



Going on vacation or a business trip? Here are some best practices to prepare you, your home, and your pet for your time away.

- Purchase ample pet food in case you are delayed returning home. Empty your refrigerator of perishables. Put out your pets' favorite toys and treats.
- If you are traveling internationally, download an app to text on your smart phone. We use Viber, What's App and Skype. Program your sitter's phone into your cell phone.
- Pack your phone charger and adapter.
- On visits, we'll bring in your mail and stay a while and "make the place look lived in."
- Store valuables (jewelry, computers, financial papers) in a safe place.
- Let friends and family know that you are away.
- If you have security system, be sure to let us know the code.
- Designate a neighbor as an emergency contact person. Make sure that they are in town. Let them know that you referred them to Family Tails. We may need to contact them in case of severe weather / road closures to check on the pets.
- Print out your travel itinerary and emergency phone numbers and leave on the kitchen table for us. Let us know if others have keys to your home and their names.
- Stop delivery of newspapers and mail.
Here is the link: <https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail/>
- Set some lights and music or TV on a timer. Pets often like to listen to NPR.
- Check that all doors and windows are securely locked (including any outbuildings).
- Don't close all your blinds. Try to keep an everyday appearance.
- Keep the temperature of your house in mind before you leave so the animals are comfortable. Check faucets, toilets and water heaters as well.
- Keep the perimeter of your house well lighted, but don't change it significantly from when you are at home.
- If you will be gone for more than a week, consider arranging for yard care while you are away.
- Let us know via email or text when you get home. The pet always comes first!