**Pet Owner Checklist**

**Preparing Your Animals**

These steps will help ensure that your pets start off on the right foot while you are away from them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure that your pet’s health problems, if they have any, have been taken care of.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pick up any medications your pets may need and have them in a secure area for your sitter.

\_\_\_\_\_ File any paperwork, such as your Vet Authorization and/or credit card information, with your veterinarian.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure that all collars have been fitted on your dog and are not too tight or too loose.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure that all pets have current identification tags and that they are placed on the collar.

\_\_\_\_\_ Register each of your pets with a lost pet register connected to your local animal shelter.

\_\_\_\_\_ Take digital photographs of each of your animals showing their markings and distinctive features.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure that all food and water dishes and pet bedding are clean.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure that pets have all of their favorite toys at their disposal.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure there is an adequate supply of food and/or treats with instructions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure that all personal care items are readily available for sitter.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure there is enough cat litter, towels, plastic bags, shovels, or any other materials needed to take care of cleaning up animal messes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure a pet carrier is available for transportation.

**Preparing Your Home**

When a new baby enters a home, the parents child proof the home to make sure their baby is safe. Before you leave you should pet proof your home so that your house sitter, who doesn’t know the hazards of your home, can make sure your pets are as safe as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ Put anything away that could be harmful to your pets, such as Christmas tree decorations, tinsel, pine needles, firewood, strings, ribbon, pesticides, medicines, chocolates, and paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ Place all hazardous substances, such as rat poison, slug killer, fertilizers, antifreeze and pesticides up high on a shelf or locked away.

­­­­\_\_\_\_\_ Seal off any routes to your cellar or attic so that your pets don’t become lost in these hard-to-get-to spaces.

\_\_\_\_\_ Block your pets’ usual escape routes from your property. You may need to repair holes in the fence or fill scraped-out depressions beneath fences or gates with heavy objects.

\_\_\_\_\_ Secure any gates on your property, including those to a swimming pool.

\_\_\_\_\_ Unplug any appliances that your house sitter won’t be using to prevent possible accidents.

\_\_\_\_\_ Consider installing a door flap, if you don’t have one already, so that your animals can leave the house if they need to go to the bathroom outside or if they have to escape during a fire or flood.

\_\_\_\_\_ Have your cleaning supplies in a prearranged area for your house sitter. This can include your vacuum cleaner, mop, broom, dustpan, gloves, disinfectant, sponges and trash bags etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Just before you leave, ensure that the right pets are inside the house.

\_\_\_\_\_ If your pet escapes the house before you leave, tell your house sitter where to look for the animal.

\_\_\_\_\_ Let the sitter know if there are any rooms that are off limits for pets and sitters.

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