

Your pet  
^  
**BOARD SAFELY™**

Did you know... there are no statewide regulations that govern boarding kennels and pet daycare facilities in Massachusetts?



## **GET SET TO BOARD YOUR PET:**

The Animal Rescue League of Boston encourages pet owners to do their own research before leaving their pet in the care of a boarding kennel or daycare facility.

1. **Find out safety protocols and licensing.** What is the procedure in the event of a natural disaster or medical emergency? Are there vaccination requirements to ensure the health of all boarded animals? Does the facility have a current kennel license?
2. **Ask for details about supervision and interaction.** What is the experience-level of the person supervising your pet, and are they always on the premises? Are dogs allowed to interact with one another, and are they separated by size/temperament?
3. **Download the Board Safely™ checklist.** When researching potential boarding kennels or daycare facilities for your pet, ask all of the questions on this list and take notes.



Scan or visit  
[arlboston.org/  
board-safely](http://arlboston.org/board-safely)

### **YOU CAN HELP PUSH FOR KENNEL REGULATIONS**

The Animal Rescue League of Boston is actively supporting legislation that would establish regulations within the operation of board kennels and daycare facilities, such as: emergency response training, facility standards, pet supervision and more. To learn how you can advocate for these changes, visit [arlboston.org/board-safely](http://arlboston.org/board-safely)

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



# BOARD SAFELY™ CHECKLIST

Facility name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of call/email \_\_\_\_\_

Spoke with (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

**1. SEE FOR YOURSELF**  
Can you see the kennels and common areas where your animal will be boarded? During your pet's stay, can you check on them remotely via webcam?

**2. SOUND THE ALARM**  
Does the facility have a written emergency response procedure in the event of fire, power outage, or other disaster? Does the kennel have working fire and carbon monoxide detectors, sprinkler systems, and a back-up power generator?

**3. LICENSE, PLEASE**  
Does the kennel have a current operating license issued by a local city or town? According to the license, how many animals can be boarded at one time? How many animals are currently housed?

**4. IN CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY**  
Are you contacted if your animal experiences an unexpected medical condition or injury? Is there a veterinarian on staff, or does the facility have a veterinarian on call? Do you sign a waiver giving permission to have your animal treated?

**5. TLC**  
What is the ratio of staff to animals? Is there 24-hour on-site supervision? If not, are animals monitored by video camera?

**6. SOCIAL CIRCLE**  
Do dogs play together in common areas? Are these play groups supervised at all times? Are dogs grouped together by size and/or temperament? Can you choose to have your dog not participate in group activities?

**7. INFECTION PRECAUTIONS**  
Does the facility require up-to-date vaccination records for all boarders? What documentation is required for your pet to be admitted?

**8. FELINE FRIENDS**  
Does the facility allow cats? Are they separated from the sight and noise of dogs?

**9. GET IT IN WRITING**  
Will the facility give you written documentation of their procedures or confirmation of any special requests for your pet?

*The Animal Rescue League of Boston's Board Safely™ campaign encourages pet owners to do their research before leaving their dog or cat in the care of a boarding kennel or daycare facility. When calling or emailing potential facilities, be sure to ask all of the questions on this list and take notes!*

## MY NOTES