

Readers Pick Their Favorite Restaurants
Is Faith the Best Medicine? Spring Valley as Ground Zero
Getting Into a Top College The Next Kennedy

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Cats vs. Dogs

If You Want a Friend, Should You Get a Dog or a Cat?
Here's the Scoop on Both. Plus a Guide to the Best Vets,
Trainers, Groomers, Kennels, Pet Sitters, and More



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DOG-NA DAYCARE FOR DOGS
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ternal medicine, surgery, and dentistry as well.

Dr. Barbara Kummel, 5828 Hubbard Dr., Rockville; 301-468-7028. Veterinary dermatologist.

Regional Veterinary Referral Center, 6651-F Backlick Rd., Springfield; 703-451-8900. This clinic, which has a surgeon, a dermatologist, an internist, and a radiation specialist, treats a variety of ailments, with a specialty in cancer and thyroid cases.

SouthPaws Veterinary Referral Center, 6136 Brandon Ave., Springfield; 703-569-0300; www.southpaws.com. SouthPaws has specialists trained in cardiology, holistic medicine (Dr. Jordan Kocen is very good), oncology, orthopedics, and more.

VCA Veterinary Referral Associates, 15021 Duffel Mill Rd., Gaithersburg; 301-340-3224. Specialists include oncologists, a radiologist, internists, a nephrologist, an orthopedist, an ophthalmologist, a neurologist, and a cardiologist.

Veterinary Holistic Care, 4820 Moorland Ln., Bethesda; 301-656-2882. Holistic vet Monique Maniet and her staff offer nutrition, herbs, acupuncture, homeopathy, and more.

Animal Behaviorists

"BEHAVIORISTS" TREAT SEPARATION ANXIETY, depression, aggression, compulsions, even psychosis. Animal trainers and regular vets also may address these disorders.

Behavioral medicine is a relatively new field. The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists has begun board certification, but the nation has only 26 certified behaviorists.

To get a list of members of the **American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior**, e-mail Dr. Steven Feldman at avsa@yaho.com. The AVSAB does not require members to have any special training or credentials.

Yody Blass, Companion Animal Behavior, Ashburn; 703-729-9228, www.petbehaviorist.com. Blass is not a veterinarian but will work with a vet if necessary.

Dr. Steven Feldman, Clinton Animal Hospital; 301-868-1180. Also works at Friendship Hospital for Animals in DC.

Dr. Elizabeth Krug, VCA Lewis Animal Hospital, Columbia; 410-730-6660. A general vet who treats behavior issues in dogs and cats.

University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Clinical Studies, Philadelphia; 215-898-3347. Many frustrated pet owners in Washington travel to this clinic, one of the leaders in the field. Dr. Karen Overall is the vet to see.

Emergency Clinics

THESE ANIMAL HOSPITALS PROVIDE CARE IN the middle of the night and on holidays and weekends, when regular veterinary offices

are closed. There is only a handful of emergency clinics, so we've tried to list all of them, not just the "best." In an emergency, the nearest clinic is often the best. Your regular vet may also offer after-hours care, meeting you in an emergency.

Alexandria Veterinary Emergency Service, 2660 Duke St., Alexandria; 703-823-3601.

Animal Emergency Hospital, Suite 101-B, 2 Cardinal Park Dr., Leesburg; 703-777-5755.

Anne Arundel Veterinary Emergency Clinic, 808 Bestgate Rd., Annapolis; 410-224-0331.



Dog-ma, on Capitol Hill, is part of a new breed in pet care: daycare where dogs can play and get lots of exercise instead of being home alone.

Beltway Emergency Animal Hospital, 11660 Annapolis Rd., Glenn Dale; 301-464-3737.

Emergency Animal Center, 1896 Urbana Pike, Suite 23, Hyattstown; 301-831-1088.
Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Northern Virginia, 416 Maple Ave. W., Vienna; 703-281-5423.

Friendship Hospital for Animals, 4105 Brandywine St., NW; 202-363-7300.

Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic, 12306 Nebel St., Rockville; 301-770-5225.

SouthPaws CritiCare, 6136 Brandon Ave., Springfield; 703-569-0300.

Springfield Emergency Veterinary Hospital, 6651-F Backlick Rd., Springfield; 703-451-8900.

Woodbridge Animal Hospital, 13512 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Woodbridge; 703-494-5191.

Kennels and Daycare

BEFORE TAKING YOUR PET TO A KENNEL, IT'S A good idea to tour the facility. Do the animals look happy? Is it clean? Are cages a good size? Will your dog have its own run or are there regular exercise sessions? How often is each animal let out of its confines? Does

bedding look clean, dry, and comfortable?

Are pets shaded from sun in summer, from cold in winter, and from rain?

If your animal gets sick, how is that handled? Does the kennel require proof of vaccinations for all the animals? Can you bring your pet's own food, bedding, or toys?

Does the staff seem affectionate toward the animals and answer all your questions?

The kennels listed here all offer loving care. They accept dogs and, where indicated, other types of pets. Although some of these kennels are far from Washington, many offer pickup and drop-off service inside the Beltway. Kennels farther out usually have more room in which the animals can play.

"Daycare" facilities, which offer both day and overnight boarding, are growing in number and popularity. Unfortunately, we did not get enough feedback on daycares to form solid judgments. Only Dog-ma Daycare for Dogs won consistent praise.

Though daycare provides a chance for dogs to play and exercise during the day, some vets, groomers, and trainers have seen animals get bitten and injured during fights at daycares and at "play groups" that some kennels have. Putting dogs in a group is usually fine but can be a recipe for disaster, so be sure to observe and ask questions. For example, are play groups segregated by size, age, and temperament, or are they closely supervised?

Anchors Kennel, 17810 Indian Head Hwy., Accokeek; 301-283-2626; www.anchor Kennels.com. In business for 30 years. Also accepts cats, birds, and horses.

Dog-ma Daycare for Dogs, 821 Virginia Ave., SE; 202-543-7805, www.dog-ma.com. This facility offers doggie daycare as well as cageless boarding.

Dulles Gateway Kennel, 4500 Upper Cub Run Dr., Chantilly; 703-631-9590. Serves Frosty Paws ice cream as a bedtime snack. Also accepts cats.

Germantown Kennels, 15235 Berryville Rd., Germantown; 301-977-2558. This facility is on a 200-acre farm, but accepts just 48 dogs at a time to provide individual attention.

Great Falls Boarding Kennel, 8920 Old Dominion Dr., McLean; 703-759-2620. Open since 1962, this kennel staffs one attendant for every eight dogs. Also accepts cats.

Old Mill Pet Care, 91 Lawson Rd., SE, Leesburg; 703-777-4183. In its 10,000-square-foot cat facility, complete with soft music, cathedral ceiling, and playrooms, each cat gets its own "condo" with filtered fresh air.

Preston Country Club for Pets, 7363 Old Columbia Rd., Columbia; 301-596-7387. Friendly dogs interact in the play yard; in summer dogs are taken for swims in doggie pools. Also takes cats.

Shady Springs Boarding Kennel and Camp for Dogs, 1001 Hoods Mill Rd.,