

A Dog Owner's Guide to Finding the Perfect Home

Scouring the market for a new home can be a tricky ordeal for anyone, but dog owners must also consider what a home offers to their canine companion.



(Photo via [Pixabay](#))

Often, potential homebuyers will be so smitten with a home that they don't take the time to question the quality of the neighborhood. When a home fits your criteria like a glove, it is easy to overlook any flaws that may exist within the surrounding area. In many instances, this is the right decision, as an imperfect neighborhood may be preferable to an imperfect home. Remember, though, that when finding [an ideal home](#), the neighborhood is included.

The neighborhood itself should be equipped with plenty of greenery. Give your dog some options when it comes time to relieve themselves, but always make sure that you bring a potty bag so that your dog's droppings don't leave you on your neighbors' crap list.

Living in an apartment can, at times, feel akin to living in a box, and the freedom a house provides can be liberating for [you and your dog](#). For dogs, the most enjoyable aspect of moving into a larger home is the yard, hands down. It will be the place where they find most of their joy, from playing fetch or Frisbee to simply interacting with the great outdoors. For this reason, it is crucial that dog owners try to find a house that has ample green space.

Some indoor considerations include whether the home has stairs. [For older dogs](#), the stairs can be an unavoidable part of daily life, as many are practically attached to their owner's hip. As the owner ascends the staircase, so too will the dog. This can put unnecessary strain on the dog's joints and bones, so decide how attached you are to the idea of a home with multiple stories. Owners of larger breeds must also consider how prone a potential home will be to doggy-induced damage.

During the move, keep your dog with a friend, family member, or [boarding service](#). Sites such as Rover.com can help one locate boarding services regardless of where you live. This will provide safety for your dog from any potential dropped objects, while the movers will feel less constrained and you will have less liability.

Once in a new location, play fetch, take walks, and establish a bathroom routine as quickly as possible. Your dog may be a bit anxious on the way to the new home as well, so keeping toys on hand is highly recommended.

Tracking down the *perfect* home is rarely possible, but we can choose how much we are willing to settle. Not only how much we'll settle as humans, but how much we are willing to sacrifice in terms of our dogs.