

How To Find A Boarding Kennel Or Pet Sitter

Where Do I Start?



If you google the term “boarding kennel near me” or “pet sitter near me” chances are you will come up with pages and pages of websites. If you are anything like me, you will be at a complete loss at which ones to call and will simply call the first ones on the list as the choices are overwhelming.

While convenient, this is not the best way to choose your service. Smart marketing, great SEO skills and a nice-looking website should not be the only criteria to drive your choice. Refer to our articles [How to Choose a Boarding Service – Dogs](#) and [How to Choose a Boarding Service – Cats](#) for more information on questions to ask your potential boarding facility or house sitter.

It’s important to know that pet sitting businesses, animal trainers and dog walkers are unregulated professions. This means that other than meeting commercial zoning or business permit requirements that individual municipalities impose, there are no governing or regulation bodies that oversee these services. Some kennels and pet sitters obtain membership in national or international associations, or pursue certifications in their fields of interest, but these are voluntary rather than mandated certifications and memberships.

However, association membership or certification generally indicates an adherence and commitment to a code of conduct and best practices. While not every great service provider seeks certification or association membership, it can be a good start in finding a truly educated and dedicated pet pro. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, there is no Canadian pet boarding or pet kennel association so it can be difficult to find a comprehensive list of kennel or boarding services.

Here are a few associations to use as a starting point in your search if you are looking for a pet sitter or kennel operator who is affiliated with a larger association or has obtained certifications in specialty fields. Often, professionals certified in other areas of specialization provide boarding services.

- Pet Sitters International - <https://www.petsit.com/start>
- Fear Free Pets - <https://fearfreepets.com/>
- Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers - <https://www.ccpdt.org/>
- International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants - <https://m.iaabc.org/>
- Pet Professional Guild – <https://www.petprofessionalguild.com/>
- Canadian Dog Walker’s Association - <https://www.facebook.com/canadiandogwalkersassociation/>

Social media, veterinary practices and pages such as Yelp or Yellow Pages can also be a good starting point in your search for a boarding facility or pet sitter. Many of these businesses operate as small businesses, and rely on client and peer referral for business. Don’t be afraid to post on your neighbourhood social media groups for recommendations, which will provide you with a starting point to search out your service provider.