

January 4, 2011  
Circulation: 102,787  
Impressions: 339,197

## THE 3-MINUTE INTERVIEW

### Peggy Abkemeier-Alford

*The president of the No. 1 Internet listing site within the rental market (Rent.com) shares a few tips on how to negotiate your way into a pet-friendly apartment. Her five tips are: a recommendation from an existing*



*landlord that your pet behaves well; a certified letter showing your pet is up to date on vaccines; written proof of obedience training; pet-damage rental insurance; and bring your pet along for the consultation.*

#### **How did you formulate these tips?**

I developed these tips based on my own experience working with property owners and landlords across the country.

**What concerns landlords most about pets?** Landlords are typically concerned with property damage and noise.

**Is this advice limited to cat and dog owners?** Although cats and dogs are typically the most common pets, these negotiating tips can apply to other species as well. For example, if a tenant has a pet ferret, guinea pig or rabbit, these smaller pets should also be cleared with the landlord or property owner before the renter signs a lease and moves in. It's never a good idea to sneak a pet into a rental property, so make sure that you're honest and that you mention the pet upfront.

— Alexis Terrazas