



The following information has been provided in order to make your pet's stay with us as comfortable and stress-free as possible (for both you and them!). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask us prior to pet's check-in date.

Dogs

When the day of their check-in arrives, your pet's demeanour may have already changed, as they will pick up on your subtle changes in behaviour as you prepare for your holiday. By the time they actually make it into the office, they may even start to show some signs of apprehension - after all, they don't know what is waiting for them beyond the office door! It is very important that even though you will be upset to say goodbye, you start their holiday off on the right paw. If you tell them you are sorry for leaving them, or that you wish you didn't have to stay with us, you will be reinforcing their fear. On the other hand, if you are happy, and tell them how exciting it will be for them, they will feel less anxiety when it is time to say goodbye.

It is still quite normal for them to not want to leave without you. After all, you are their family and they would much rather be with you! Once you have left though, most dogs and cats settle in relatively quickly. In fact, we find that if they are reluctant to leave while you wait in the office, that the best thing is for you to leave first. Once they can't see you anymore, most dogs will happily turn around and walk out to the resort by themselves.

We do ask that you not bring along their bedding or toys from home, no matter how much they love them. A lot of pets find it distressing when we take away these each day to clean, and occasionally bedding can transport parasites such as fleas and ticks. We do have plenty of toys of different types here, and we can place a fluffy bed cover on our already comfortable beds should you wish. When you check your pets in, we will also give you the dog's collar and lead to take with you, as we don't require them while you are here (we can hold on to cat carriers though).

It is normal for dogs behaviour and demeanour to change while they are here. Some dogs that are antisocial while on a lead at the park may be fine with other dogs when they are here and don't feel the need to protect you. Likewise, dogs that are normally boisterous at home maybe quiet and shy without you.

We feed high-quality super-premium foods, such as Nutrience and Eukanuba, once per day. You are welcome to bring along their own food, however there may be an additional fee for this. No matter what food we feed (even if it is their own food from home) many dogs do loose some weight while they are staying with us (usually because they are having so much fun in the play yards and exercising more than normal). We do regularly weigh all the dogs so that we can try to keep them at their ideal weight.





If you are still in Darwin while they are boarding, you may want to visit them during their stay. This is possible, but we recommend keeping this to a minimum (and usually, it is best if you leave them with us, no matter how much you miss them!). Remember, dogs don't sense time the same way as us, so for them it doesn't matter whether they are here for a day, a week or a month! Visiting them can cause them anxiety, as they aren't sure why you are leaving and they are staying.

If you are worried about their anxiety while they have their holiday with us, we do offer several safe, natural products to help relieve anxiety without sedating them. These include products such as Adaptil collars (which calms them by emitting a pheromone normally produced by mother dogs) and Homeopet Anxiety, a herbal blend that can be added to their water to calm them. Of course, you can always contact us for an update by any of these methods:

- Phone us on 08 8945 7766
- Email us at info@thefurrygodmother.com.au
- Send us a Facebook wall post at facebook.com/thefurrygodmotherpetresort
- Tweet us at twitter.com/fgm_darwin

Of course, if you have any questions prior to or during their stay, please contact us!

Canine Cough

Canine Cough, aka "dog flu", is a generic term used to indicate canine infectious tracheobronchitis, a highly infectious upper respiratory disease that is caused by a number of bacteria such as *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, and viruses such as *canine parainfluenza*. Coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge are common symptoms of canine cough. These symptoms can last from a few days to several weeks. Since it is a viral infection, there is no "cure," just as there is no cure for the common cold. As a self-limiting disease, it will go away on its own, just like any other cold or flu. However, many veterinarians will prescribe a cough suppressant or an antibiotic to prevent secondary infections.

Canine cough is not "born" in the kennel, and is usually "caught" outside the kennel and brought in by a boarder. A dog can be exposed at the park, grooming shop, pet store, veterinary office, walking around the neighbourhood, or any place where dogs congregate or pass through. Unfortunately, canine cough usually does not show visible symptoms for 5-7 days after exposure. While we make intense efforts to prevent an outbreak in our kennel through extensive cleaning and disinfecting, public awareness, and by requiring vaccinations, we cannot guarantee that your dog will not be exposed.

We require that all dogs that enter our kennel be properly vaccinated and that the owners provide us with written proof. However we recognise that like the Human Flu vaccine, the canine cough vaccine does not protect against every strain or variant of the virus and thus





even vaccinated dogs may catch canine cough. As we are a social kennel, and recommend socialisation for all our doggy guests, there is always a risk that a guest may contract canine cough (in the same way a child at daycare is at a higher risk of contracting human flu than a child who stays at home). Through our efforts though, the possibility of your dog's exposure to canine cough in our kennel is minimal.

The Furry Godmother Pet Resort follows strict cleansing and sanitation procedures. However, no amount of supervision, sanitation or personalised care by any boarding facility can prevent a dog from catching an airborne virus. Please consult your Veterinarian before boarding for further information.





Cats

Unlike dogs, cats are normally solitary animals, and do not like socialising outside of their family. As cats are less adaptable to new surroundings than dogs are, it is natural for them to be quieter and more reserved than they are at home during their first few stays with us. Many cats prefer to stay inside their suites, or even try and hide in the tents and cubbies we provide. This does not usually mean that they are upset or overly stressed, just that they feel safer inside the comfort of their suite.

While some cats want to explore the cattery to exercise, some prefer to exercise their muscles by stretching inside their suites.

Like dogs, we offer several products to help relieve cat's anxiety natural. Feliway is a spray derived from the facial pheromones of cats (the same pheromones they leave when they rub their face on furniture or people) which can be sprayed daily into the suite. Homeopet Anxiety, the natural herbal blend, can also be given to cats, either as drops on their tongue, or directly into their drinking water. Please advise us if you would like any more information on these products.

If you would like an update on their stay, you can always contact us for an update by any of these methods:

- Phone us on 08 8945 7766
- Email us at info@thefurrygodmother.com.au
- Send us a Facebook wall post at facebook.com/thefurrygodmotherpetresort
- Tweet us at twitter.com/fgm_darwin

Of course, if you have any questions prior to or during their stay, please contact us!

