



YOUR GUIDE TO PET-FRIENDLY LIVING IN CHICAGO



Presented by: ROAM with Rover

WELCOME TO ROAM WITH ROVER



At ROAM Residences, pet-friendly living is thoughtfully woven into every curated apartment and condo search. We recognize that relocating with a pet involves unique considerations—from building policies and neighborhood walkability to access to green space and pet-welcoming amenities.

ROAM with Rover goes beyond surface-level filtering. We provide a comprehensive approach to finding residences that support both your lifestyle and theirs, ensuring that every recommendation reflects the same attention to detail and elevated standards you expect from ROAM.

Whether you're moving to Chicago for the first time or relocating within the city, this guide will help you make informed decisions that lead to a seamless transition for you and your pet.

HOW ROAM WITH ROVER HELPS

Curated Property Selection

We prioritize residences with spacious floor plans, private outdoor access, proximity to parks and green areas, and pet-welcoming building cultures—not just pet-permitting policies.

Neighborhood-Level Insights

Our recommendations consider walkability, nearby dog parks, access to veterinary care, grooming services, pet-friendly patios and cafes, and overall neighborhood pet-friendliness.

Comprehensive Policy Review

We help you navigate breed restrictions, weight limits, pet deposits and monthly fees, building amenities designed for pets, and lease terms specific to pet ownership.

Lifestyle Alignment

We match you with residences that fit your pet's needs—whether that means ground-floor access for older dogs, buildings with dedicated dog runs, neighborhoods with off-leash areas, or high-rise living with freight elevator access.

Expert Guidance

From initial search to move-in coordination, we're here to ensure nothing is overlooked—because the details matter when your pet is part of the family.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SEARCHING FOR A PET-FRIENDLY HOME

Finding the right residence for you and your pet requires evaluating multiple factors. Here's what to prioritize during your search.

Building Policies & Restrictions

- **Pet Policy Clarity** – Confirm the building's pet policy in writing. Does the building allow dogs, cats, or both? Are there limits on the number of pets per unit?
- **Breed Restrictions** – Many buildings maintain breed-specific restrictions. Common restrictions include bully breeds, German Shepherds, and Rottweilers. Verify whether your pet's breed is permitted.
- **Weight Limits** – Weight restrictions typically range from 25 to 75 pounds, though some luxury buildings have no restrictions. Ensure your pet falls within allowable limits.
- **Pet Deposits & Fees** – Expect a refundable pet deposit (typically \$200–\$500) and/or monthly pet rent (\$25–\$75 per pet). Some buildings charge a one-time non-refundable pet fee instead.
- **Pet Screening** – Some properties require pet profiles, vet records, vaccination documentation, or photos as part of the application process.



Building Layout & Accessibility

- **Floor Level** – Ground-floor units or buildings with freight elevators simplify daily routines, especially for larger dogs or pets with mobility challenges.
- **Elevator Considerations** – Assess elevator size, frequency of use during peak hours, and whether the building has a service elevator. Crowded elevators can be stressful for anxious pets.
- **Entry & Exit Points** – Direct building exits to outdoor areas reduce the need to navigate long hallways or multiple doors—particularly helpful for potty training or senior pets.
- **Stairwell Access** – If you're in a walk-up, consider whether you're comfortable carrying your pet (or coaxing them) up multiple flights daily.

Building Amenities for Pets

- **On-Site Dog Runs or Parks** – Dedicated outdoor spaces for off-leash play provide convenience and socialization opportunities.
- **Pet Washing Stations** – In-building grooming or wash areas make post-walk cleanups effortless.
- **Pet Waste Stations** – Accessible waste disposal throughout the property demonstrates a pet-friendly building culture.
- **Pet Concierge Services** – Some luxury buildings offer dog-walking coordination, pet-sitting referrals, or partnerships with local pet services.

Outdoor Access & Green Space

- **Private Outdoor Space** – Balconies, patios, or terraces offer personal outdoor access for fresh air and potty breaks.
- **Proximity to Parks** – Residences within a 5–10 minute walk of dog parks or green spaces simplify daily exercise routines.
- **Sidewalk Quality & Traffic** – Wide, well-maintained sidewalks and lower vehicle traffic create safer, more pleasant walking environments.

NEIGHBORHOOD & LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS

The neighborhood you choose is just as important as the building itself. Here's what to evaluate when considering pet-friendly neighborhoods in Chicago.



Walkability & Daily Routine

- **Sidewalk Infrastructure** – Look for neighborhoods with wide, tree-lined sidewalks, consistent snow removal in winter, and minimal construction disruptions.
- **Traffic Patterns** – Quieter residential streets are ideal for anxious or reactive dogs. High-traffic corridors may require more vigilant leash management.
- **Access to Relief Areas** – Ensure there are nearby grassy areas, tree lawns, or designated pet relief zones for quick potty breaks.





Parks & Off-Leash Areas

Chicago offers exceptional green spaces for pets. Key considerations include:

- **Dog-Friendly Parks (Leashed)** – Many parks, including Grant Park, Millennium Park, and the Lakefront Trail, welcome leashed dogs and provide scenic walking routes.
- **Off-Leash Dog Parks** – Fenced areas like Mary Bartelme Park, Lakeshore East Park, and Pottawattomie Dog Friendly Area allow dogs to run freely and socialize.
- **Beach Access** – Montrose Dog Beach is Chicago's only dog-friendly beach, offering lakefront play during warmer months.
- **Trail Systems** – Washington Park's North Loop and Promontory Point offer longer walking routes for active dogs.





Access to Services

- **Veterinary Care** – Proximity to emergency and routine veterinary services is essential, particularly for pets with medical needs.
- **Grooming Services** – Access to professional grooming—whether in-person or mobile—simplifies regular maintenance.
- **Pet Supply Stores** – Nearby pet boutiques, large retailers, or specialty stores provide convenient access to food, treats, and supplies.
- **Dog Daycare & Boarding** – For professionals who travel or work long hours, nearby daycare and boarding facilities are invaluable.
- **Dog Walking Services** – Professional dog walkers can provide midday relief and exercise when your schedule doesn't allow it.

MOVING WITH PETS: TIPS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Before the Move

- **Visit Your Veterinarian** – Schedule a pre-move checkup, ensure vaccinations are current, request copies of medical records, and obtain any necessary health certifications if traveling by air.
- **Update Identification** – Replace or update ID tags with your new address and contact information. Ensure microchip registration reflects current details.
- **Stock Up on Medications** – If your pet takes prescription medications, refill in advance to avoid gaps during the transition.
- **Research Your New Neighborhood** – Identify the nearest veterinary clinic, emergency animal hospital, dog parks, pet supply stores, and grooming services before you arrive.
- **Introduce Moving Supplies Early** – Set out boxes and packing materials gradually to help your pet acclimate to the change. Reward curiosity with treats to reduce anxiety.



Relocating can be stressful for pets. These strategies help minimize anxiety and ensure a seamless move.

Moving Day

- **Create a Safe Space** – Designate a quiet room with familiar items (bed, toys, water) where your pet can stay during the move. This prevents escape attempts and reduces stress.
- **Consider Pet Care Arrangements** – If possible, arrange for a trusted friend, family member, or pet sitter to watch your pet during the busiest moving hours.
- **Maintain Routine** – Feed and walk your pet at their usual times to provide stability.
- **Prepare a Pet Travel Kit** – Pack essentials including food, water, bowls, medications, favorite toys, bedding, leash, waste bags, and cleaning supplies for accidents.

After the Move

- **Unpack Pet Items First** – Set up your pet's bed, bowls, and toys in a designated area immediately upon arrival. Familiar scents help them feel secure.
- **Gradual Introduction** – Allow your pet to explore the new space room by room rather than all at once. Supervise closely to prevent accidents or anxiety-driven behaviors.
- **Establish New Routines** – Stick to consistent feeding, walking, and play schedules to help your pet adjust.
- **Explore the Neighborhood Together** – Take daily walks to familiarize your pet with new surroundings, smells, and routes. Identify nearby relief areas and safe walking paths.
- **Find a New Veterinarian** – Schedule an introductory visit with a local vet to establish care and address any transition-related concerns.

PET SERVICE RESOURCES IN CHICAGO

Building a network of trusted pet care providers makes city living with pets seamless. Here are categories of services to explore.

1 **Veterinary Care**

- Research local veterinary clinics with positive reviews and services that match your pet's needs (general care, specialty care, emergency services).
- Identify the nearest 24-hour emergency animal hospital.

2 **Dog Walking & Pet Sitting**

- Chicago Dog Walkers – Trusted local service providing professional dog walking since 1999.
- Urban Tailz – On-demand dog walking and pet sitting with GPS tracking and instant reports.
- Green Paws Chicago – Premier dog walking, dog sitting, and cat sitting service covering 36 ZIP codes across Chicago.
- Windy City Dog Walkers – Daily walks and cat care with an emphasis on personal attention, serving Chicago since 2002.

3 **Pet Supply Stores**

- Identify nearby pet boutiques and large retailers (Petco, PetSmart) for food, toys, treats, and supplies.
- Explore local specialty stores offering premium or breed-specific products.

4 Grooming Services

- **Ravenswoof Pet Grooming** – Compassionate grooming for dogs and cats in Ravenswood.
- **Urban Canine** – Expert grooming, self-wash stations, and dog walking in Bucktown and Wicker Park.
- **Barkbus** – Award-winning mobile dog grooming that comes directly to your door.
- **Dashing Dog Grooming** – Professional grooming services throughout Chicago.

5 Dog Daycare & Boarding

- Research facilities offering daycare, overnight boarding, and socialization opportunities.
- Visit in person to assess cleanliness, staff qualifications, and overall environment.

6 Training Services

- Look for certified trainers offering obedience classes, behavioral consultations, or specialized training (reactivity, agility, therapy dog preparation).
- Consider group classes for socialization or private sessions for individualized attention.

YOUR NEXT STEP: LET'S FIND HOME TOGETHER

Finding a pet-friendly residence isn't just about checking a box—it's about discovering a space where your entire family can thrive. At ROAM with Rover, we're here to guide you through every step of the process with the same thoughtful, elevated approach that defines the ROAM experience.

From identifying the right neighborhood and building to coordinating showings and navigating lease terms, we ensure nothing is overlooked. Because when your pet is part of the family, every detail matters.

Ready to start your search?

Visit luxuryresidenceschicago.com/roamwithrover or contact us today to begin finding the perfect home for you and your pet.



About THE AUTHOR

Meet Lia, your personal ROAM with Rover liaison — a discreet, pet-friendly residential guide for discerning Chicago renters and buyers. Her mission: to align your lifestyle and your dog's comfort with high-end buildings that truly welcome both.

Lia begins by learning how you and your canine companion live — daily walking habits, preferred green spaces, design aesthetic, and expectations for service and discretion.

With that insight, she curates a selective shortlist of premier luxury residences where pet policies enhance rather than restrict your quality of life.

From first consultation to move-in, Lia serves as your single, confidential point of contact across property management, concierge teams, and leasing specialists — making your transition seamless, elevated, and tailored to both ends of the leash.



Lia Caton

Founder &
Managing Broker



DO YOU NEED
MORE HELP?

SCHEDULE A CALL



Lia@roamrealestateinc.com

312-858-8880

www.roamrealestateinc.com