

Are your pets facing  
challenging situations?

KENNEL/CATTERY



**Zylkene®**

All they need is love & Zylkene



As a pet owner, at some point you are likely to face a situation where you will be unable to care for your pet personally. This can be anything from holidays abroad, to travelling for work, to hospital stays. Using a kennel or cattery can be a good way to manage your pet's care in a safe and secure way. This guide aims to help you with choosing a kennel or cattery, how to prepare and what to expect.

## Choosing a kennel or cattery

### 1. Find potential kennels/catteries in your area

Some pets, especially cats, can find travelling tough. Start by looking for options near you; you can expand your search later if need be.

### 2. Create a short list

Narrow down your list with a few key questions:

**Can they accommodate your pet for your chosen dates?** The more notice you give the better, as the best kennels and catteries are often booked up months in advance.

**How much will it cost?** Check the pricing for each one as costs can vary. There may be extra fees in winter for heating, or discounts if you are providing your own food.

**Are they properly licensed and insured?** Ask them! You can also check when you visit as their current certificates should be on display, including their Local Authority licence and premises insurance.

**Can they accommodate any special needs?** If your pet needs medication, has mobility issues or needs a special diet, now is the time to check the kennel or cattery is happy to help.



### 3. Visit your short list.

Always visit the kennel or cattery before you book - whilst websites and brochures can give you an idea, nothing beats actually seeing the place in person. Any good kennel or cattery will be happy to have you visit, but check the opening hours in advance in case there are times blocked off for routines such as feeding.

## When looking around, check:

### Accommodation

- The pens are well-built, well-maintained and escape-proof. Ideally, they also have lots of natural light with good ventilation.
- The sleeping quarters have room to stretch. For a dog you are looking for 6ft wide or more.
- Cats do not have to share a pen unless you specifically request it for strongly bonded cats.
- The cat pens have a cosy bed, scratch posts and a shelf for napping on and toys to play with, or the cattery allows you to bring your own.
- The kennel or cattery has heaters which allow the pens to be safely heated.

### Environment

- There are places for exercise and freedom.
- The kennel or cattery isn't too noisy: lots of barking can be hard for both dogs and cats.
- It is clean with no bad smells.
- The animals already there look happy and relaxed.

### Staff

- The staff make you feel welcome and are happy to chat to you about your pet's specific needs.
- There are enough staff members to cope with the kennel or cattery being full and have a high level of interaction with the animals in their care.
- They insist all pets are vaccinated – if they don't ask about your pet, they may not have asked other owners either.
- They have a vet on call.

### 4. Booking

Once you are 100% happy, then it's time to book! When you book, the boarding kennel or cattery should take a written record of your contact details, your regular vet's contact details, someone to contact in an emergency if you are unreachable and your pet's needs including any special diet or medical conditions.

## On the day

- **Allow plenty of time to take your pet to the kennels or cattery.** If you are in a last minute panic and pushed for time, this will be communicated to your pet which can worry them.
- **Take familiar things.** If the kennel/cattery allows it, take your pet's bed and/or toys with them or consider providing a worn item of your clothing to reassure your pet with familiar scents. However, be warned it may be chewed during the stay.
- **Remember your paperwork, supplements and medications.** Take your pet's up to date vaccination certificates (you may not be allowed to leave your pet without it), as well as a written or typed list of your pet's ailments, medications, food intake and food, and other special requirements. Include your vet's details as well. Make sure you have all of your pet's medications or supplements. If you are using Zylkene, make sure you mention it in your list and include the capsules with your pet's belongings. Have it continued daily during the stay, and stop when your pet is settled back into their normal routine at home.
- **Scent the pen.** It can help a cat to relax if you scent the pen once you reach the cattery. In a similar way to the pet carrier, gently rub their cheeks with a soft cloth when they are relaxed then rub the new pen with this cloth at cat face height. This puts the scent from the facial glands around pen. You could also consider using a pheromone collar on a dog.
- **Be relaxed.** When you leave, be cheerful and matter-of-fact rather than consoling to avoid worrying your pet.

## Bringing your pet home

- **Check the pickup time.** To reduce the changes in routine from comings and goings, kennel and cattery owners often limit the time owners collect and drop off their pets.
- **Get back into a routine as soon as possible.** This will help your pet to feel secure and act normally. Do not change your behaviour or overcompensate, as this can cause them to react differently to you.
- **Continue with Zylkene.** If you are using Zylkene, keep going until they are more settled.
- **Don't worry.** Your pet might act a little differently for a few days after coming home. Remember, they have been in an unfamiliar environment without you and that can be challenging. Just give them a little time and they will be back to their normal selves in no time. If their behaviour persists, contact your vet for advice.

# Preparing your pet

## A few weeks before



### **Trial stay**

If your pet has never stayed at a kennel/cattery before, consider a trial stay for a day or overnight several weeks before you go. This will help your pet to get used to the kennel/cattery environment and realise that you are coming back.



### **Familiarise your pet with their basket/carrier**

Leave the carrier out at home, and consider either feeding your pet inside it, or put some treats in it to create positive associations.



### **Scenting the pet carrier**

Gently rub their cheeks with a soft cloth when they are relaxed then rub the pet carrier with this cloth at cat face height. This puts the scent from the facial glands around the carrier. For a dog put in an old blanket or used clothes to create a sense of familiarity.



### **Check the food type provided at the kennel/cattery**

If it is not one you use, consider providing some of your own for the first few days.



### **Give them Zylkene**

A supplement like Zylkene can help them cope with changes. Ensure you've started administration several days before they go. Bear in mind many dogs and cats will learn to associate signs such as appearance of suitcases or pet carriers with these events.



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## KENNEL/CATTERY

### What is Zylkene?

Zylkene contains a natural product, derived from casein, a protein in milk. It is a molecule well known to promote the relaxation of new-borns after breastfeeding. Zylkene has become a valuable support worldwide for veterinary surgeons, behaviourists, nurses and pet owners in helping pets cope when facing unusual and unpredictable situations.

### When to use Zylkene



ADOPTION



MOVING HOME



NEW PET



HOME ALONE



NEW BABY



FIREWORKS



TRAVEL



HOLIDAYS






KENNELS / CATTERY



THUNDER

### How to give Zylkene

 <b>Cats &amp; Small Dogs</b> 75 mg	Up to 5kg	1 capsule a day
	5 - 10kg	2 capsules a day
 <b>Medium Dogs</b> 225 mg	10 - 15kg	1 capsule a day
	15 - 30kg	2 capsules a day
 <b>Large Dogs</b> 450 mg	15 - 30kg	1 capsule a day
	30 - 60kg	2 capsules a day



For more information visit  
[www.vetoquinol.com.au](http://www.vetoquinol.com.au)

Zylkene is a complementary feed for cats and dogs. This is one of a series of owner education leaflets sponsored by Vetoquinol, manufacturers of Zylkene.

Further information is available on request from:

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