

LEAVING ON VACATION WITHOUT YOUR ANIMALS

by Dr. Laura Harris

Many of us leave on vacation at some time during the year. And, most of us eventually need to leave our animals, whether they be horses, dogs, cats or small livestock, in the care of someone outside our immediate family. While we all hope that nothing will go wrong in our absence, it is best to leave information with your animals' caretaker(s) that will allow your animals to receive necessary medical attention while you are away. Even a few hours wasted while the caretaker(s) or veterinarian try to contact you can seriously affect your animals' welfare.

Take a few moments before you leave to compile emergency contact information and to indicate your preferences for medical intervention and even the worst healthcare situation will turn out better than it might have. On the following pages, you will find suggestions about what information might be helpful in your absence. A medical letter of intent is a legal requirement for all but the most basic medical care of any animal. And, organized feeding / exercise / housing instructions will help maintain your animals' routine schedule and avoid upset.

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contact numbers while you are gone: _____

E mail: _____

physical address and directions to the property where animals are housed:

itinerary: attach on separate page for each trip

neighbors or relatives to contact: _____ phone: _____
_____ phone: _____
_____ phone: _____
_____ phone: _____

equine veterinarian of choice: _____ phone: _____
 alternate #1: _____ phone: _____
 alternate #2: _____ phone: _____
equine hospital of choice: _____ phone: _____
 alternate #1: _____ phone: _____

small animal veterinarian of choice: _____ phone: _____
 alternate #1: _____ phone: _____
emergency facility of choice: _____ phone: _____

plumber: _____ phone: _____
electrician: _____ phone: _____
air conditioning: _____ phone: _____

feed store: _____ phone: _____
horse shoer: _____ phone: _____

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animal: _____

DAILY MEALS:

AM time _____ midday time _____ PM time _____ late PM time _____

AM meal: _____ medication: _____

Midday meal: _____ medication: _____

PM meal: _____ medication: _____

Late PM meal: _____ medication: _____

EXERCISE:

	AM	PM
Monday	_____	_____
Tuesday	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____
Sunday	_____	_____