**How to find a dog walker**

**Quick Reference Guide**

**Ask yourself these questions first:**

What kind of walk does my dog need – solo or group?

How many walks per week am I looking for?

Is this temporary (vacation/summer), ongoing (long term) or sporadic (as needed)?

What is my budget per week or month?

What time of day do I need the walker?

Do I want an *individual* or a *company* that hires and/or contracts walkers?

Does my dog have any special needs or limitations I need to let the walker know?

**Where to find a dog walker:**

Word of mouth – friends, family, neighbors, co-workers

Local shelter – Marin Humane has a list of reputable walkers/sitters

Yelp

Dog groomers

Dog trainers

Veterinarians

Online search for websites – cross reference with Yelp

**Next steps:**

Free meet-and-greet

Ask questions:

How long have you been in business? What’s your experience with dogs?

Have you participated in any pet-care training, such as pet first aid/CPR?

Are you experienced with dogs like mine?

Are you licensed, bonded and insured?

Do you have a business license?

Can you provide me client references? (they should be HAPPY to do so)

What are your rates and payment schedule?

What’s your cancellation policy?

What happens if you are sick and unable to come on a scheduled day?

If you’re out sick or on vacation, is there another dog walker who can cover for you?

For walker companies: How does the pet-sitting business screen and train their pet sitters?

Do you walk more than one dog at a time? And if so, how many dogs do you walk at once?

Where will you walk my dog? How long is the walk?

Will my dog be off-leash? (*CAN* your dog be off-leash)

Do you go to a dog park?

What kind of vehicle do you have for transportation of my dog?

What is the time frame of the dog walk? (there should be a walk “window” of about 2 hours)

Will you send pictures/updates from the walk? (they should be happy to)

What contingency plan does the pet sitter have in the event of inclement weather?

What does the pet sitter do if medical care is needed for your pet?