

## WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER BOARDING

While you may be pleased to pick up your dog and take them home after their stay, this may not be a smooth ride, especially if this is the first time you've boarded your dog. Not all dogs react the same way when you take them home after boarding; some will display behavioral changes that may surprise or worry you. What kinds of behavior can you expect from your pet?

### Personality Changes

While some dogs come home from boarding and settle down as if they've never been away, others may take some time to settle. You may find that your dog's behavior changes when you get them home. For example, they may get a bit clingy and follow you around everywhere. Alternatively, they may ignore you and be slightly aloof. Some dogs act up a little and behave badly when they first come home even though they are usually well-behaved.

Typically, you'll find that your dog will get back to normal once they are used to being back at home. Once your dog realizes that they're back in their normal routine and is with you once again, they should start to behave normally. It's a good idea to give your pet a lot of love and attention when you get them home; however, you should also make sure to re-establish your usual routine and rules to get your dog back in line as quickly as possible.

### Changes in Appetite

Your dog may eat a lot more than usual when they first come home from boarding. This doesn't mean that your dog wasn't fed during their stay. Some dogs are simply happy to get back to their regular variety of food if they ate different foods while boarded; others may not have eaten as well or as usual in boarding, especially if they were a little stressed. **It's also not unusual for dogs to be very thirsty when they get home.** Again, they may not have drunk as much water as usual in their boarding stay. Rest assured that your dog had ample access to fresh water 24 hours a day while they were in our care here at Golden Days.

### Upset Stomachs

In some cases, dogs may come home from boarding with an upset stomach. The food your dog ate while boarded may not have agreed with them. Vomiting and a runny tummy can also be caused by stress. In some dogs, this stress may be caused by their anxiety about being boarded; other dogs may get an upset stomach when they get overexcited about coming home.

### Changes in Sleeping Habits

Don't be surprised if your dog sleeps a lot when it first gets home from boarding. Some dogs find it hard to get a good night's sleep when boarded. They may find a new environment unsettling or just plain noisy. While at Golden Days your dog may have run around a lot either indoors or outdoors, they may also have had a good workout during their stay and may simply need a rest.

Typically, changes in your dog's behavior after dog boarding are not anything to worry about. Your pet will usually settle down once they get back into their routine. However, if your dog is showing signs of a more serious illness or injury or doesn't settle down at home after a few days, it's a good idea to have them checked over by your vet.

### What You Can Do To Help Your Pup Readjust

When Golden Days pet parents come to pick up their dog from overnight boarding, it can be hard at times to say who's more excited the pet parents who are ecstatic to see their pooches, or the pups

who are beside themselves with joy. After all, even though we do everything we can to make dog boarding comfortable and fun for your pet, there's no place like home. That said, there are a few **precautions you should take when you first bring your dog back home after a visit to any pet care facility**, including Golden Days.

### **Take Your Dog for a Walk First**

You want to bring your dog right in the door, but if you want to avoid any accidents in the house, it's best to **walk your dog up and down your block** (or even just around your yard) **before you head indoors**. The excitement of seeing you again can bring on an overactive bladder in even the most perfectly house trained pooch.

### **Hold Off on Dog Food**

Even if it's your pet's normal dinner time, it's best to **wait at least an hour after arriving back home before offering your dog food**. All of that tail wagging and jumping for joy can also make Fido's stomach do flip-flops. That kind of excitement tends to make dogs eat more quickly, which all becomes a recipe for vomiting. Wait until your pup has calmed down before offering food. If your dog is especially agitated or is normally a fast eater, you might even split the normal amount of food you'd give for one meal into two smaller meals.

### **Limit Your Dog's H2O Intake**

Lots of happy panting plus the car ride home means that your pooch has built up a powerful thirst. Just as with food though, slurping down an entire bowl of water quickly can lead to vomiting. Rather than **letting your dog drink all he wants in one go**, **limit the amount of water you put in his bowl at first**. Another option that's especially good for smaller dogs (and for playful puppies who can turn anything into a game) is offering ice cubes for your pet to lick.

### **Let Your Dog Sleep It Off**

If your dog seems a little more tired than usual the first few days after boarding, don't worry too much about it. The thrill of seeing you again and the extra flurry of activity surrounding homecoming may mean your dog needs more shut-eye than usual.

Remember, if you have any questions about dog boarding, doggy daycare, or anything related to your dog or the services we provide, just give us a call or send us an email—we're always here to help.

Happy tails,



Michael O'Neil  
Pack Lead