



Questions to Ask a Potential Dog Sitter

A helpful guide for anyone choosing a dog sitter for the first time

If you're using a dog sitter for the first time, it can be difficult to know what to ask. This guide is designed to help you have the right conversations before making your decision.

Not every question will be relevant to every situation, but they should help you feel confident that you've found someone who's the right fit for you and your dog.

Inside this guide

- Experience & Background
- Daily Care & Routine
- Safety & Emergencies
- Communication
- Home Access & Security
- Availability & Booking
- Insurance & Policies

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Experience & Background

These questions help you learn more about the person who'll be caring for your dog.

- ☐ How long have you been dog sitting?
- ☐ Have you cared for dogs like mine before?
- ☐ Do you have experience with nervous, elderly or young dogs if applicable?
- ☐ Do you have any pet care qualifications or training?
- ☐ Can you provide references or reviews from previous clients?

Daily Care & Routine

Dogs are often happiest when their normal routine stays as consistent as possible.

- ☐ How many visits or walks will my dog have each day?
- ☐ How long does each visit or walk usually last?
- ☐ Will my dog be walked on their own or with other dogs?
- ☐ Will you follow my dog's usual routine?
- ☐ How do you handle feeding and medication?

Safety & Emergencies

- ☐ What would you do if my dog became ill or injured?
- ☐ Are you trained in pet first aid?
- ☐ Which vet would you contact in an emergency?
- ☐ How do you keep dogs safe during walks?
- ☐ What happens if there's an unexpected delay or emergency on your side?

Communication

- ☐ Will you send updates while I'm away?
- ☐ Do you send photos?
- ☐ How often can I expect to hear from you?
- ☐ What's the best way to contact you if I have a question?

Home Access & Security

- ☐ How are house keys stored?
- ☐ Do you use a key identification system?
- ☐ How is my personal information kept secure?
- ☐ What happens if a key is lost?

Availability & Booking

- ☐ What days and times do you normally work?
- ☐ Do you provide care at weekends and during holidays?
- ☐ How much notice do you usually need?
- ☐ Do you offer a meet and greet before taking on a new client?

Insurance & Policies

- ☐ Are you insured?
- ☐ Do you have a cancellation policy?
- ☐ What happens if you become unwell and can't care for my dog?
- ☐ Will I receive confirmation of my booking?

Before You Make Your Decision

There isn't always one "right" answer to every question.

The important thing is choosing someone whose experience, approach and communication give you confidence that your dog will be well cared for while you're away.

Before you book...

- ☐ Have you met the dog sitter?
- ☐ Does your dog seem comfortable around them?
- ☐ Have all your questions been answered?
- ☐ Have you read reviews or spoken to previous clients if appropriate?
- ☐ Do you feel completely comfortable leaving your dog in their care?

