THE PET SITTER CHECKLIST

Before you hand over the keys

Whether you're asking a neighbor, a sitter from an app or a professional team, walk through these questions together. If the answers help you leave feeling calm, you've found the right fit.

01 THE BASICS

- [ ] **Insured and bonded in your own name?** An app's guarantee isn't always insurance.
- [ ] **Is pet care your full-time work?**
- [ ] **What training and background checks?** Pet first aid, behavior, safe handling.
- [ ] **Who can I call if I can't reach you?** Who else can step in?
- [ ] **A consultation before care begins?** So nothing depends on memory.
- [ ] **What will updates include?** Eating, potty, energy, mood.

02 ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

WHEN PLANS CHANGE

- [ ] **Who covers if my sitter is sick or snowed in?**
  How will they know my pets' care plan?
- [ ] **Can care be extended if my flight is delayed?**
- [ ] **What if you can't get in?**
  Frozen lockbox, dead keypad, lost key.
- [ ] **How are my keys, codes and info kept secure?**

IN MY HOME

- [ ] **Will my home look lived-in?**
- [ ] **If someone gets hurt caring for my pets here, whose insurance covers it?**
  With a friend or independent sitter, it may be yours.

ALASKA-READY

- [ ] **What if the power or furnace goes out?**
  Who notices, and what happens next?
- [ ] **What's the earthquake plan?**
  If pets bolt or hide during a visit.
- [ ] **How do you handle moose on walks?**
- [ ] **How do you adjust walks in deep cold and ice?**

MY KIND OF PET

- [ ] **Experience with my species?**
  Senior cats, rabbits, birds and backyard flocks each need different care.

03 DON'T FORGET!

GET IT ON PAPER

- [ ] **Signed vet authorization**
  with a spending limit
- [ ] **A named backup decision-maker**
- [ ] **Emergency pet guardianship form**
- [ ] **Microchip registered to your current number**

WRITE IT DOWN

- [ ] **Your pet's normal:**
  water, potty, sleep spots, appetite
- [ ] **Routine order that matters**
  like walk before breakfast
- [ ] **Hiding spots and quirks**

Page 2 has room for all of it.

What does professional care look like? Pet Sitters International released the first Global Standards for Professional Pet Sitting and Dog Walking in October 2025. Hooman for Hire is a PSI member and follows these standards. Read them at petsit.com/standards

LEAVE THIS FOR YOUR SITTER

While I'm away

Fill this out, keep it on the fridge, and update it before each trip.

TRIP & CONTACTS

Leaving _____

Returning _____

Where I'll be _____

My phone _____

Backup decision-maker _____

Their phone _____

Spare key with _____

Furnace / power co. _____

VET CARE

Our vet _____

Phone _____

24-hr emergency vet _____

Approved spending limit $ _____

ABOUT EACH PET

Pet 1

Name / species _____

Microchip # _____

Food & amount _____

Meds & timing _____

Hiding spots _____

Pet 2

Name / species _____

Microchip # _____

Food & amount _____

Meds & timing _____

Hiding spots _____

WHERE THINGS ARE

Carriers & leashes _____

Cleaning supplies _____

Extra food & meds _____

Pet first aid kit _____

ROUTINES, QUIRKS & ANYTHING ELSE