
SOUND OFF *Leigh Ann Lengyel Clarke*

What should I do with my pets during a home showing?



Listing your house for sale can be stressful. You live differently when it is listed because you never know when that next showing can take place. Are your beds made, dishes away, dirty laundry not visible? Oh wait, where is Fluffy or Rover?

Having pets adds to the level of preparedness and timing needed to have the house “show” ready.

If you have a dog ideally, he/she is crate trained and easily secured for showings. Unfortunately, some people are very

afraid of animals.

Although Rover is friendly he/she may not take well to “strangers” walking around their territory, aka, your house. I highly recommend taking him for a walk or a drive during showings.

Some people are afraid of dogs and even if crated may not want to enter the home. Rover can also get scared and bark the entire showing while in the crate. This creates a hostile showing environment.

I had a listing and the owner had a dog. The dog and I got

along but that was not the case with everyone. She also had separation anxiety and hated crates.

My client worked long hours and was not always home. In this situation, I helped and attended showings if my client was not home to take the dog for a walk. Hiring a dog walker can be beneficial as well if your dog does not take well to a crate.

If you have a cat, tell your Realtor whether or not he/she can go outside. Also, before running out the door for work or that next showing, make sure the

litter box is cleaned.

Having a pet requires extra attention while marketing your house. Ask your Realtor to make note on the listing that notice is preferred for showings because of your pet. As well any special instructions regarding your pet. Most importantly, hire a Realtor that is comfortable with and around your pets in case of emergency situations.

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