

**EARN A
5-STAR
RATING**



TEN FAIL- PROOF HOUSE SITTING TIPS

TIP #1

MAKE YOUR PROFILE INTERESTING

Honesty up front is the best policy. You can make your profile interesting without having to lie or embellish the truth. Be enthusiastic.

If you have never sat professionally but have privately for friends or co-workers, put that in your profile.

Add photos to back up your statements. Make sure you add a photo of yourself! This is how we started – with 5 years of private pet/house sitting.



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TIP #2

LOVE PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

Your hosts will be able to tell if you are genuine and are really enthused about meeting them and looking after their house and beloved pets.

Be real! Show you care. Show an interest and ask questions about them and their pet(s).

Sometimes pets are a little skittish and won't come readily to you. The owners will tell you this. Be patient; if you show love and caring, they will eventually trust you.



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TIP #3

KEEP IN CONTACT – BEFORE AND DURING THE SIT

Homeowners appreciate you keeping in contact with them before the sit.

Once you have accepted the posting, keep in touch with them. They need to feel assured that you are still on board and that they can rely on you.

If for some reason you can't keep the commitment, let them know as soon as possible so they can replace you.

During the sit, if there are pets involved, take photos of their pets interacting with you and send them. They will not only love it but they will feel good knowing they have nothing to worry about, especially if they are miles away; believe me, it will make a world of difference!



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TIP #4

BE ON TIME FOR YOUR FIRST MEETING

Homeowners need to know that you can follow schedules. How would you feel if someone said they would meet with you at 2 p.m. and they never showed up until 6 that evening and didn't contact you to explain why? Be there at the appointed hour, or two or three minutes early.

This shows responsibility and respect on your part.



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TIP #5

HAVE A LIST OF QUESTIONS READY

Most homeowners will have some kind of Welcome Guide but there may be some things not mentioned; some owners will print them off for you along with more written instructions.

Maybe you want to know where to eat, where the grocery stores are located, what is the security of the house like, where is the vet located and how is he/she paid, where can you park your vehicle if you have one, how often should you water plants, are there contact numbers and emails for emergencies. As I said, most guides will have all this information, but you need to be prepared.



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TIP #6

RESPECT THEIR RULES ABOUT FEEDING & MEDICATING THEIR PETS

This is extremely important and I can't emphasize it enough. For example, if they say "no people food," they mean it. There is a reason for this. Respect their wishes and feed their pets accordingly. The last thing you want is to make their beloved pet sick because you thought a little something different in their diet was okay. NO, IT'S NOT!

Some pets will require medication. Make sure you understand when and how this is to be given. If the instructions aren't clear, ask!



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TIP #7

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

Observe any safety precautions that the homeowners have recommended. This can entail locking doors and windows, setting alarms, and keeping your presence covert.

Ensure all security cameras and other monitoring systems are operational by becoming familiar with their locations. When handling an unusual situation, do as instructed by the homeowners. You do have the right to ask about indoor security cameras.

To keep a low profile and protect the homeowners' privacy and security, don't post details about your house sitting assignment on social media unless permission has been given.



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TIP #8

DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR GENEROSITY

Your hosts, in most cases, will be extremely generous. Our hosts have said to us “Our home is your home.” They had well-stocked freezers, fridges and cupboards.

This is where you need to use your discretion but usually, this won't be an issue. You are there to help them out and they are appreciative.

Go grocery shopping once in a while or dine out. Besides, it is fun to eat in restaurants you may never get a chance to visit again!

If they don't give you carte blanche to eat their food, consider anything you have used and ensure it's replaceable. You don't want to open a bottle of wine that might be valuable and from a European country!! They also don't want to come home to an empty fridge or cupboards.



TIP #9

WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK!

Don't assume you can use their computer, laptops, or other technical gadgets. If it is not specified in the Welcome Guide, ask.

The same goes for sports equipment, bicycles, kayaks, hot tubs, etc. Ask! Never take it for granted you can use these things if they haven't said so.

If they have locked doors (bedrooms, offices, etc.) respect this. What is in there is none of your business.

Observe the homeowners' right to privacy. Use the common areas of the house as little as possible and refrain from going through personal belongings unless directed otherwise.



TIP #10

LEAVE THE HOME AND EXTERIOR AS YOU FOUND IT.

This may not seem like a big deal, but it is. If the home you are sitting is spotless, then you need to make sure it looks that way when they come home.

After a long trip away, owners don't want to come home to dirty dishes, piles of laundry, empty beer bottles, etc. Do your best to keep it tidy, or at least make the time to clean up before they come home. This is only a common courtesy. Remember, it is 'their home, their casa'!

We always go the extra mile and wash their bedding (especially if we have used their bed). There is nothing like coming home from a long trip and knowing you can just fall into your bed with clean linen.

Make sure all hoses or other implements you may use are put away. Leave the lawn/patio furniture the way you found it. Remove any litter and trash from the yards.



BONUS TIP

Try to be available when they return and ask them to kindly leave a review.

My husband always says “Is there any reason why you wouldn’t give us a 5 star review?” They always respond enthusiastically and say ‘don’t worry.’ But it doesn’t hurt to ask and sometimes, even though intentions are good, they may forget. This is just a gentle reminder that you are expecting one.

And give an honest one in return! We always reply to our reviews. If you don’t get a 5-star review, ask why? It could help for the next sit.

