

Winding Road Kennel

Kennel Connection

Boarding Your Dog—Anxiety Free



If you are new to the boarding experience, relax. It's not as hard as you may think. At Winding Road Kennel, we have been around for 25 years, taking care of your dogs and cats while you are on vacation. Whether you board with us or somewhere else, here are some questions you need to ask before leaving your pets.

- **How do you keep the place clean?** Good basic hygiene is the first and foremost requirement of any kind of kennel. The operators simply must have a good system and adequate personnel to guarantee that waste is promptly picked up and disposed of and that cleaning is getting done adequately and efficiently. At Winding Road Kennel, we have a schedule that we follow every day and we use cleaning solutions that kill all the bad stuff but are all pet friendly and safe.
- **How safe and secure is the facility?** Every kennel that boards dogs should have a fence that is in good condition and is not in need of repair. Winding Road Kennel offers two fenced in yards and we actually installed a brand new fence this past

summer!

- **What accommodations are available?** You know your dog better than anyone—make sure the kennel you choose has adequate space for him to sleep and play in. Winding Road Kennel has three different sized runs, large crates for smaller dogs and a Cat House.
- **How many people are on staff? Are the dogs checked after hours?** Winding Road Kennel has over a dozen employees and we are here on site from early in the morning until late at night. Once the staff goes home, our owners live right here on the property! So, there is someone here on site 24 hours a day!
- **How is the kennel staff qualified? What sort of training do they have?** When we hire new staff here at Winding Road Kennel, each staff member goes through extensive training—everything from how we clean, to breed types, shampoo types, etc. We also have training videos that each staff has to watch that teach them how to break up a dog fight,

recognize signs of bloat, etc. We also have went through a certified training class that taught us Pet CPR and have attended trainings on group play.

- **How much exercise do the dogs get? How are they exercised?** The dogs that board with us here at Winding Road Kennel have 3 scheduled outside play time. We let the dogs tell us how long they want to play—some dogs prefer office loving and treats over hard core play in the yard. We allow each dog 15/20 minutes each time they are outside. When the dog is in the yard, they are alone with the staff. They don't have to share the yard here! We throw balls and frisbees, fill up kiddie pools, and play hard when we are in the yard!

As you can see, there are a lot of things you should know before boarding your pets. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Drop in and take a tour. See for yourself where your pet will be staying before you have to leave them. Leaving your pets behind is never an easy decision, but we hope we can help ease your anxiety as well as your pet's!

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Pet Products You NEED!

If you have walked into a national chain pet store lately, you might find yourself feeling just a little overwhelmed. So many different products, choices, brands....who knew there were so many different types of pet food and dog toys? We have researched some top dog and cat products and have compiled a list of some *Must Have* stuff for your pampered pets so that maybe your next trip to the pet store might not be so difficult. Technology has come a long way and the pet business industry is quickly catching up!

The Whistle 3: The Whistle 3 is a device that attaches to your pet's existing collar and allows you to track their location and activity from an app on your phone. You set up a "safe place" such as home or the dog sitter (you can even set up multiple "safe places"). The device will notify you each time your pet leaves their safe place. Once your pet leaves a Wi-Fi range, the device is still able to track their location using cellular and GPS technology. Even if your dog has been microchipped, the process of locating them through their chip could take days or even weeks. The Whistle 3 gives you the ability to locate your pet in minutes. This device will cost you around \$80 plus a small monthly fee. If you have multiple pets, you would need one device per pet.

The Furbo: The Furbo is a dog camera that allows you to see, talk to and even give your dog a treat when you aren't home. This handy dandy gadget sends alerts to your phone when it identifies dog-related activities such as your dog running around, playing with their toys or jumping on the furniture. The Furbo can also detect when a dog is facing the camera, and then it proceeds to take a picture to send to your phone, allowing you to capture some pretty fantastic "selfies" of your dog. The Furbo also alerts you if a human enters the room and works with Amazon's "Alexa", allowing you to toss a treat their way throughout the day. The Furbo will run you a little over \$200 and requires WiFi, a power outlet and a smart phone.

The PetNet Smart Feeder: If you are a pet owner, sometimes your life disrupts your pet's feeding schedule. The PetNet Smart Feeder was designed for moments just like that. It requires a smart phone to set up the app and WiFi. The Smart Feeder stores seven pounds of dog feed and features a self locking lid that keeps curious and hungry pets in line. It allows you to feed your pet from your phone, even when you aren't home. You can schedule daily meals with precise portions and receive alerts letting you know if your pet ate their meal or if their food level is low. This feeder works with the Amazon's "Alexa" and will cost your about \$120.

The SureFlap Microchip Pet Feeder: If you

are a dog *and* a cat owner, you know that dogs LOVE cat food. If you aren't home, there's no way for you to keep your dog out of your cat's food bowl....or is there? The SureFlap Microchip Pet Feeder may be the solution to your problem. Here's how it works: you program your pets' microchips into the feeder with just a touch of a button, where they are permanently stored. The lid to the automatic feeder is closed. When the pet with the correct microchip comes up to the bowl, the lid opens allowing that particular pet to eat. If the wrong pet approaches the feeder, the lid will remain closed. It features a training mode so you can help your pets get used to the opening and closing of the lid. This pet feeder is designed for multi-pet homes, is great for pets on weight management diets, seals the food bowl to keep the food fresh, is compatible with all microchips, is suitable for both wet and dry foods, and can store up to 32 pet identities. The SureFlap Microchip Pet Feeder runs about \$150.

The Litter Robot: The first thing that you should know about the Litter Robot is that it is not cheap. This fancy, high tech litter box is going to cost you about \$500. That's right, 500 bucks. However, as far as litter boxes go, this thing is pretty amazing. The Litter Robot is an automated self cleaning litter box. It has a patented sifting system that automatically separates waste from clean litter. It has an Empty Notification indicator that tells you that it needs emptied. The waste is deposited into a carbon filter that reduces litter box odor. You can download an app and from your phone you are able to monitor the waste drawer level, get status updates on your cat's litter box usage and manage the settings on your Litter Robot. There are other self cleaning no scoop litter boxes out there that don't cost as much initially, but many of them require special filters that cost quite a bit and will constantly need replaced. The Litter Robot uses regular litter, allows your cat some privacy and is designed so litter doesn't get kicked out of the unit.

K&H Self-Warming Pet Cot: This pet bed is an elevated cot that raises your pet off the ground and allows the air to circulate around their body. The company that created this bed made it even better by adding their unique, self-warming technology that will help keep your pet warm. The pet cot is indoor/outdoor friendly and is perfect for cooler weather. The self-warming pet cot raises your pet off the ground, thus alleviating pressure on their joints and allowing air to flow around them. The self-warming Sherpa center consists of several layers that trap your pet's body heat and reflect it back to them naturally, keeping them cozy and warm, no electric necessary. The Sherpa is made of durable fabric and the steel frame is extremely sturdy and durable, holding over 150 pounds. This cot assembles and disassembles in minutes, no tools necessary and cleans easily by wiping with a damp cloth or even hosing it off outdoors. The company also offers cooling pads

that can be placed on it during the summer that will help keep your pet cool on even the hottest summer days. This cot will run you around \$80.

The Sleepypod ClickIt Sport Dog Safety Harness: This next generation safety harness uses a unique, patent pending Infinity Loop design in combination with an energy absorbing padded vest to distribute and reduce damaging forces in an accident, without any additional hardware or straps. Because it uses three points of contact, this harness reduces forward and lateral movements if the car stops suddenly, protecting your dog's entire torso in all directions. This harness has been crash tested with the exact same requirements used for child safety restraints. And, one of the best features of this harness is that you can take it from the car to the park as it doubles as the perfect walking harness. The Sleepypod ClickIt Sport Dog Safety Harness will run you about \$75, comes in assorted colors and offers sizes small to extra large.

The Magic Latch Leash Connection System: If you have ever struggled to get a leash on your dog, then this little gadget is going to change your life! The Magic Latch makes leashing your dog a one-handed operation. No more fumbling around to leash your dog – this company has made leashing a snap! The strong latches are the engineered mechanics behind the 300 pound static weight strength, but the speed in leashing comes from tiny magnets that draws the leash to the collar. Here's how it works: a "Dangle" is left on your dog's collar. The "Grabber" connects to the "Dangle" via the tiny magnets and snaps together when they come near each other. No buttons to push or latches to hold. Just put the "Dangle" near the "Grabber" and voila! Your dog is leashed. The downside of this technology is that it is only for dogs under 85 pounds. But for all of those dog owners whose dogs are under 85 pounds, this handy little gadget seems like a god send. And the best part....it's only \$20!

Most of the items above can be found on line. Be sure to do some comparison shopping to get the best price. Have fun shopping!

Simple Solutions for Winter Dry Skin & Coats

Does your dog's coat lose its luster in winter? Or does your pooch seem to continually itch from fall to spring? Winter's cold, dry weather and the increased air circulation, forced heat and lowered humidity of your home all take a toll on your dog's skin and coat health. In fact, winter skin and coat problems are common concerns of many dog owners. Here are some simple ways to help keep your dog's coat beautiful and skin healthy.

PROBLEM: Dull haircoat

Loss of coat luster can be due to variety of reasons including health concerns, such as hormonal imbalances, parasites and allergies. Poor nutrition, including low levels of protein and essential fatty acids, can also be a factor.

SOLUTION: A diet rich in pro-

teins and essential fatty acids may help. Flaxseed oil also helps promote soft, silky and luxurious coats.

PROBLEM: Dry, flaky skin

Your home's furnace or central air system emits heat. This low humidity environment can rob your dog's skin of necessary moisture, which results in dry, flaky skin. If left unmanaged throughout the winter, this condition will continue through the winter and could even lead to more serious skin problems.

SOLUTION: Get the dog brush out! Daily use of a good dog brush promotes circulation and stimulates and distributes natural oils that help moisturize your dog's skin. In the winter, we recommend that you reduce the number of baths they get as it

can strip away the essential moistures of your dog's coat. If a bath is necessary, tell your groomer to use an oatmeal based shampoo that is a gentle cleanser. You can also increase the humidity in your home with a humidifier.

It seems simple, but make sure your dog is drinking plenty of water. Dogs should get at least one ounce per pound daily. Coconut oil can also be a big help to itchy dogs. If you've tried different things and your pooch is still scratching, then talk to your vet. Your dog's scratching could mean something besides dry skin. Even something like a thyroid problem can cause a dog's skin to become itchy. Also, don't think that because it's winter, it can't be a flea. Our groomers and bathers have been seeing fleas, even in this cold weather!



Useless Pet Facts

Did you know that an Australia Shepherd is not actually from Australia? They were actually developed by shepherds from America. The top ten most popular dog breeds in the United States are: Boxer, Rottweiler, Poodle, Yorkshire Terrier, French Bulldog, Beagle, Bulldog, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds, and the Labrador Retriever.

Cats are actually lactose intolerant. Like most mammals, they lose the ability to digest dairy after infancy. Dalmatian puppies are born white. They develop their spots just a few

weeks after birth.

Dogs are only one of two mammal species that have prostate glands. The other is humans.

Dogs aren't really color blind. They actually see colors, but not as well as humans.

Both cats and dog's noses are unique, much like that of a human fingerprint.

Domesticated cats sleep an average of 16 hours a day. The only other animal that sleeps longer than a cat is a sloth.

The Basenji is the only breed of dog that doesn't "bark". They typi-

cally use other noises to communicate such as growls, whines, and even yodels. The Basenji is native to Central Africa and first left the Congo in ancient times as a gift to an Egyptian pharaoh. The Chihuahua's origin is unknown, although many people assume they are from Mexico. They actually got their name from Chihuahua, Mexico, which is located at the major border crossing that the dogs were believed to have been brought into the United States.

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Our Camper of the Month for January AND February is:

Coco and Wink MacIntyre



You're Pets Home Away From Home

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Happy Valentine's Day

Kennel News

Well, winter is almost over. Thank goodness, right? It's been a long, cold winter so we are all hoping for an early spring. We will have some upcoming events that we will be announcing in next month's edition, so look for us around town!

Also, don't forget, the warmer the weather gets, the busier things get around here. The groom shop is already getting busy, so plan ahead when you want to make a reservation for a groom appointment. The kennel has already been receiving reservations for summer vacation plans, so once you have your

dates all set, give us a call so we can get you down on the reservation books.

We will be looking for some talented dogs in a month or two that we can feature on our WTAP commercials. Be sure to follow us on Facebook as we will put all the details on there for you. We also do specials and giveaways on Facebook quite often so if you haven't "liked" our page, what are you waiting for? You are missing out on the fun!

We do still have a few copies left of our 2018 calendar. All the "models" are our doggie campers so you might even know one or two

of them! Want your dog in the calendar next year? Watch our Facebook page and later in the year, we will start the contest for that.

Of course we want to wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day, but don't forget, there is another very important holiday in February. February 20 is Love Your Pet Day!

We hope you enjoyed this month's edition of our newsletter. If there is anything you would like to see, read about or put in the newsletter, drop us an email or send us a message on Facebook. We'd love to get your input!