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**Renting With Pets**

**By dan the roommate man**

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It's disappointing when the only thing holding someone back from that perfect apartment is a "no pets allowed" clause. Rather than going through the extra effort of finding a rental unit which fits their personal criteria and accepts their pet, some people think they have no other choice than to leave Fido or Fifi behind. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has created a web site dedicated to easing the difficulties of finding a great apartment that will welcome both you and your pet.

According to the Humane Society, 'moving', and 'the landlord won't allow' are the top reasons given by pet owners when relinquishing their dogs or cats to animal shelters. Brooke County Animal Shelter puts anywhere from twenty to thirty animals to sleep per day. "It's not something we enjoy. We try to save as many animals for as long as we can, but we can only do so much," says one employee.

Making an extra effort to find a place which will accept you along with your pet may be time consuming, however, HSUS points out the benefits of pet ownership:

# Pets provide companionship. There are few things more satisfying than the attention and affection of a good friend. Wagging tails, contented purrs, and adoring looks are all ways companion animals communicate with people and demonstrate their devotion. Many people talk to their pets and consider them members of the family.

# Pets give us someone to care for. When you add up the small daily acts of caring for a pet – feeding, grooming, exercising – the sum total is a pet owner with a feeling of being needed. Having that sense of purpose and responsibility is a valuable learning tool for children and can help fight loneliness, boredom, and depression, especially in the elderly or socially isolated.

# Pets help people be more sociable. People out walking their dogs have a greater tendency to socialize with passersby; their pets give them security and provide a ready-made topic for conversation. Even among families and friends, pets provide a focus of conversation and activity.

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# Pets stimulate exercise. Pets promote vitality through active exercise – such as brisk walking and outdoor games – or therapy for disabled hands through regular grooming of pets.

# Pets comfort with touch. The gentle stroking of a pet can reduce stress and lower blood pressure and, when combined with quiet talk, create a feeling of relaxation, intimacy, and closeness.

Hoping to reduce the number of animals unnecessarily put to sleep, the Humane Society attempts to bridge the gap between reluctant landlords and pet lovers by addressing the needs and concerns of both parties. Visit the HSUS web site at: <http://www.rentwithpets.org/>

Also See:

# Moving Your Pet

# Pet Policies: Pleading Your Case Successfully

# Are Your Pets Soiling Your Chances of Selling Your Home?

Since 1989 dan the roommate man has helped 1000's of people find roommates. Need help? Contact him at 800-487-8050 or [www.roommateexpress.com](http://www.roommateexpress.com)

### **Apartment Renting With Pets**

**By Kyle Thomas Haley**

If you're a pet owner who is considering a move to an apartment there are certain things you must keep in mind. First, whether or not your pet will be accepted by most landlords depends primarily on the type, size and personality of your pet.

Dogs:

If you own a large dog, apartment living is probably not for you. Not only will accepting landlords be hard to find, but your dog will not be happy in the confined space of an apartment. A large dog needs room to exercise and play, neither of which is usually available in an apartment setting.

If you plan to move to an apartment, make sure your dog is one that will adapt easily to this change in environment. Usually smaller, lap dogs are the best choice. However, even smaller dogs can cause problems.

If your dog barks or whines a lot you may well find yourself at odds with the landlord, as well as with other tenants. Many times your dog only causes a disturbance because it's lonely or bored. If you're gone during the day, you can sometimes alleviate these problems by hiring a pet walker to come in and give your dog attention and exercise.

You must also keep in mind that most apartment complexes have leash laws so you will have to accompany your dog each time it goes outside. Since most complexes don't have areas where it's safe

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for your dog to run free, this is as much a matter of your dog's safety as it the protection of other tenants.

### Cats:

Cats are the pets of choice for apartments. Most are not as socially oriented as dogs and are quite happy left on their own. As long as your cat has a nice spot to curl up and take a nap, space isn't an issue. More than likely your pet is a house cat so frequent trips outside aren't required.

But you must realize that some landlords do not accept cats any more willingly than they do dogs. Some have a strict "no pets" rule. If that's the case, don't consider renting there. If your pet is discovered you may be evicted and/or fined.

### Other Pets:

"Pocket pets" such as fish, birds, and reptiles usually don't pose a problem when it comes to renting. However, you should still check with your prospective landlord to make sure.

### General Tips:

Landlords who do accept pets often require a pet deposit. This is intended to cover any damage your dog or cat does to the premises, as well as additional cleaning that may be necessary when you leave the apartment.

If you're searching for apartments that accept pets, there are many places to go for help. You'll find lots of websites and message boards dedicated to this subject. You can also enlist the help of a local realtor or relocation specialist who usually have lists of "pet-friendly" apartments. Just make sure you're clear on the policy regarding pets before you sign any rental agreement.

If you take into account your pet's needs, as well as those of your landlord, you'll be much more likely to find an apartment that meets your needs.

Happy apartment hunting!

Kyle Thomas Haley has been helping people relocate on the Internet since 1999 for STANZEEKAY Inc's Relocation Websites:

and

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