

## **A Checklist for Landlords to Identify Responsible Pet Owners**

*By the Humane Society*

The following is a list of questions for landlords to use when interviewing prospective tenants with pets. These questions are intended only as a starting point to help landlords get to know a tenant and his or her commitment to providing responsible pet care.

In addition to discussing these activities, we recommend that the landlords ask prospective tenants to bring their pets, especially dogs, to the interview. A well groomed, well behaved pet is one of the best signs of a responsible pet owner.

For All Pet Owners:

- What type of pet(s) do you have?
- How long have you had them?
- Do you have a letter or other documentation from your veterinarian stating that each pet is in good health and is up to date on all vaccinations?
- Have there been any complaints about your pet(s) at your current address?
- Do you have a written reference for your pet(s) at your current address to show how they behaved?
- Would you object to my checking on the pet after your move in to see how they are getting along?
- Who will care for your pet(s) when you go away on vacation or travel on business, etc?
- Are you a member of the Humane Society or other humane organizations?

For Cat Owners:

- Is your cat licensed?
- Has your cat been spayed or neutered?
- Does your cat use the litter box you provide?
- Do you keep your cat indoors?
- Does your cat have any medical or behavior problems?
- If so, what treatment/training is it receiving?
- How does your cat get along with other animals and people?

For Dog Owners

- Is your dog licensed?
- Is your dog housebroken?
- Have you and your dog completed a dog obedience class?
- When and how often do you exercise your dog?
- Do you keep your dog on a leash when you go for walks?
- Do you make a point of cleaning up after your dog?
- How much time does your dog spend alone each day?

- Is your dog inside during the night?
- Does your dog have any medical and behavior problems?
- If so what treatment/training is it receiving?
- How does your dog get along with other animals and people?

*Adapted from Hawaiian Humane Society at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org) and reprinted with permission of the Wisconsin Apartment Association News.*