

Choosing Pet Sitters

Not everyone planning a vacation this summer will take their pets along, opting instead to leave them in the care of a pet sitter. Fetch! Pet Care (Berkeley, Calif.) suggests asking 10 questions to find a reliable pet-sitting service:

1. Is the service fully licensed, bonded and insured?
2. Will the service provide at least three references who are amenable to being contacted?
3. Is the service available by telephone and e-mail seven days a week?
4. Does the service run a criminal background check and properly train all sitters?
5. Can the service accommodate the pet's daily feeding and walking schedule, as well as your vacation schedule?
6. Does the service conduct a pre-interview with pets to observe interactions and establish a comfort level?
7. Will the sitter allocate time for walking, playing, feeding, cleaning and so on, according to your instructions?
8. Does the service have emergency medical procedures in place? Does it have experience with animal first-aid training or administering medications, if needed?
9. Does the service have backup measures in place should a sitter be called away from an assignment?
10. Is the service a member of Pet Sitters International or the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters?



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