

February 2, 2023

Which one is best?

Whether you've had pets your whole life, are a new pet parent, or you've expanded your pet family during the pandemic, one of the biggest questions we face is which service is best for my animal? The [Washington Post](#) reported last year that according to the ASPCA, "more than 23 million American households, nearly 1 in 5 nationwide, adopted a pet during the pandemic". As we continue to move towards a normal routine, or at least a post pandemic normal routine, families are trying to figure out the best care for their pet when they travel. There are lots of trips where your pet can join you, but it's not always practical, or as much fun for your pet as you might think.

Fur-Get Me Not offers a variety of services including dog boarding at our daycare facility, in-home pet sitting, and in-home overnight pet sitting options. We recognize every animal is different and every family has different needs and preferences. Our mission from the start has been to partner with you to provide a variety of options that best work for you and your animals. So in that spirit, let us be your guide to explain the benefits of each service and what factors you should consider when making this choice.

We tend to humanize our pets and in doing so, we like to think our pet's would enjoy the same things we enjoy. This is one of the reasons we love them as much as we do and why they are fully integrated into our family units, in other words we treat them like our children. However, research has continued to evolve and demonstrate how animals are much more complicated mentally and emotionally than we may have originally thought. Since our pets can't communicate to us (using words) what they like and what makes them comfortable, we have to be an advocate for them. We have to learn how to read their body language to determine if they are comfortable or not. We should also obtain details from the person providing care in our absence in order to understand if our pet's needs are being met via their safety, comfort, health, and stress levels.

Animals are social beings. They generally like to be around humans and sometimes around other animals. Some may prefer being alone but others may find solitude is too lonely. Stereotypically, we often think of dogs as being more sociable and cats as more independent. We recently ran across an [article in the Washington Post](#) and a [study that highlighted](#) how cats, when presented with different rewards, preferred human interaction over other rewards, meaning they are also very social beings who enjoy attention and interaction and aren't going to "celebrate" an empty house.

With all this in mind, how do you determine what service would be best for your family member when you are away? At Fur-Get Me Not we want your pets to thrive which requires us to actively engage with them to meet their individual needs for interaction and companionship. We provide this level of care across all of our services, but each of our services are unique. Below are some things to consider when deciding which option is best.

Boarding

Our boarding service includes daycare during the day which is great for dogs that love being around other dogs. We require an evaluation in addition to an observation day before they are permitted to board with us. This gives your dog time to adjust to our daycare environment and for our team to get to know your dog better. Think of the evaluation like school orientation, and the observation day like the first day of school where we learn more about the dog beyond those first impressions.

If you have an active dog that does not tire out easily or requires supervision in the home, boarding is a great option. Rather than being housed in a crate at home, our boarding dogs will be free to roam their playgroup and play with friends throughout the day. Our daycare has a structured schedule which means at set times throughout the day the dogs will rotate through play, rest, and outdoor potty break times. They will be fed meals in their crates and they will retire to rest safely in their crates (or suites) overnight.

However for many dogs, even those that enjoy being around other dogs, the party atmosphere of daycare can be overwhelming when exposed to it daily. Some dogs become less tolerant of other dogs when they are here for long boarding stays (e.g. 7 days or more). This is likely similar to how we might feel when we have a houseguest for more than a few days. We also know many dogs that frequent daycare regularly but only enjoy boarding for short stays (e.g. a long weekend). Pet sitting is a great option for these dogs.

Pet Sitting

In-home pet sitting allows your pets to remain comfortable in a familiar environment. Though we don't offer a boarding service for cats, birds, and other animals, staying home is typically a more comfortable, less disruptive option for them too. Our pet sitters become an extension of your family and provide individualized care and attention. Dogs who are nervous with change or disruption to their daily routine may become anxious and behave differently when dropped off at a "Pet Hotel". The pandemic shined a spotlight on the impact of routine and how vital it is to our pets. We've seen many cases where pets had a difficult time transitioning from their pandemic routine, where more people might have been home for longer stretches of time than they are now as they return back to work or doing more out of the house in general. Pet sitting allows your pet to keep their daily structure in place as our team follows the instructions you provide.

Our visits are playdates for your pets! All you need to decide is how many times a day you would like for your pet sitter to stop by for a visit and for how long. We offer 30-minute, 45-minute, or 60-minute visits. It is just a matter of selecting how much companion time is right for your pet and how much additional time is required for the pet sitter to care for whatever else you need done while you are away. We can make your home appear lived in by altering lights, opening blinds, feeding fish, bringing in the mail, watering plants, etc. Whatever you need to keep your home routine as similar as possible, as if you were there.

In summary, our daycare team does a very good job focusing on each dog that is staying with us, but it is a far contrast from having one member of our team focused exclusively on your pet. Pet sitting also allows us to

provide a more personalized level of care. Our overnight service extends that time for the entire night. This allows your pet the extended companionship, similar to if you were there.

Our team is large and through the years we have cared for all kinds of dog breeds, cats, small caged animals, birds, and reptiles. We have even had the occasion to take care of koi fish in their outdoor pond. If medication is required we can provide that support as well. Our local office team is here to support our pet sitters to give you added peace of mind. And since we are a team of many, if for some reason life throws a surprise at your pet sitter, we have the ability to ensure someone else on our team can be there to follow the same instructions and provide consistent care. We view this customized service as an extension of your family while you are away. With each reservation, we'll learn more about your pet and they will learn more about us. We'll keep your instructions updated so we'll be ready when you need us. Don't forget if you (or your pet) has a favorite team member, just ask us if they are available and we will be sure to check with them first.

If you are interested in our pet sitting or boarding service, you can [use this link to make a Reservation](#). And if you are unsure, [contact our office team for advice](#).