet ahead of time. Check references and reviews, make sure they are an established business with professional affiliations, fully insured and most of all, use your instincts!

I am so excited to share my knowledge and expertise that comes from a lifetime of studying and observing these amazing creatures we share our homes, hearts and lives with. I hope to help you to understand them a little bit better. I welcome your questions and comments! Please feel free to submit them by emailing lutecht@bestversionmedia.com.



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