

## Choosing a Cattery

It is important to take your time to choose a cattery, including looking around the proposed accommodation to make sure that your cat will be as happy with their holiday as you are with yours. This ensures peace of mind. It is recommended to do this during opening hours and unannounced but if possible avoid busy weekend/bank holiday periods.

- 1) Licensing**-check that the cattery is licensed by the local authority, this means the cattery will be visited at least once a year by somebody from the council to make sure certain standards are met. The owner of a cattery should be able to show you a copy of this.
- 2) Insurance**- check that the cattery has an up to date insurance policy to cover your cat should it become sick in your absence. This is vital in the event of an emergency as vet bills are often expensive. The owner of the cattery should be able to show you a copy of their policy.
- 3) Vaccinations**- only board your cat at a cattery that requires up to date vaccinations. This protects your cat from contagious diseases, and the likelihood of coming into contact with them.
- 4) Accommodation**- ask to see a pen your cat could go into, assess its size, whether it has indoor and outdoor access, what form of heating/lighting it has, and if your cat will have access to private area out of sight of other cats. If you have more than one cat, ask if they can be penned together.
- 5) Cleanliness**- how clean are the pens that are in use, are litter trays clean. There should be evidence of a disinfectant being used. Ask to see the kitchen/ food preparation area, looking not only for cleanliness but for organisation so that it is clear to staff which cat eats what. This is especially important if your cat has a special diet/allergies/medication.
- 6) Staff**- Ask the staff about their training and experience, these will be the people looking after your cat so it is important that they are knowledgeable. If your cat is of a long haired variety then ask if the cat will be groomed.
- 7) The cats**- Finally look at the cats themselves, do they look happy? Are they in clean pens with access to food and water? How do they react to the staff? Do they look content?

It is best to look at a few catteries to see different methods and evaluate your choices. Once you have chosen your cattery it is recommended to put your cat in for a short stay (one night) to check that both you and your cat are happy with the arrangement before a longer stay.

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