

## **The Owner's Guide to Pet Sitting**

- Make your reservations for a pet sitter as far in advance as possible
- Please let your pet sitter know if you will be arriving home late on the day of the last visit
- Have everything necessary to care for your pet(s) in one general and visible area or let your sitter know where they are kept. This includes:
  - Food/Treats
  - Utensils/ Food & Water Bowls
  - Medications (including flea meds)
  - Leash
  - Can Opener
  - Toys
  - Paper Towels/Towels/Cleaning Supplies
  - Garbage Bags
  - Litter & Scoop/Doggie bags
  - Broom & Dustpan or Vacuum Cleaner
  - Newspapers (if necessary)
  - Watering Can for plants
- Even if you prefer that your sitter use a garage door opener, please also provide a house key, because during power failures, garage door openers will not work.
- If you have a key made, please try it out to be sure it works.
- Please provide extra food, litter, and supplies just in case they are needed. You may not be able to return home when anticipated and the extras may become a necessity. We will be happy to pick up necessary supplies, although a fee will be charged.
- It is a good idea to clean out the refrigerator before leaving, to avoid smelly food spoilage, and to wash any dishes in the sink, to prevent ants or other pests.
- Please adjust your thermostat before leaving for the comfort of your pet(s).

### **Specific Pet Needs**

- Tell us about all minor and major health problems your pet(s) may have.
- Make sure the collar fits. Otherwise, your dog could slip out of a loose collar while being walked
- If your dog is prone to chew, please leave chew toys and take proper precautions to guard your personal items and home furnishings.
- Make your sitter aware of any unusual habits your pets have, i.e. destructive behavior, change in bowel or eating habits when left alone.
- Let your sitter know which rooms are off limits and please close those doors or securely restrict your pets' access. Make a list of your pets' favorite hiding places if needed.
- Be sure your sitter has the current number for your veterinarian.

## **Safety**

- Advise your sitter of anyone who may be on your premises or entering your home during your absence. Housekeeper, Relatives, Friends, etc
- Instruct anyone else coming or going to make sure to securely lock door locks, pet area, & swimming pool area.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked before leaving.
- Consider leaving a television or radio on while you are away. The noise can be a crime deterrent as well as provide companionship for your pet.
- Unplug any unnecessary appliances before you leave. This will prevent damage from electrical storms as well as injuries to mischievous pets.
- It is a good idea to continue your paper & mail service—the fewer people who know you are gone, the better. Just remind the sitter to pick them up for you.

## **Reminders**

\*Please feel free to call and check on your pets anytime!

\*Please advise your veterinarian that a sitter will be caring for your pet(s) and authorize the vet to extend medical care during your absence, if it becomes necessary. You may also want to give the veterinarian your credit card number. Or, you can give the vet half of your credit card number and give your sitter the other half.

\*Keep your sitter's phone number with you.

\*Advise gate security/neighbors/etc. that a sitter will be visiting your home and authorize entry.

\*Create a password for your security company, which your sitter can use if the alarm is tripped. Be sure to advise your sitter of the word.

\*Give a key to a nearby neighbor as a backup in the event of extreme weather. Be sure to inform your sitter of the neighbors name & number and give your pet sitters name & number to your neighbor.

\*When you arrive back home, please call to let your pet sitter know you are home safe!