

Pet-Friendly Senior-Living Communities – 2026 Quick-Start Checklist



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A fast-track guide to finding a home where seniors and their pets
thrive. Updated August 2026

1 Why Families Look for Pet-Friendly Options

- **Emotional companionship** – Pets lower blood pressure, reduce loneliness and improve mood.
- **Physical activity** – Daily walks keep seniors mobile and lower fall risk.
- **Routine & purpose** – Feeding, grooming and vet visits give structure to the day.
- **Social interaction** – Walking a dog or visiting a pet-friendly lounge sparks conversations with peers.
- **Family peace of mind** – Avoiding the stress of re-homing a beloved animal is a top decision factor.

2 Top 5 Must-Have Features

1. **Clear, written pet policy** – Know exactly which species, size or breed are allowed and what fees apply.
2. **Dedicated outdoor space** – Secure, fenced yards, dog parks or pet-friendly patios where animals can run safely.
3. **Veterinary proximity** – A full-service vet within 10 mi or on-site wellness visits.
4. **Pet-care amenities** – Dog-walking, grooming stations, pet-sitting or a “pet concierge” service.
5. **Safety & hygiene protocols** – Regular cleaning schedules, pet-waste stations and allergy-free zones.

When a community checks all five boxes, both senior and pet are set up for success.

3 Regional Round-Up (quick examples)

Northeast

- **Sunnyvale Senior Living – Boston, MA**
 - ¼-acre fenced dog park, unlimited dogs ≤ 50 lb, weekly on-site vet clinic.
- **Harborview Assisted Living – Newark, NJ**
 - Allows cats & small dogs, offers pet-sitting for families traveling.

Midwest

- **Riverbend Retirement – Madison, WI**
 - Heated indoor dog lounge, partnership with local animal shelter for adoption events.
- **Prairie View Senior Residences – Des Moines, IA**
 - Large fenced courtyard, “Pet Wellness Wednesdays” with free grooming demos.

South

- **Magnolia Meadows – Austin, TX**
 - Unlimited dogs, 24-hour dog-walking staff, on-site pet-nutritionist.
- **Cypress Creek – Charleston, SC**
 - Private patios, weekly pet-themed social hour.

West

- **Sierra Vista – Portland, OR**
 - Covered dog-run, cat-only suites, mobile vet partnership.
- **Sunset Terrace – San Diego, CA**
 - Beach-adjacent walking trails, shuttle to nearby dog beach.

Tip: Use Directiny’s filter “Pet-Friendly → United States → [Region]” to pull the full list of vetted communities, complete with photos, pricing and resident reviews.

4 How Directiny’s Directory Makes the Search Painless

- **All-in-one filters** – Choose pet type, size limit, outdoor space, vet proximity, and region in a single dropdown.
- **Interactive map** – See every community’s location, nearby parks and pet services at a glance.
- **Verified resident reviews** – Real feedback from seniors who already live with pets.
- **Downloadable comparison sheet** – Select up to five communities and export a side-by-side PDF with fees, policies and amenities.
- **CTA button** – “Find your perfect pet-friendly home now” sends a free, no-obligation call request to our senior-living specialists.

Ready to stop scrolling through generic listings? **Search Directiny’s pet-friendly directory today** and let us do the heavy lifting.

5 Quick “Pet-Friendly” Scorecard (fill-in on paper or spreadsheet)

Community Name: _____

Policy clear? Yes / No
Outdoor space? Yes / No
Vet ≤10 mi? Yes / No
Pet-care amenities? Yes / No
Safety & hygiene? Yes / No
Weight/size limit OK? Yes / No

Overall score (out of 7): _____

Mark a check for each “Yes.” The higher the total, the more pet-friendly the community.

6 What to Bring on a Tour

- Printed copy of the community's pet policy (if provided).
- Up-to-date vaccination records for each pet.
- Pet-insurance card (optional but helpful).
- Your personal checklist (the scorecard above).

7 Follow-Up Checklist (after the tour)

- ☐ Send thank-you email to the community manager
- ☐ Request written pet-policy (if not already given)
- ☐ Verify pet-fee schedule & deposit amount
- ☐ Ask about trial-stay options for pet & resident
- ☐ Add community to Directiny's filter (optional)
- ☐ Schedule a second visit with the senior and pet

8 Helpful Resources

- ****Directiny Pet-Friendly Directory**** –
<https://directiny.com/pet-friendly-senior-living-communities-in-the-united-states-2026-guide/>
- *****“ Ways to Save on Pet Costs” (AARP, August 2025)** –
 <https://www.aarp.org/home-living/how-to-save-on-pet-costs/>
- ****Local Veterinary Associations**** – Search “Veterinary Association + [city]” for vets within 10 mi.

9 Contact & Next Steps

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