

Choosing a reliable kitty sitter

The next time you're out of town, who will take care of Fluffy or Felix?

Some cat families choose to board their kitty at a veterinary clinic or boarding facility. The advantage is that people are present to observe and care for your cat throughout the day. Other cat families opt to use a kitty sitter stopping in to provide care. The advantage is that your cat stays in his or her home.



Choosing a kitty sitter can be difficult since not everyone has the same standards of care. You want someone who will do more than just fill up a food bowl and instead, provide the daily care that your cat needs while you are away. If possible, ask family members or friends for a referral. In all cases, ask lots of questions about what you and your cat can expect from your kitty sitter while you are away.



What type of person makes the best kitty sitter? Look for someone who:

- Loves cats! Are they truly fixated on felines – or just think cats are easy to care for?
- Maintains a regular cat-sitting schedule. You'll want someone who takes their responsibilities seriously and doesn't just "fit you in."
- Has experience with cats (or whatever your type of pet).
- Provides good references. Be sure to find out what others think and what they liked or didn't like about the kitty sitter's services.
- Has no criminal history. Enough said!

What should you ask a prospective kitty sitter?

Plan a first meeting with a prospective kitty sitter to get to know them and to see how they interact with your cat or cats. During this interview, find out:

- How much time will the kitty sitter spend with your cat each day? Request a minimum of 45 minutes to an hour per visit at least once a day, but ideally twice daily.
- What will he/she do during this time? Feeding alone is not enough. Daily interaction, play and observation are all important to your cat's wellbeing.
- Will they schedule a no-charge "orientation" to learn about your cat's needs, normal behavior and routines? It's important for your cat to be familiar with the kitty sitter before you leave.
- What services does kitty sitting include? You want someone who will clean litter boxes daily, give medication and transport your cat to the veterinarian if needed.
- How committed are they? Make sure you are both on the same page in terms of expectations and standards for care.
- Is the pet sitter bonded and insured? If not, there are risks to your home and property.
- Does the kitty sitter know pet CPR and are they trained in handling pet medical emergencies?
- What are the kitty's sitter's fees and how will you be charged? Be sure you agree on this ahead of time!





Kitty Sitter Daily Checklist:

Kitty sitter: Please use this form to provide the cat's family with daily updates on his/her care. Please use a separate form for each cat you are caring for.

Name of cat: _____ Date: _____

TIME OF VISITS

Time / a.m. _____ Time / p.m. _____

CAT PRESENCE

Was the cat visible? ____ Yes ____ No Did you interact with the cat? ____ Yes ____ No

FOOD GIVEN

Type of food: _____ Time fed: _____

Amount fed: _____ Amount consumed: _____

EXCREMENT - Did you observe any of the following:

____ Runny stool _____ Blood in stool _____ Hard stool

____ Blood in urine _____ Small spots of urine _____ None

____ Other _____

Number of urine balls scooped: _____ Number of poops scooped: _____

BEHAVIOR - Did you notice any of the following:

____ Straining in the litter box _____ Crying _____ Hiding/isolation

____ Not eating _____ Lethargy _____ Licking lips

____ Sneezing/coughing _____ Open mouth breathing _____ None

____ Other _____

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

Did the cat get outside? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, explain _____

Did the cat eat/ingest anything other than food/treats? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, explain _____

Did the cat exhibit any wounds or rashes? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, explain _____

Please complete and email this form to: _____



Information for your kitty sitter

We recommend reviewing this information in an "orientation" with your cat sitter prior to your departure.

INSERT PHOTO
OF YOUR CAT

Fill out this page for each cat.

About your cat

Cat's name: _____

Description: _____

Regular food / treats: _____

Amount: _____

Meal schedule: _____

Food restrictions: _____

Regular / favorite activities: _____

Likes / dislikes: _____

Rooms or furniture off limits: _____

What to avoid (leaving out food, leaving out ribbon, etc.): _____

Hiding places: _____

Special instructions: _____

Micro chipped: _____ Yes _____ No

Allergies, if any: _____

Medications, if any:

_____ Dosage: _____
How often: _____ When: _____ Directions: _____

_____ Dosage: _____
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Information for your kitty sitter

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Veterinary care

Veterinarian: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency veterinarian: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Supplies

Food is stored: _____

Litter boxes are located: _____

Scooper is located: _____

Trash bags are stored: _____

Where to discard soiled litter: _____

Your information

Departure time/date: _____ Return time / date: _____

Airlines / flight numbers: _____

Where you will be staying (hotel, room number): _____

Cell phone: _____

Local contact name / phone: _____

Home security code/directions: _____

Disaster plan

If the kitty sitter is unable to reach your home due to a natural disaster or impassable weather, who should they call?

Before you leave

- Put out copies of your cat's recent veterinary history including vaccinations.
- Pet proof your home – close doors to rooms that you want to keep pets out of and let the kitty sitter know to keep these doors closed.
- Put supplies out in an obvious place.
- Keep a spare key at a neighbor's house.
- Contact your veterinarian to let him/her know you are leaving; give them your kitty sitter's name and phone number.