



Choosing a Professional Pet Sitter for Your Kitten







National Kitten Coalition

Utilize this checklist to help prepare yourself and your kitten for time away! Learn tips on what to look for in a professional pet sitter and how to prepare before leaving.






Choosing a Professional Pet Sitter:


Consider the benefits of a professional pet sitter who is:

-  **Licensed** to operate a pet sitting business and **insured** and **bonded**
-  **Certified** by a professional pet sitter organization, which may require:
 - Passing exams
 - Agreeing to recommended quality standards
 - Continuing education hours
 - Adhering to a code of conduct and ethics
-  **Trained** to recognize signs of illness and pain
-  **Committed** to providing quality care, including Fear Free and proper handling



When choosing a professional pet sitter:

-  **Check** the websites of professional pet sitter associations to locate pet sitters in your area
-  **Visit** the website of the pet sitters you're considering to review their:
 - Areas of service
 - Fees
 - Training (they may be licensed/certified/registered veterinary technicians, certified in pet CPR, able to give medications, injections and subcutaneous fluids)
 - Other services offered (opening and closing curtains, watering plants and taking in the mail, newspapers and packages)
-  **Meet** the potential pet sitters to see how they interact with your pets and have a list of questions to ask them, such as whether they provide lost pet flyers or carry a wallet alert card that includes your pet
-  **Request** recent references who you can contact
-  **Ask** for proof of licensing and bonding

 **All Star Travel Tip:** Before you hire a pet sitter for a longer time period, such as a week or two coverage, do a trial run by having the pet sitter care for your pet for 1 or 2 days while you take a mini vacation.











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Preparing for time away:

Always provide a pet sitter with:












-  **Health records**
-  **Recent photos**
-  **Microchip information**
-  **Unusual behaviors and hiding places**
-  **Brushes, combs and toys**
-  **Cat carrier**


All Star Travel Tips:

- Always safely store wand toys when not in use
- Keep your cat carrier out so that your feline learns to view it as a safe place to relax



Prepare ahead:

-  **Discuss** with your veterinarian what emergency services you authorize for your kitten during your absence
-  **Clip** your kitten's nails
-  **Gather** all your kitten's toys, supplies, medications and food and bowls in as few, safe places as possible
-  **Have** plenty of extra litter so the pet sitter don't run out
-  **Provide** bags for dumping used litter and safe cleaning products in case accidents occur
-  **Put** plants in as few places as possible, and provide a water meter, to prevent your plants from being under- or over-watered, and a watering container
-  **Alert** trusted neighbors that you will be gone, give them your pet sitter's contact information and vice versa in case of an emergency and, if possible, introduce them to your pet sitter
-  **Provide** someone else with your house keys in case something, for example, a snow storm, prevents the pet sitter from getting to your home
-  **Provide** your pet sitter with your travel and contact information
-  **Provide** the names and numbers for your electrician, plumber, water and gas providers, security system, heating and A/C, home and car insurance, and snow shoveler
-  **Provide** your WIFI network and password

 **All Star Travel Tip:** If you've made new sets of house keys, always check that they work before distributing them.

