



Advice for Pet Owners: How to Stage a Home That Looks Pet-Free and Ready to Buy

Most people love pets, except during an open house. When you put your home up for sale and you're trying to make it presentable, you want potential buyers to come into your home and be able to envision themselves living there. It's hard for buyers to do that when you have your cat or dog running around, or worse, pet odors are pungent in the air. Someone touring your home [could be allergic](#) to dogs or cats, and the value of your home could even be reduced if it's noticeable that pets have been living in it.

Below, [West Lake Animal Hospital](#) lists some ways that you can stage a home to make it look like you don't share it with a pet.

Declutter your pet's items

If you want to make sure that potential buyers don't know you have a pet, get rid of [pet-related items](#) before you start showing your home. This means stashing your cat or dog's toys, scratching posts, feeding dishes, beds, litter boxes, and more. Don't forget to check your backyard for any of these items as well. These items can cause distractions, and you want your visitors to be 100 percent focused on your home and seeing themselves in it.

Deep-clean your home

To get your home ready to be put on the market, one of the most important things to do is to make it beautiful and inviting for your guests. One way to do this is with a thorough deep cleaning. When we say deep cleaning, we mean [every inch](#) of your home, from the counters and windowsills, to the carpets and light fixtures. One of the biggest benefits of deep cleaning your home is that it will remove buildup and odors (like cat or dog hair) that you wouldn't be able to get rid of with just a vacuum or Windex. It may sound like a lot of hard work, but trust us, it will be worth it in the end when the offers start rolling in. And remember, if you've got a little room in your budget, you can always [hire a professional](#) to do the job for you.

Get your pet out of the house

When you're getting ready for showings, drop your cat or dog off at a friend or family member's house or [board](#) them for the day while potential buyers tour your home. If you simply put your cat or dog in a bedroom and close the door, they could make noise which would alert visitors that you have a pet. Plus, it's not fair to your pet to be locked away all day.

Fix Any Damages Caused by Your Pet

Has your dog dug a bunch of holes in your backyard? Has your cat scratched up the back or ends of your couch? Take a weekend and fill in these holes with sod or buy a new scratch-free couch. If your home or property contains any wear and tear caused by your pet, make sure to fix it before you open your home to potential buyers. Not only could these [small damages](#) give away that you own a pet, but your home will become more attractive without these imperfections.

By following the above tips, you'll be able to relieve stress for your pets by keeping them away from strangers coming in and out of your home. You'll also be able to properly stage your home so you can get the quickest and most profitable sale possible.

Need quality pet care after your move? [West Lake Animal Hospital](#) has you covered. Call 801.966.6348 for assistance.

Photo: [Unsplash](#)