

Helpful hints for animals and their owners arriving in the UAE

Municipal pet registration

All animals residing in the Emirate of Dubai should be registered with Dubai Municipality (04-289-1114), although admittedly many people do not do this and it is not especially strongly enforced by the authorities. If you do choose to register your pet, you will need to take him/her to the Municipality's offices/clinic where your pet can be quickly checked and registered and you will be given a tag which your pet should wear on his or her collar. Registration should be renewed at the same time you renew your pet's annual vaccinations.

It should be noted that in addition to all the usual veterinary services, many (though not all) vets in town can also register your pet. So the choice, of course, is yours.

The Dubai Municipality's clinic also does microchipping and basic vaccinations, all for a price that is considerably less than the commercial veterinary clinics in Dubai, though it should be noted that the quality of this clinic and its vets is not up to the standard of the better veterinary clinics in the country.

If you wish [DKC](#) to register your pet on your behalf once he or she has arrived in the UAE, we can easily arrange for this at our own [DKC Veterinary Clinic](#) or any other you may prefer. Once registration has been completed, we will simply send the tag(s) to your residence by courier, unless you prefer to collect them from us, of course! Just talk with us about our fee. (Read more about this on our website at the following locations: <http://www.dkc.ae/what-we-do/dkc-veterinary-clinic/dubai-pet-municipality-tags-registration> and <http://www.dkc.ae/what-we-do/dkc-veterinary-clinic/vaccinations-the-lazy-way>.)

Dogs in public places and coping with the heat

Generally, dogs are not permitted on public beaches or in parks, but you will find notices where this applies. They are also not allowed in any shops. Dogs should be on a lead at all times and during the summer months it is strongly advised that they are only walked early morning and late evening as it is too hot, especially for animals with thick coats and dogs that are snub nosed ~ and always take some water with you when walking your dog. A dog's normal body temperature is between 37 °C and 38.5 °C. At 39.5 °C, a dog is already over-heated, very much like a human. Signs of heatstroke are:

- intense rapid panting
- wide eyes
- anxious or staring expression
- warm dry skin
- rapid heart beat
- vomiting and salivating
- staggering and weakness
- collapsing and unconsciousness (advanced heatstroke)

If your dog has heatstroke, veterinarians advise you to place a wet towel over the dog's body and then pour ice-cold water over the towel. Another method is to put the dog into a bath of cold water, making sure the water is not too cold (if the water is too cold the dog can go into shock). If this is not possible, then a wet cloth can be used to wet down the areas that have less fur, such as the armpits, the feet, ears and the stomach, and of course the tongue. The best advice, however, is to go as soon as possible to your veterinarian. They will be able to determine how advanced the heatstroke is, or indeed whether or not your dog actually is suffering from heatstroke at all.

Ticks & Fleas

Ticks are a problem in Dubai and it is advised that all animals get some kind of tick and flea prevention. There are a number of suitable and widely used products available in Dubai from most vets and kennels. DKC require the use of one of these



products if your pet is boarding with us.

About food

Premium dog and cat food products such as Royal Canin are available only at specialist retailers such as veterinarians, kennels and some pet shops. There are occasionally other premium products to be found as well, though supply can be irregular and unreliable. Other non-premium products, such as Pedigree, Purina, and many others are all very widely available at shops such as Spinney's and Choitram's, Carrefour and many other locations as well.

DKC sell for retail and use in-house Royal Canin. We also offer a food delivery service.

Helpin' them animals

Unfortunately, there is a problem with stray and homeless dogs and cats in the UAE. There are a few charities which rely completely on voluntary donations and help in their efforts to deal with this problem. If you have spare time or can offer anything at all, your help will always be gratefully received. If you find an injured animal or one that needs to be rehomed, they will do their very best to help, although please bear in mind they are always financially stretched and pressed for resources. Also, if you're looking for a new member of the family, they are always looking for new homes for the animals they care for and can help you too.