



“Red Flags” on a Tour of a Boarding Facility

If you experience any of the following, experts agree that you should **RUN**, don't walk, to another facility.

You aren't allowed to see where your pet will be housed. Some facilities cite insurance reasons for keeping owners out of the kennel area, but at a minimum, you should be allowed to look through a door or window and see the area where your pet will stay.

A Dirty Facility. Pet messes should be cleaned up promptly and adequate air circulation (necessary for the good health of your pet) should prevent an overall “doggy” smell. In general, the facility should appear neat and clean and should not have an unpleasant odor.

Inattentive Staff. Their top propriety should be the dogs. It's a bad sign if the one person watching a play group of dogs is suddenly the same person giving you a tour of the facility.

Excessive Barking. It's reasonable to expect bursts of barking when a human or dog travels through the kennel area. Continued barking likely points toward a bigger problem, such as lack of exercise, lack of mental stimulation, inadequate potty opportunities or an overall high stress/anxiety level.

Inappropriate Handling: Such as physical “corrections”, dragging a dog on a leash or by the scruff of his neck or hitting a dog. **RUN RUN RUN!!** Experience, well-educated dog handlers don't need to hit, mishandle or “alpha-roll” dogs, ever.