

## Summertime and the Boarding's not Easy

Traditionally, my husband and I have taken a summer vacation. We love to travel and have been to virtually all parts of the globe from Europe to Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South America, Scandinavia and most recently to Turkey, the Greeks Isles, Morocco, Israel and Egypt. We have always enjoyed traveling although I have to confess, it has become much more inconvenient, unpleasant and expensive to travel since the increased threat of terrorism, heightened security, decrease in luxury and service of the airlines and dire global economy have impacted what used to be a far more enjoyable and comfortable experience.

At any rate, rather than traveling this year to an exotic location in another part of the world, I have decided to take short trips near home. My husband and I have also decided to remodel our twenty-six year old house— we've actually been at it for several months now. Our contractor is wonderful, and he assures us that all work will be completed within the month. I choose to believe him, as he has been very reliable and competent thus far.

Most recently, since last week, we have been remodeling our master bedroom. This entailed renting a POD (portable storage unit currently ensconced on our driveway) and placing our rather massive bedroom furniture inside it while carpeting is replaced and walls and ceilings are painted. The dogs that live with us in our bedroom have been temporarily relocated (displaced) to the kitchen, utility room and breakfast room, and the group that usually inhabits this space has been boarded. The boarded dogs are: Innoko, Tallon, Lucado, Kali, Cassie and Higgins. Yes, thus six of our dogs are at our favorite boarding facility, Canine Country Inn in Argyle Texas. The owner, Bob, Kneipf, is a wonderful guy and, thankfully, loves and takes excellent care of our babies. Still, it is a hardship to have our family divided and our house in total disarray. And I thought I was unorganized before. Now, there is "stuff" from the bedroom in every other room. Nearly every day that passes, I am in search of house and car keys, my purse, the right pair of shoes, my research materials for the articles and book I am writing, etc. Even my cell phone has disappeared on a number of occasions – definitely not fun!

And, then, I visit the dogs at their boarding facility. It is climate-controlled, well-managed and welcoming. And yet I still feel guilty every time I visit my dogs as they fully expect me to take them back home with me. They greet me with indescribable eagerness, happiness and relief. I bring them treats and their favorite toys, but I still feel guilty leaving them behind. I even cook for them and bring them special meals for each day of their stay – to the total envy of all the other dogs being boarded at the kennel.

Well, hopefully, the bedroom will be finished this weekend, my boarded dogs will return home on Sunday, and my "bedroom dogs" will come back to our bedroom. Perhaps some sense of "normalcy" will return to our household. Hmmmmmm. Maybe I should take a vacation after all!