

The Bark & Mew

Updates & Information from Falconbridge Animal Hospital & Village Veterinary Hospital
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A Day In The Life of A Falconbridge Boarder

With the holidays quickly approaching, many of our patients will be spending time with us as boarders. We provide boarding for dogs, cats and pocket pets. We've even had a fish stay with us. Have you ever wondered what your pet's day is like when they are here? Let's take a look at a typical day for a dog and then a cat.

Ike is a dog with a reservation to stay for several days. Ike's pet parent drops him off early in the morning before catching a flight out of town. Before leaving, his parent completes the boarding form with emergency contact information and any services to be done, such as a bath and nail trim. The form also includes whether or not Ike can have canned food or treats and any medications or supplements he is taking. Ike is escorted back to the kennel and his assigned run. He barks a greeting to all of the boarders, and they all bark back catching up on the latest doggy gossip. Because it is early, there is still a lot of activity going on. Everyone is getting their turn in the yard. While each dog is outside under the supervision of Andrew, Stephanie cleans that pet's run or condo. This includes scrubbing the sides, door and floor, and providing clean food and water bowls, fresh water, and clean bedding. It's breakfast time, so fresh kibble is measured out based on the weight of the boarder. Once everyone has been outside and had breakfast, the assistants finish mopping the floors. Then all of the dirty bowls must be washed. The washing machine and dryer are run constantly to keep up the supply of fresh bedding for everyone. And if someone needs a bath or a groom, this is the time that Pinky will be taking care of them. Ike enjoys supervising the humans tasked with his care.

Pretty soon it's the middle of the day, and everyone gets another turn in the yard. Stephanie is mindful of what each pet wants to do. Some will simply walk around checking the smells, but not Ike! He wants to play ball. This is his time, so Stephanie accommodates his choice and throws the ball across the yard. And throws the ball again, and again.... If Ike needs fresh bedding or a touch-up cleaning in his run we are happy to take care of it. Of course most of the pets like to tell each other what they did while outside, so it gets awfully loud in the kennel. Ike's parent said treats were allowed, so he gets a dog cookie when he comes back in. After all of the mid-day commotion, Ike and his friends are ready for a snooze.

As it heads toward evening, Ike's stomach starts to growl. No worries, though. Andrew is there to give him another play time in the yard and dinner. Tonight is special with a little canned food added in since Ike's pet

parent said it was okay. Ike knows he won't get that every night, so he enjoys the treat while it lasts.

On his last day here, Ike is treated to the spa treatment with Pinky. His parent has requested a bath, so Ike gets a good shampoo rub down in the tub, rinsed, dried, and fluffed. His ears are cleaned and nails trimmed. Ike knows he smells good and with the brush out Pinky gave him he looks his best. He wags his tail thinking about what his pet parent will think when he sees him like this. While home is preferred, Ike thinks Camp Falconbridge isn't a bad place to visit!



Topaz enjoying the sunshine in her condo.

Bella the cat is also staying with us. Her pet parent filled out the same boarding form as Ike's, but Stephanie heads to a different room with her. And is she ever glad! There are two doors between her and those barking dogs. Being a kitty princess, she has definite expectations about her stay. There's enough room this week for the portals to be opened giving each cat a two room condo. The condos have a view of the great outdoors and a perching shelf to sit on. With Bella's box in one room, she spends most of her time in the other room with her bed and food bowl, sitting on the shelf watching the squirrels. Her pet parent has said she can have treats, so at mid-day she receives a few kitty cookies. The assistants pop in frequently to check on everyone. When Bella isn't snoozing she meows, stretches, and comes up to the door of her condo. Andrew takes his cue and opens the door to provide the desired head scratches and back rub. Bella climbs on his shoulder and purrs. She knows how to keep those back rubs coming!

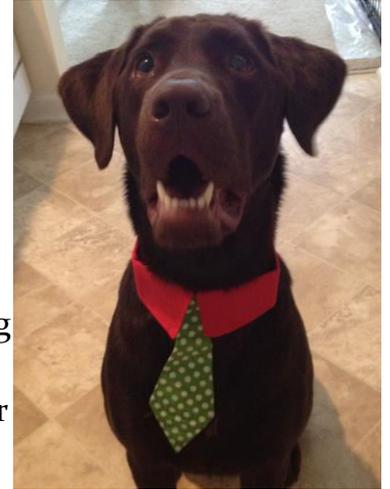
In the evening she knows she will get fresh kibble

and a spoon of canned food her pet parent okayed. She really enjoys that canned food. The one thing that's not so great is the measuring cup the assistants have. They measure everyone's food! Bella sees why the next morning when Andrew finds George's bowl is still full. He measures the kibble left to see if George ate anything at all. Bella meows over to George that if he didn't eat enough one of the veterinarians is going to give him a check up. Each morning every kitty condo is scrubbed clean, the litter box replaced with a clean one

and new litter, and the cats are each given fresh bowls with clean water, another measured scoop of kibble, and a clean bed. Bella REALLY likes her bed and Andrew knows it, so as long as she keeps it clean and keeps herself washed so she doesn't shed too much he lets her keep the bed with her scent in it. While being in her own home where she's queen of the castle is preferred, if she has to go somewhere, the Falconbridge Vista Condos are as good as it gets.

Help Your Pets Have A Safe And Healthy Holiday Season

- Keep your pet on a schedule that is as close to their regular schedule as possible.
- Do not feed too many treats and refrain from feeding human food.
- Make sure your pet has a quiet, comfortable spot to go to when the celebrating is overwhelming.
- Do not leave your pet unattended with a lit candle.
- Tinsel, stringed ornaments and decorations, and yarn are all enticing and dangerous for pets.
- Be aware of wrapped food gifts under the tree that might attract your pets but be toxic for them.
- Don't let pets drink the water for the Christmas tree as it may contain fertilizers or bacteria.
- Bring your pet to the veterinarian if they show signs of not feeling well.



Leeds is all dressed up & ready to party!

Good articles on holiday safety for pets can be found on AAHA's HealthyPet.com website and the ASPCA website. Use each website's search in the upper right corner to search for holiday safety.

Santa Is Coming To Falconbridge Animal Hospital!

On December 1st, 2012, Santa will be at Falconbridge Animal Hospital for the 5th Annual Paws and Claus. If your pet would like to be photographed with Santa, please call 919-403-5591 for an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome; appointments are recommended. Santa will be posing with pets from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Photographs are \$5.00 each, and the proceeds will benefit the pets of Meals-On-Wheels. The Falconbridge team donates their time, so each photograph purchased buys a bag of food for a pet.



If your pet is camera shy, there is still time to purchase raffle tickets! You pick the prize you want to enter to win! Prizes include a year's supply of heartworm prevention for one pet, a wellness exam including up to 4 vaccines, a 6 month supply of Frontline Plus, a 2 night "Spa Getaway" for the canine or feline of your choice, and a free groom.

Tickets are only \$1.00 each! All prizes are donated, so the full proceeds will be used to purchase pet food for a Meals-On-Wheels pet.

Please visit "The Litter Box", our new cat blog, at FalconbridgeAnimal.com/The-Litter-Box. If there is a topic you would like to see or a question you'd like answered, please fill out the "Email Us" form at the bottom of the page.

Your question or topic should be cat related!