

Quality Pet Care Checklist

- Vaccination Requirements** Do the vaccination policies and safety protocols of the service provider ensure only HEALTHY companions surround your pet. Some pet sitters forgo vaccination policies. Choose a place that makes policies clear by mentioning vaccination requirements on its website and by verifying proof of vaccinations.
- Clean and Roomy** Make sure the environment offers plenty of outside and/or indoor room for exercise and playtime. Cramped spaces lead to unhappy and stressed pets. Strict cleaning protocols are critical to ensuring a healthy, safe and clutter-free environment. If considering an in-home option, visually inspect for hazards including toxic chemicals such as antifreeze and objects that could be swallowed. Ask the provider what precautions they have taken to remove unsafe objects from the environment where your pet will be staying.
- Security & Safety Protocols** Pet care providers should maintain a clean and secure environment by investing in such things as pet-secure fencing, proper ventilation, temperature controlled rooms, continuous monitoring of pets throughout the day, etc. Personal homes should have similar protections to ensure pet safety.
- Proper Supervision** Trust, training and experience are critical! Dog bites, neglect and property damage are some of the top insurance claims for pet sitters who fail to supervise the pets under their care. Often the PET OWNER is held responsible.
- Hours of Actual Care** Ensure your provider has staff available both during and outside typical business hours to ensure supervision throughout your pet's entire stay. Many pet sitters only drop in to feed and walk a dog for a short time -- obviously not the best option for pets that deserve more constant care and companionship.
- Activities** Activities give your furry friend plenty of physical and exercise and mental stimulation. Activities should be designed and staffed to give dogs the opportunity to socialize and play with other dogs--SAFELY--unlike what they may experience in someone else's home or with untrained employees.
- Comfortable Accommodations** Your pet should experience the ultimate in comfort and pampering with accommodations such as comfortable/clean bedding, continuous fresh water, soothing music, climate controlled rooms, activities customized to your pet and more. Your pet is family -- he or she should be happy during his or her stay.
- Professional, Trained Staff** Professional, committed, caring and trained staff members are essential to the comfort and safety of your pet. All staff members should be capable of handling critical pet care responsibilities. Beware of individuals who claim they have experience but lack proper credentials and expertise.
- Reliability** Ensure your provider has enough staff members available to deliver the highest quality of care to all furry guests, even when someone is sick or has family issues. They should also make special accommodations to ensure a reliable, pet-loving staff is capable of taking care of issues both before and if they happen.
- Customer & Industry Approval** Find a provider who has gained the trust of other discerning pet parents. Local veterinarian's recommendations are a great place to start. Check the website for any independent awards, nominations, or certifications, and make sure to ask for references.
- Trustworthy Staff** It's important that you only leave your pet with someone you know and trust well, especially when someone you don't know enters your home. Beware of places with any clues the staff may let uninvited guests near your pet.
- Licensed and Approved Business** State and local licenses and other requirements are there for you and your pet's protection. Make sure your provider follows all state/local requirements and operates a business, not just a paid hobby. This will give you peace of mind that professionals are taking care of your loved one in a secure environment.
- Availability** The best service providers will have limited availability during busy travel and holiday seasons. Be sure to book early to ensure your pet is taken care of by one of the better providers.