

## Choosing a Boarding Cattery

Some cat owners suddenly realise their own holiday arrangements etc have been made and they have forgotten about their cat's arrangements. Primarily you want your cat(s) well looked after and as relaxed and happy as possible so they enjoy their holiday as well. Here are a few guidelines to help you make an informed decision on choosing a cattery.

Choosing the right cattery should give you peace of mind while you are away. There could be many reasons you need to find a suitable cattery; holiday, moving house, away on holiday, hospitalisation, etc. ***Don't leave it until the last moment especially during peak times.***

There are good catteries and unfortunately some not such good ones. Do make sure you make an appointment to visit a few catteries during their opening times before making a decision and booking. As long as you plan in advance you will have a choice and time to decide which cattery you feel is right for your cat. Don't leave booking your cat into a cattery until the last moment. ***Most good catteries are busiest during school holiday times – so book early for those periods so as not to be disappointed.***

### What are the benefits of using a cattery?

- Experienced management in the care of pet cats.
- Your cat is in a safe and secure environment.
- Cats like routine.
- Gets fed regular meals and fresh water.
- Gets clean litter trays every day.
- If your cat is taken ill the appropriate action is taken immediately.
- Only approved animal friendly chemicals and products are used for cleaning and maintenance.

The cat accommodation construction will be either an 'indoor' or 'outdoor' type. Outdoor is preferable as good ventilation and air flow helps prevent the spread of any possible disease. An indoor is fully enclosed with restricted ventilation and of course the cats do not have a view to keep them occupied during their stay.

### What to look for when choosing a cattery.

- The people running the cattery; friendly, caring, pleasant and can assure you about any concerns and answers to your questions.
- Ask to look around the cattery. Observe the general cleanliness and outlook and the condition of the current guests.
- Ensure that a communal garden **is not used** because a garden is impossible to sterilize between visits of different cats, grass and soil cannot be sterilized.
- Check out the boarding prices and what it covers. Some catteries have low prices and add on extra costs.
- Read the Boarding Terms and Conditions.
- Discuss any special dietary requirements and if medication is to be administered and any existing condition your cat might be suffering from eg. constipation, furballs, urinary problems.
- The accommodation units for each cat should have a separate enclosed heated and insulated sleeping area and an individual exercise area. Leading to each unit there should be a safety corridor that can be locked for added security.
- The cattery should not have any strong odour of cleaning products or faeces or urine.
- Ensure that there are sneeze barriers and next door neighbours are restricted from each other so that no injuries can be caused.