

MAKING A HOUSE SIT SELECTION

Part IV of IV

I've read listings where the homeowner rambles on with all kinds of conditions and requirements and I decided they were not someone I wanted to deal with. I'm not talking about instructions like trash day and dog feeding times as that info is usually relayed in person or written out in a kind of guide for you to refer to online and when you get there. This is different. It could be they are just new to using a house sitter and are trying to be clear and concise. After all, they are about to ask a stranger to come into their home unsupervised and have access to everything and take care of their 'fur babies'. It's stressful. I'm a retired cop and can prove it so I will be accepted more quickly than a single young person trying to do this. Don't be surprised if a homeowner has a locked room, closet or cabinet to secure items from the sitter the same way they might if renting out the house as an Airbnb.

Communication is key, especially before you accept a sit and even while it's in progress. Ask questions and stay in touch via email or texts. If you haven't traveled much yourself and are unfamiliar with it, **WhatsApp** uses the internet to send messages. If the homeowner can get on the internet, even overseas, you can text them. FYI: so far, every house I've sat at has had internet. They may not have cable or satellite TV, AC or a washer and dryer, but WiFi is almost guaranteed.

So, to recap: your first considerations when applying to a pet sit are **location and duration**. Next, are the **animal care responsibilities** which determine how much free time you'll have. Third are **restrictions and requirements** indicated by the homeowners. And lastly, is **communication**. When you talk to the homeowner, ask questions and get a feel for whether you want to work with this person. I've never backed out of a pet sit once we've talked and I always, ALWAYS, send photos and videos of the pets to the owners during my stay.