



New Hampshire Humane Society

Helping to find responsible & caring forever homes.



P.A.W. Pets Are Welcome Tenant Guide

It's not easy to find pet friendly rental housing in the Lakes Region, so The New Hampshire Humane Society has developed the PAW Program. Pets are Welcome. When looking for a place that will take your pets, remember the following:

- Be prepared to work hard and spend time.
- Find out what makes landlords say yes to pets.
- Demonstrate you are a responsible pet owner and a good tenant.
- Be a great representative for all pet owning tenants.

Tips for Tenants Seeking Housing

- Bring up the subject of pets in person with the property owner rather than over the phone, if possible. Personally presenting information about yourself and your pet may help convince the landlord to say yes.
- Prepare a dossier on your pet to present to the landlord. Include your pet's resume and references from former landlords, neighbors, obedience instructors and veterinarians.
- Offer to sign a pet agreement and pay an additional pet deposit.
- Encourage the property owner to meet your freshly groomed, well behaved pet.
- Show that you are a member of the New Hampshire Humane Society and/or other humane organization and that you care about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.
- Let us know what techniques and ideas worked for you so we can share them with others.

A Responsible Pet Owner

- Creates a dossier about the pet(s), including documents as proof spay/neuter surgery, records of up to date vaccinations, indications of regular veterinary visits, and obedience school diplomas.
- Has written references from former landlords and neighbors, dog trainers, obedience class instructors, and veterinarians specifically discussing the pet.
- Offers to pay an additional pet deposit and to cover any damages resulting from the pet's actions.
- Encourages the potential landlord to meet the well groomed, well behaved pet.
- Invites the landlord to see the animal in its current setting, and to check on the pet after moving in.
- Always cleans up after his/her pet.
- Has the pet spayed or neutered and current on all shots.
- Provides appropriate exercise and attention for the pet daily, and makes suitable arrangements for the same when planning to be away.
- Doesn't let the dog or cat roam the streets, and knows the health and safety benefits of keeping a cat indoors and a dog under control.

If you're a prospective tenant, impress upon your potential landlord your knowledge and practice of responsible pet ownership. There is no one characteristic alone which demonstrates responsibility, but the qualities listed above can usually be found in responsible pet owners, and many are the same characteristics found in good tenants.

Pet Resume Guide

A pet resume provides an opportunity to present potential landlords with a summary of your companion animal's best qualities and examples of your responsibility as a pet owner. Try to address the following areas in your pet resume.

- Mention anything about your pet's age, activity level, and/or breed traits that help make your dog or cat a "good tenant." Emphasize characteristics that make your pet suited for city living. Tell the landlord something special about your companion animal's personality, and how much you care about your pet.
- Give examples of your pet's good behavior, and your responsibility. Has your dog been to obedience school or had special training? If your dog has lived in apartments before and is accustomed to it, be sure to say so. If you have more than one cat, let the landlord know how well your pets get along and keep each other company while you are away. If your cat uses a scratching post, say so and also note that your cat is litter box trained. There can be a big difference between 10 year old dog and a frisky puppy. If your pet is quiet, calm and/ or less active, point that out. If you have an active dog, explain how you fulfill his/her exercise requirements.
- Explain how you keep your pet clean and free of fleas.
- Let the landlord know your dog or cat is spayed or neutered and explain that this makes for a well behaved, healthier pet. Also note that your animal is up to date on his/her vaccinations, and mention who your pet's veterinarian is.
- Describe your arrangements for your pet when you go to work or on vacation.
- If you are a member of The New Hampshire Humane Society or other animal protection organizations, be sure to mention it in your pet resume.
- In addition to your pet's resume, you may also want to attach reference letters from current and previous landlords and/or neighbors; certificates of completion of obedience/ training classes; references from your pet's trainer or groomer; and a health certificate from your vet; and if your pet is cute, a picture.

Sample Dog Resume

Bingo

(John & Jane Doe, owners)
123 Elm St. Apt 3
Laconia, NH 03246
(603) 555-1212

Description Bingo is a friendly, well behaved dog who is accustomed to apartment life. He is a five year old medium size black lab mix who is mature, calm and easy going. We have had Bingo for four years, and he is a cherished member of our family. If you have any questions about our dog, please ask.

Training NHHS dog training school, 2000 Bingo is fully house trained, and obeys voice commands. He does not bark excessively, although he will give a short warning bark to alert us to strangers.

Activities We walk Bingo twice a day, and go to one of the City's many off leash areas for more vigorous exercise at least three times a week. Bingo's behavior on and off leash is exemplary. He loves the beach, and friends often "borrow" him to go along with them. These activities satisfy Bingo's exercise requirements, and he is calm and content relaxing indoors while we are away at work.

Health / Grooming Bingo is neutered, which benefits both his behavior and his health. He is kept up to date on all vaccinations, and received regular health exams at the ____ Veterinary Hospital. We bathe and flea comb Bingo often and he is professionally groomed once a month.

About Us As dog owners, we always try to act responsibly. We have taken a class on dog behavior, we always clean up after our dog, we arrange for reliable pet car if we are going out of town. We are so sure Bingo will be a "pawfect tenant," we are willing to put up an additional security deposit. We are members of NHHS, and are committed to responsible and caring pet ownership.

References Our current landlord can be contacted at (503) 555-1111. Please also see attached letters

We would be happy for any potential landlord to meet Bingo, visit him in his current home or check to see how he is adjusting to his new surroundings.

Sample Cat Resume

Lucky

(John & Jane Doe, owners)
123 Elm St. Apt 3
Laconia, NH 03246
(603) 555-1212

Description Lucky is a friendly, well behaved cat who is used to being indoors and is accustomed to apartment life. He is a five year old male tabby cat who enjoys sleeping in the sun and playing with his toys. He has a large scratching post which is the only thing he uses to sharpen his claws, and is fully litter box trained. We have had Lucky for four years, and he is a cherished member of our family. If you have any questions about our cat, please ask.

Health/Grooming Lucky is neutered, which benefits both his behavior and health. Since he does not go outdoors, fleas are not a problem. We brush Lucky often, and have him professionally groomed at least once a year. He is also kept up to date on all vaccinations, and received regular health exams at the _____ Animal Hospital.

About Us As cat owners, we always try to act responsibly. We clean Lucky's litter box every day, always dispose of litter in a sealed bag. We arrange for reliable pet care if we are going out of town. We are so sure Lucky will be a "good tenant," we are willing to put up an extra security deposit. We are members of NHHS and are committed to responsible, caring pet ownership.

References Our current landlord can be reached at (603) 555-1242. Please also see attached letters of recommendation and other documentation.

We would be happy for any potential landlord to meet Lucky, visit him in his current home, and/or check in to see how he is adjusting to his new surroundings after we move in.