



The British Veterinary Centre

Should I Bring my Dog to the United Arab Emirates?

It all depends on how much time you have to give your pet once you are living here.

Most dogs can manage the heat and will adapt the same way we do, i.e. stay in air con when it's really hot in summer and exercise in the evenings or early morning. Many of our owners take their dogs swimming and boating around the islands. Just keep plenty fresh cool water around, same as you would do for yourself.

Of course, in summer it will be harder for a Husky than a Saluki - what breed is your pet? Small dogs are easier to manage on all fronts but we see a lot of large breed dog clients at the British Veterinary Centre including Danes, Mastiffs, Wolfhounds etc. The winter months are great for all concerned and if not out on the boats you could be out in the desert, which dogs also love.

If you won't have time for this, plan to live in a small apartment or work all day, we would suggest not bringing your pet to the UAE.

It's a balance between separation from you, which is also a hardship, and maintaining a lifestyle that accommodates needs. You might not get a perfect solution but still decide your pet is better off here with you, than rehomed elsewhere. If you are out here to work very long hours and don't have the time to look after your pet, then rehoming is a better option.

Local attitudes to dogs vary greatly. It is best to avoid busy city streets, where some Asians in particular can be extremely scared of dogs. It's inaccurate to say that local people universally don't like dogs, although you will hear many Western people say this. While some are very anti-dog, religious texts advocate kindness towards animals and condemn cruelty. Contact with dogs is not prohibited but washing afterwards and before prayer, is mandatory. Respect other's views by keeping your dog under control and not allowing him to approach unsuspecting or nervous people. Sub continental Asians can be especially scared of dogs. This fear stems from being raised in areas with minimal medical facilities where rabies exists (it doesn't here), so it's understandable. On the other hand some of our best clients are local people or Asians who love their pets dearly. In our experience the better off and better educated, together with the rural community, are comfortable with animals in general.

More people arrive here all the time and it seems most prefer to keep their pets with them, especially since travel back to UK or elsewhere no longer involves quarantine, but everything really depends on your individual circumstances.