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***A Place to Stay
While You're Away***

By Patricia Ryan Lampl

Check these out:

**Malibu Pet Hotel, 107 Guy Lombardi Ave., Freeport,
516-379-6040, www.malibupethotel.com**

**Pet Sitters Club, 516-466-5617,
www.petsittersclubinc.com**

**PetSmart Pet Hotel, 350 Walt Whitman Rd.,
Huntington, 631-425-0184**



Whether vacationing, visiting or traveling for business, pet owners want to make sure their animals are well cared for in their absence. There are several boarding options — pet sitters, pet hotels, veterinarians, breeders and animal hospitals among them. Your primary concern should be your animal's comfort level, meaning that they feel safe, secure and well cared for. Think surrogate: you want whoever is caring for your pet to adhere to the animal's customary walking, feeding and sleeping schedule.

In-home care is preferable for all the obvious reasons: your pet's schedule and environment isn't disrupted because you're away. Occasionally breeders will "baby sit their animals" as a "favor." Some vets board, but remember that isn't their primary business.

If a home situation isn't possible, you must be vigilant that the facility you choose ensures that the animals have appropriate outdoor exercise, are fed quality food and that it's a safe environment. Overcrowded housing can cause animals to get kennel cough. The facility should be bonded, insured and have staff certified in animal CPR, first aid and have a fire alarm system.

Making thoughtful decisions will give you the peace of mind you crave whether you're jumping in a pool or entering a boardroom. 🐾

Patricia Ryan Lampl is a children's book author who lives in Port Washington.