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The Ultimate Pet-Inclusive Wedding Checklist (For Couples Who Can't Say "I Do" Without Their Fur Baby By Their Side)



BEFORE YOU BOOK ANYTHING

1. Check the Venue's Pet Policy

- Ask if pets are allowed on the premises. Clarify where they can go (indoors, outdoors, ceremony only?).
- Add a Pet Clause in your contract: Outline who's responsible for your pet, liability waivers, and when and where they're permitted.

2. Book a Professional Pet Handler

- Look for wedding-experienced handlers.
- Ask if they offer home pickup/drop-off, assistance with photos, walks down the aisle, and emergency pet care.
- Going immediately on your honeymoon after the wedding? See if they also offer boarding services or home services.

3. Decide Your Pet's Role

- Will they walk down the aisle? Sit with a handler? Join photos only?
- Practice the routine. Is your stubborn yorkie a plunker who will sit down in the middle of the aisle and not budge? What's the back-up plan? Will that fancy new outfit cause some unusual behavior? Are loud noises, new areas, big crowds a problem?



WARDROBE & WELLNESS

4. Choose Pet Attire That's Comfortable & Safe

- Try on outfits in advance (think: breathable, secure, and adorable).
- Avoid anything with choking hazards like loose beads or buttons.



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5. Include Accessories That Pop in Photos

- Think pearl or rhinestone leashes, flower collars, or bow ties.
- Label everything clearly and pack extras in a separate bag.

6. Schedule Grooming Before the Big Day

- Give your pet a fresh bath, trim, or brushing a day or two before.
- Make sure nails are trimmed to avoid dress snags or floor slips.



WEDDING DAY LOGISTICS

7. Create a Pet Day-Of Timeline

- Include bathroom breaks, feeding times, photos, and their exit plan.
- Let your handler and planner know exactly when and where your pet is needed.

8. Bring a “Pet Emergency Kit”

- Water bowl, treats, calming spray, wipes, extra leash, poop bags, lint roller.
- Will they be waiting around a lot? We found online a fabulous dog carrier that converted into a cushy bed !
- Also remember a little toy or blanket from home to keep them calm.

9. Assign a Point Person (Not You!)

- Your pet handler or trusted friend should be the only one in charge.
- You focus on vows. Let someone else focus on paws.



DON'T FORGET THE HONEYMOON

10. Book Post-Wedding Pet Care Early

- Whether it's your handler, a trusted sitter, or a pet hotel—book it early.
- Leave clear instructions, feeding schedules, emergency contacts, and vet info.





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11. Plan a Goodbye Moment

- Work in a sweet moment with your pet before you leave for your honeymoon.
- Take a private photo, give a snuggle, and make it part of your memories.



PHOTOS & SENTIMENTAL TOUCHES

12. Include Them in the Shot List

- Let your photographer know your pet is a VIP guest.
- Think: “First look with the pup,” “Family paw-traits,” or “Watching from the aisle.”

13. Capture a Keepsake

- Paw prints in clay, a charm for your bouquet, or a framed photo with them.
- If they can't attend, consider a tribute table or plush lookalike.

Your pet is family—and if your wedding wouldn't feel complete without them, you're not alone. Bringing a beloved animal into a bustling wedding day can be done with a little planning, patience, and a whole lot of flexibility—because pets will be pets, and the best moments are often the ones you don't plan! (Such as Morgan's chihuahua, Jezebel, racing down the aisle, virtually dragging the bride's sister down with her, and Felina, the Yorkie, plunking down in the middle of the aisle to be gracefully swept up by the matron of honor!)