

Good Masters Make Good Tenants

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Every summer, hundreds of dogs and cats are brought to animal shelters or abandoned outdoors because their masters are relocating and cannot bring their pets with them to the new apartment. However, even if it seems difficult to find a place where our companion animals are accepted, we cannot simply give up. Rather, we must be prepared to sacrifice the time and effort required. The owners of rental properties often need to be reassured of the good behaviour of your animal, especially if they've had bad experiences in the past. So when searching for a new apartment, it falls to you to prove that you are a responsible master and a good tenant. How can you do this? Here is some advice.

- Raise the issue of your animal with the landlord in person rather than over the phone. Communicate with a lively voice the pertinent information in a way that conveys a positive impression of yourself.
- Prepare an informative dossier on your dog or cat that you could give to the landlord. You could include an overview of the animal's characteristics, letters of recommendation from your previous landlords and neighbours, certificates from obedience training courses, medical records from your veterinarian, proof of sterilization, a certificate to show that the animal has been registered, etc.
- Offer to sign an intent of responsibility for any damages your animal may cause as a guarantee.
- Invite the landlord to meet your animal.
- Emphasize your knowledge and good practices as a responsible master. For example, by mentioning that you always keep your animal under control, that you pick up his excrement, that you take care to ensure that your animal does not bother the neighbourhood, etc.

Once you have found a landlord who is convinced and will agree to let doggy and kitty move in with you, realize that this agreement is clearly a form of bail. Therefore, it will be your responsibility to keep parole and to conform to the rules that govern animals in your municipality. In this way, you will prove your good will and will make it even easier to find a new apartment if you ever need to move again in the future because your landlord will likely consent to write a letter of recommendation for you when his turn comes.