

Pet Parenting Plan Checklist

For couples navigating divorce or separation

A thoughtful guide to help you plan for your pet's care during and after divorce

Basic Information

- Pet's name(s):
- Type/breed/species:
- Age(s):
- Medical or behavioral needs:

Primary Residence

- Who will the pet live with primarily?
- Will there be shared custody or visits?
 - Weekly
 - Bi-weekly
 - Alternating weekends
 - Holidays/school breaks
- Are there any restrictions on overnight visits?

Daily Routine

- Who typically feeds the pet?
- Who walks or exercises the pet?
- Does the pet have a strong attachment to one home or routine?
- Are there children who benefit from continued contact with the pet?

Financial Agreements

- Who will pay for food and supplies?
- How will vet bills be handled?
 - Shared 50/50
 - Based on income
 - One party responsible
- Will both parties contribute to pet insurance?
- Grooming/training/boarding expenses:

Pet Parenting Plan Checklist (continued)

Health & Emergencies

- Who will make non-emergency vet decisions?
- Who will make emergency decisions if the other is unreachable?
- Who is the pet's current veterinarian?
- Plan for end-of-life care decisions (optional but recommended):

Communication Plan

- Preferred method for pet updates:
 - Text
 - Email
 - Shared calendar/app
- Will updates be shared regularly?
- How will schedule changes be handled?

Documentation

- Pet microchip registered to:
- Pet insurance policyholder:
- License/registration name(s):
- Any additional legal documents (e.g., mediation agreement, written co-pet agreement):

Contingency Planning

- Backup caregiver in case of emergency
- Plan if one party moves or changes jobs
- What happens if either party can no longer care for the pet?

✨ **Remember:** *This checklist is a starting point to help both of you think through your pet's needs. Bring your completed notes to mediation or use it to guide a peaceful conversation.*