

July 13, 2009
VPM: 7,027,239

Tails Of The City



Successful apartment hunting with a pet

As a quick follow up to my recent post "[The Perks \(and Pains\) of Pet Ownership](#)," here are some tips from [Rent.com](#) (with some of my own advice mixed in for good measure) for successful apartment hunting with a pet:

- **Plan ahead:** The field is definitely more narrow for finding pet-friendly places, so give yourself plenty of time to find the right spot where you and your pet will feel comfortable. (Two to three months is ideal.)
- **Be prepared to pay (a little) extra:** Most pet-friendly options come with a higher price tag, typically in the form of a pet-related deposit. Check with your potential landlord to see if the fee is contingent upon the size of your pet. (Fees can sometimes increase if a pet is over 50 pounds.)
- **It never hurts to ask:** If an ad for an apartment (especially if it's an inlaw or located in a smaller building) states "no pets allowed," but you really like the location and amenities, it never hurts to ask the landlord if they might be willing to make an exception for a responsible tenant and pet parent and your well-trained pet.
- **Act responsibly:** Irresponsible and inconsiderate pet parents ruin things for the rest of us. Remember, landlords who don't allow pets aren't "bad people." They may have simply made that decision based on a previous tenant who didn't take proper care of his or her pet.
- **Create a pet "CV":** Put together a resume for your pet, including your pet's age, an adorable photo or two, brief (but entertaining) description of his personality, recent vaccinations and any relevant training "graduations" or "special talents." A letter of recommendation from a vet can also make a positive impression. Make it fact-filled and fun to read. A little charm can go a long way, even with the most skeptical landlords.
- **Get it in writing:** Verbal agreements only get you so far. It's of absolute important that your new lease specifies *in writing* that your pet (including his name, breed and size) is allowed to live with you. Also be sure that your lease clarifies your landlord's definition of "normal wear and tear" and that you are comfortable with the terms.

Happy hunting!

Posted By: [Amelia Glynn \(Email\)](#) | July 13 2009 at 03:16 PM