

Preparation is Key

We've compiled this checklist to help you prepare your pets and your home for a successful petsitting visit.

- Make your reservations with The Pawfessionals as far in advance as possible. It is important to call us if you are coming home later or earlier than expected. This will allow the pet sitter to plan for extra visits.
- Have everything necessary to care for your pet in one general, visible area. This includes food, treats, leash, utensils, food/water bowls, medications, leash, can opener, toys, paper towels, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, litter and scoop, broom and dustpan and/or vacuum cleaner, towels (for rainy walks), newspapers (if paper training), watering can for plants, etc.
- Provide extra food, litter and supplies just in case you are not able to return when anticipated.
- Be sure to leave plastic bags for sanitary disposal of pet waste. Our sitters are happy to perform this task while you're away, but shouldn't be expected to clean up accumulation prior to your absence!
- Clean out the refrigerator before leaving to avoid food spoilage, and wash any dishes in the sink to prevent ants or other pests.
- Adjust your thermostat before leaving and advise your pet sitter within what range to keep it. A closed-up home can get uncomfortably warm in a short time.
- If you're leaving anything specifically for your pet sitter; e.g., monetary tip, candies, homegrown tomatoes on the counter, be sure to leave a note letting them know.
- Check to make sure the two keys we require are working smoothly (*freshly cut keys from Home Depot or Lowe's can be "rough" or difficult to use*).
- Will other people be checking on your pet? Avoid confusion by making it clear what the pet sitter is responsible for and what other visitors will be entrusted to do. Make sure your pet sitter is aware of anyone who may be on your premises or entering your home during the pet-sitting assignment.
- Notify your vet that a pet sitter will be caring for your pet and authorize the vet to extend medical care during your absence if it becomes necessary.
- Use timers on interior lights to go on at dusk and off at bedtime as well as motion sensors on exterior lights. If evening visits are scheduled to your home, the sitter will really appreciate this safety precaution!
- Make sure doors and windows are securely locked before leaving. This should include garage doors, sliding glass doors and basement doors and windows. Make sure any fences are secure and gates are locked.
- Advise gate security/doorman that a pet sitter will be visiting your home and authorize entry. **Be sure the sitter's name is on the list of approved visitors**, and that the doorman has a phone number where you can be reached.
- Alert alarm company of an authorized person in the home and be sure they have the name of your sitter.
- Inform your neighbors of your absence and use of a pet sitter. Leave a key with a neighbor/friend in case of an emergency or in the event of extreme weather.
- If you plan to be away for a while, mow the lawn before you leave and arrange for exterior maintenance during your absence from home.
- Be sure to leave toilet lids down, trash emptied, off-limit rooms closed, cabinets & closets closed.
- Take our phone number with you. It is: 1-866-994-7297**

the
Pawfessionals
Dog Walkers & Pet Sitters