



What To Expect When Your Pet Returns Home After Boarding

Your pet will undoubtedly be happy to see you after your vacation. Following these few simple steps will help ease the transition back to home life and your pet's normal routine.

- Overexcitement may make a dog pant a lot and act thirsty. He/She is probably not really thirsty as they had plenty of water at the facility. Give him/her a few ice cubes to tide him/her over until he/she settles down.
- Be aware that excessive drinking and eating may lead to digestive upsets and bloating. Do not feed your pet for at least three hours after coming home from the pet care facility. Again, food and water should be limited until he/she has settled back into home life.
- Walk your pet upon arrival or allow them access to a yard area. Excitement may also cause a change in urination or bowel movements outside his/her normal schedule.

- Give your pet some personalized attention such as playtime, petting, or brushing. This will help him/her to get through the excitement stage and calm down.
- A chew toy with treats, such as a frozen Kong with peanut butter, will keep your pet busy and allow them to slowly calm down in their own environment. It's a good idea to have these treats ready for when your pet arrives home.
- A stay at a pet care facility can be very exciting. Some dogs love to bark while having a wonderful time. These dogs often leave the facility exhausted but happy and will sleep a lot for the first couple of days they are home.
- Re-establish home patterns by following a normal schedule. Pets love following a schedule as it makes them feel safe and secure.
- After you pick kitty up from the pet care facility, be sure to keep him/her in the house for a few days before allowing him/her to go outside. Just as he/she had to adjust to the pet care facility, they will have to adjust to being home again. Allow him/her to find that "at home" feeling again before letting him/her out of the house.

This article is provided as a general overview of the topic. Always consult your veterinarian for specific information related to diseases or medical care for your pets.