

## What to Expect When Your Pet Returns Home

Your pet will undoubtedly be happy to see you. Following a few guidelines will help ease the transition back to home life.

- Water: Over-excitement may cause your pet to pant a lot & act thirsty. Your pet had plenty of water available while boarding and is not really thirsty. Give your pet a few ice cubes to tide them over until they settle down.
- Food: Same as for water. Excessive drinking and eating may lead to digestive upset and bloat. Do NOT feed your pet for at least 3 hours after getting home then, limit food and water until the pet has settled into home life.
- Walk your pet on arrival at home or put your pet in your yard. Excitement may also cause a change in bowel or bladder movements outside their normal schedule.
- Give your pet some attention, play time, petting, or brushing to help them get beyond the excitement stage.
- Kennel life can be very exciting and ACTIVE. Dogs often leave the kennel exhausted but happy and may sleep a lot the first 48-72 hours after going home. Most pets are very active at the kennel, so your pet may also lose some weight even though they are eating well.
- Re-establish home patterns by following dog's normal schedule. Pets are creatures of habit and love having a schedule -- it makes them feel safe and secure. Understand that your pet's potty, eating, & drinking habits may be a little off.

-Kennel Cough can occur!! NO veterinary office, groom shop, doggy daycare or boarding facility goes without ever seeing kennel cough here and there!! The kennel cough vaccine is made from only 1 out of over 100 strains of the virus!! It is not a 100% vaccine. We provide a very clean environment with good air circulation. These are two of the most important things to do when housing large numbers of animals. (Or children in daycares for that matter!!) We care for thousands of pets every year and see a handful of them get kennel cough. If your dog gets home and begins getting a cough that sounds like a barking seal, you may want to give your vet a call to see what they would like you to do. Some vets suggest a cough suppressant, others may want to see your pet...they are the experts and will advise you accordingly.

-Pets can get diarrhea from the excitement of returning home. If your pet has an upset stomach upon leaving the kennel, we will tell you!! We do not see a lot of diarrhea in the kennel. We have you keep your pet on its own food to keep as many things the same as possible from your pet's home-life. If a pet does get diarrhea, we put them on a special prescription food that is made just for stress related diarrheas and give them a pectate type medicine that is made just for pets. We monitor their eating, drinking and behavior to make sure they do not get dehydrated and to make sure it clears up in a day or so. If a pet is having a lot of vomiting or diarrhea, the veterinarian for that pet is called and the pet is taken to the veterinarian for treatment. If your pet returns home and acquires diarrhea, you may want to hold your pet's food a little longer and you may want to give them a little plain yogurt to help get their intestines back on track. If they have a lot of vomiting or diarrhea in a short period of time, call your vet and let them know!! Do not let major diarrhea or vomiting go untreated for any length of time!! Your pet can become dehydrated quickly!!

Most pets kennel quite well. Even those who are the more sensitive types usually settle in once they see they are kept clean, well fed and watered, exercised and given some hugs and kisses and of course, cookies every day while their family is away!!

Thank You for entrusting your pet to those of us at The Pet Shack Resort!!