

PETS AND HOME SHOWINGS ADVICE FROM A HOME STAGER

Written by: Charlene Storozuk, Dezipner Digz

Nobody loves dogs more than I do, however, when you are selling your home there are certain things you need to consider:

- **Hair** - As the owner of a Golden Retriever, I know what it is like to keep on top of the constant accumulation of pet hair. It is important while selling your home that you vacuum and sweep on a daily basis to keep on top of it.
- **Odours** - Make sure that you keep litter boxes clean. They should be emptied daily. Any furniture that your pets sit on should be steam cleaned and deodorized. It's a good idea to ask a friend if they can detect any odours in your home. You may not notice these odours yourself because you live there. Don't be offended if they are honest with you. After all, you need to know the truth.
- **Fear of Dogs** - If at all possible, try to leave your pets with a friend or family member during showings and especially during open houses. Some people are afraid of dogs. No matter how friendly Rover is, a potential buyer might get frightened at the sight of him racing down the hallway at full speed. You want to encourage people to spend time looking around your home. They won't if they are scared of your dog. It can also be a very terrifying experience for agents going into your home (especially when you are not there) for a showing. They are going to wonder what sort of reception they will receive on the other side of the door.
- **The Great Escape** - Have your real estate firm notify other agents prior to showings that you own pets. They should be instructed not to let them outside and to take care that they do not try to escape.
- **Toys** - Put away all of your pets toys and leashes during showings. They create clutter and can be a potential hazard to small children that are accompanying their parents for a showing.
- **Lawn Care** – It is important to also maintain your lawn. Pick up after your pets on a regular basis and water your lawn frequently (unless there are water bans in your area). This will help keep your lawn from getting burn marks, especially in very hot weather.

Dezipner Digz is a full-service home staging and interior decorating company located in Burlington, Ontario. The owner, Charlene Storozuk, is a member of the Real Estate Staging Association and is the current President of the Halton and Hamilton-Wentworth Real Estate Staging Association.