

## MAKING A HOUSE SIT SELECTION

### Part II of IV

If the homeowner is coming back from overseas or even across country, I try to arrange to stay over one extra night. Example: they are due back from Hawaii Thursday night at 9:30 PM and they have no one else who can go check on the dog if they are delayed. If they have room for me to stay the night even if they do return on time, I will plan my travel for Friday. Sometimes I will have a hostel or motel reserved in the area that I can cancel if I must stay at the house. Chances are the homeowner would reimburse me for money I lose if I can't get a refund on the room. Of course, if they have someone who can check on the dog and let it out in the morning, you can plan on leaving that day. Or maybe you're caring for a cat and all you must do is clean the litter box and put down extra food and water and it's fine even if they are delayed overnight.

If you decide to search any of the housesitting sites, you'll find that probably 98% have animals to care for. Rarely you will see just a house with only plant watering, trash cans to take out and mail to be brought in. If you are going somewhere that you hope to do a lot of sightseeing and activities, and you don't see a house with no pets, then look for a cat sit or some other critter that doesn't need the time and care a dog needs. If that cat needs meds throughout the day, it's another one to pass on. If the dog needs to be walked at 7, noon, 5 and before bed because they have no backyard access through a doggie door, pass on it or plan on getting back for each walk.

**TrustedHousesitters.com** has a category on each listing for 'Responsibilities' so you know what is expected of you. Some other sites don't have anything that specific, but the homeowner may spell it out in their narrative. If you apply without knowing, be sure to either state in your application email that you would like time to sightsee and mention it again if the homeowner contacts you. Don't be afraid to decline their offer to 'hire' you if it's not what you hoped. Mostly, don't accept a sit and cancel. I've only ever cut one sit short and cancelled the one right afterward due to a family emergency.

To Be Continued...