

Real Estate Intelligence

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Justin Bevins

Home Sellers: What About Your Pets?

Sellers are advised to create the illusion that everything is new and fresh in their homes. But when pets are involved, it's not always easy to keep things clean and orderly.

The simplest solution for a pet owner is to relocate the pet to a friend's or family member's home or to a pet daycare while the home is on the market. A pet could scare away a potential buyer from stepping foot in the house.

Many are worried about dogs or freaked out by birds. Allergies can also be a factor.

Owners may think of their pets as the gentlest creatures, but when strangers come into the home to look around, who knows what the animals are thinking? A dog that barks or jumps on people is never a good thing.

If pets are left in the home, make sure to put them in a carrier and attach a note warning buyers not to disturb them. The last thing you want is somebody sticking their hand inside and getting bit or scratched.

Removing signs that you have a pet is smart practice.

Clean the litter box daily and keep them out of sight. Keep food and water dishes out of the way and put them away after the pet eats.

Consider hiring professionals to remove pet stains. Buyers will see them and form unfavorable opinions about the rest of the home. Finally, although a sleeping cat on the bed may make for a cute picture, someone seeing the shot on a website may automatically bypass the house because they imagine smells and claw marks on the rug.

Pet owners must understand that not everyone loves animals as much as they do. To some, pets are smelly, noisy and damaging to a property. Don't let that be the reason you don't sell your home.

Also advise your listing agent that should buyers show up to view your home with a pet, that you prefer they stay outside. The last thing you want is for a buyer's dog to smell your dogs and decide to mark their territory in your house. This happens more often than you might think.

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