

# Questions to Ask Before a House Sit

Print this list and check off each topic as you discuss it with the homeowner

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## About the Pets

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- How many pets? Names, breeds, and ages
- Daily routine — feeding times, amounts, and food brand
- Where do they sleep?
- Walking schedule, routes, and favorite parks
- Any medications, allergies, or health conditions?
- Special diet or feeding restrictions?
- Behavior with strangers, other dogs, cats, children?
- Separation anxiety or reactivity?
- Resource guarding issues?
- Interactions between pets — pecking order, conflicts?

## About the Home

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- WiFi password and streaming logins
- Heating / cooling system and thermostat
- Parking — garage, driveway, permit needed?
- Appliance instructions (washer, oven, dishwasher)
- Alarm system — how to arm and disarm
- Security cameras — locations disclosed?
- Any rooms off-limits?
- Where is the vacuum, cleaning supplies?
- Garbage and recycling — schedule and sorting?
- Welcome guide available?

## Communication and Expectations

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- How often do they want updates?
- Preferred communication channel (WhatsApp, SMS, GPS)?
- Can you have guests? Partner? Overnight visitors?
- Any tasks beyond pet care (plants, mail, car)?
- Arrival time and departure time
- Is there an overlap / handover period?

## Emergencies

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- Vet name, address, and direct phone number
- Emergency vet (after-hours) details
- Pet insurance — policy number and claims contact
- Local emergency contact (neighbor, family, friend)
- Pet first aid kit location
- Cat carriers or dog crate location
- Budget threshold for emergency vet care
- Any procedures they would not want performed?
- Chronic conditions — when to call vet vs wait?

## The Neighborhood

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- Off-leash areas nearby?
- Dogs in the neighborhood to avoid?
- Nearest grocery store, pharmacy, hospital
- Food delivery services that work at this address?
- Wildlife or hazards to watch for?
- Which neighbors know you'll be there?
- Neighbor with a spare key?
- Public transport options — bus, train, bike?

## Red Flags to Watch For

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- Vague answers about pet behavior
- No vet information available
- Excessive rules without explanations
- Reluctance to video call or meet
- Downplaying the workload
- No overlap offered