

HOUSE SITTER'S CHECKLIST & INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

This list is made up of questions we, as house sitters ourselves, have asked over the years and is here for you to amend and refine so that it's relevant to your own house sitting experiences.

We don't suggest that you ask ALL of these questions or conduct a "formal" interview, which might intimidate the homeowners. Our approach is to chat generally and see what things are covered first in *natural conversation*. Remember, the homeowner is likely to have a list of their questions too.

Then we ask specific questions that fit with the flow of the dialog. At the end of the chat we ask for a moment to check our list. Any unanswered questions can then be brought into the conversation.

DATES

Double check the dates before you start the interview. Make sure nothing has changed since you applied, and that dates are confirmed. If traveling by air - have they booked their flights?

LOCATION

- Precise location – how accessible is it by plane, train or car?
- Is it a remote location? Is the property at high altitude?
- How close is their nearest neighbor? Are they friends?
- Is it a noisy or quiet neighborhood? Is there passing traffic through the night?
- Is it an area where firecrackers are regularly set off?
- Is there any construction in the neighborhood that we should know about?
- Is it a safe neighborhood - and for walking?
- Is a car included? If not, how far to WALK to bus stops, train stations etc.?

- How close are the nearest food shops, markets, medical services, fuel, vets etc. with and without a car?
- Is a vehicle available for pet or other emergencies?
- Are there bicycles for use?
- What activities are available? Hiking, swimming, gym etc.
- What's the weather like **at time of the house sit**?
- Is sit in an area at risk of hurricanes, fires, flooding, or other extreme weather?

PETS

- Reconfirm the pets to be cared for (confirm their names)
- Have they left them with house sitters before? If yes, how was it?
- How old are the pets and are there any health considerations?
- If dogs, what breed and how big?
- Are your pets neutered/ spayed?
- Are they indoor or outdoor dogs?
- What is their temperament?
- Are they socialized with people and other pets?
- If dogs, do you walk on or off leash?
- Can the dogs be walked from the house, or do you need a car?
- Have dogs ever bitten another dog, or a person?
- If outside dogs, do they bark often during day / and or nighttime?
- What is daily routine (times) – feeding, exercise, and activities?
- What do they eat? Are any special meals pre-prepared?
- If cats, are they allowed outside?
- Is there any medication that will need to be administered?
- Are they regularly treated for fleas?
- Are your pets vaccinated?
- Do you have pet insurance?
- How will vet be paid in event of needing to get pet care?
- Where do the animals sleep?
- Can the pets be left on their own and for how long?
- Any special requirements regarding the pets (doggie swimming, grooming)?
- For older or sick pets it would be wise to also discuss preferred arrangements should difficult decisions need to be made.

PROPERTY

- How big is the house and garden or grounds?
- Is the property secure, in a gated community or with an alarm?
- If they have an alarm system, does it include security cameras?
- Are there additional surveillance cameras, indoors / outdoors?
- Where will you be sleeping?
- Home facilities will depend on your needs: TV, washing machine, well equipped kitchen?
- Communication facilities – telephone (if no mobile service), Internet access and reliability (especially if satellite)
- What is the quality of the Internet and do they often lose the connection or suffer problems (especially if you need to work online)?
- Who will pay for the utilities – electric, gas, firewood (assume included in short term sits)?
- If relevant, do they have a wood burner or open fire? Has the flue/chimney been regularly cleaned and maintained?
- Do they have solar or any other off-grid systems that need maintaining?
- What about lawns and gardens while you are away?
- Are there indoor plants to be watered?
- Do they have an automatic watering system?
- Are they on mains power, water, gas etc.?
- Do they have a generator?
- Pool system if applicable
- Do they have any employees such as a Housekeeper / Gardener / Pool Care / Property Manager?
- Is there a maintenance or property management company involved?
- Will these staff be maintained and paid for during your stay?
- Will any areas of the house be off limits?
- If you have issues with insects - ask about spiders, ants, mosquitoes or scorpions, especially in tropical or jungle locations.
- Anything else we need to know about their property?

MISCELLANEOUS - GENERAL QUESTIONS

- You might want to enquire what they do? Do they work or are they retired, etc.
- If no transport provided, can they pick you up from airport or bus station?
- Do they need a ride to the airport on departure or to be picked up on return?
- If appropriate what day trip options are available in the area?
- Is this house sit in an off-season period – if in a tourist area?
- Have they used house sitters before and how was it?
- How long for handover and where will you stay during that time?
- Do they smoke? (If that is an issue for you)
- Will they want to use a house sitting agreement?
- Do they have a homeowner manual or welcome guide with all relevant information and emergency numbers, contacts etc.?
- If no guide, would they be happy to complete a questionnaire that you send them in advance?
- Can you invite friends or family into the home for dinner / as overnight guests?
- Will they be leaving you an emergency cash fund?

REMEMBER THIS IS A GUIDE ONLY - TRY AND KEEP YOUR INTERVIEW NATURAL

**This checklist is part of the House Sitting Magazine
online video course for house sitters**

For more information go to:

[How to Become a Successful International House Sitter](#)

