



HOST HOME
MINISTRY PARTNER
INFO PACKET

TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is the Residency Program.....	3
Host Home Ministry Considerations.....	3
Responsibilities of a Host Home Ministry Partners.....	4
Suggestions for Long-Term Success When Hosting.....	6
Responsibilities of a Sent Resident.....	7
Responsibilities of Residency Staff.....	7
Communication Guide.....	8
Example emails to start the conversation.....	10
Residency Staff Contact Info.....	12
Host & Resident contract agreement.....	13

WHAT IS THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM?

Sent Church Residency is a two-year program that combines focused leadership training with practical ministry experience. Our purpose is to raise up and equip next-generation leaders for work in church ministry. We offer a well-rounded experience that will develop a Resident with a variety of leadership, ministry, practical, and personal skills and competencies needed to be successful in full-time church ministry. Additionally, we allow Residents to gain experience and training within their specific callings, gifts, and passions.

A RESIDENT EXPERIENCES:

- A two-year program at Sent Church
- 28-30 hours per week of practical ministry experience and general competency development
- Monthly support \$500/ month
- Option of living in a Host Home

AN INTERN EXPERIENCES:

- A semester-long program at Sent Church
- 10 hours per week of practical ministry experience and general competency development
- \$300 for a semester
- Option of living in a Host Home (18 years or older)

HOST HOME MINISTRY CONSIDERATIONS

One aspect of the Resident's development is providing a healthy, positive place to live while in the program through Host Home Ministry Partner opportunities.

The following describes what becoming a Host Home Ministry Partner involves:

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HOST HOME MINISTRY PARTNER:

- Pray. First, we ask that you listen to the Holy Spirit to discern if this ministry opportunity is right for you.
- Be in agreement. If you are married, we ask that you and your spouse be united on the decision to host and that both of you are 100% on board for the journey.
- Agree to host a Resident for one-two years. Rather than shuffling Residents to new homes every three to six months, we believe long-term stability is better for the Resident' development. It also allows the opportunity to build a deeper, long-term relationship with the Resident, which aids in their overall development.
- Fill out the online application and background check. We ask that one application be submitted for each household. All adults living in the host home will need to submit a background check. We require this of our incoming Residents as well. The application and background forms can be found at our website: www.sentchurch.cc/harvest-program
- Home visit. After the application is received, a member of the Sent Church Residency staff will set up a time to see the living space and connect with you regarding the ministry. This may be done in person or virtually.
- Be able to provide a private bedroom and a private/semi-private bathroom. This could include a basement, an in-law suite, guest house, etc. with common amenities (bed, bedding, dresser, closet). This space should be solely for the resident's use for the duration of their stay with you. Access to a bathroom with a high level of privacy is also important.
- Provide a clean and safe living environment. We don't expect a home to be perfectly clean all of the time. However, we expect the host to keep a house that is generally clean and secured in a way where the Resident feels comfortable and safe. The Resident will be given similar expectations of cleanliness and respect.
- Not expect payment for rent and utilities from Resident. Offering to host a Resident free of charge helps the Resident not be burdened with that substantial cost of living and helps the church financially as well. We will provide a monthly \$150 stipend to hosts to help cover extra expenses.
- Provide an adequate internet connection. Because each Resident will most likely have times where they have to work from home, a stable Wi-Fi connection is needed.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HOST FAMILY:

- Communicate early. A wise host will have discussions with a Resident early in their experience concerning house rules, desired codes of conduct, and expectations.
 - Notify Resident if you'll be away for an extended amount of time.
 - Be willing to clearly communicate with the Resident your expectations/boundaries when needed.
- Not require or expect babysitting or pet sitting or heavier tasks/chores that are above the normal lighter housekeeping tasks. You certainly can ask the Resident for help with certain things (Example: "I need help moving a couch into the other room."), as long as it doesn't become a consistent thing that takes away from their Residency experience (Example: "I'm spending the day in the yard and I'm going to need you to clear your schedule to help.").
 - Regarding babysitting or pet sitting: As a rule, we'd prefer that you plan to pay your Resident if consistent babysitting is needed for an extended period of time. The exception to this would be something like, "I'm running to the store to get a few things. Are you going to be here for the next 30 minutes? If so, can you keep an eye on the kids?"
- Notify Host Home Coordinator if Resident/Host changes are needed. The Host Home Coordinator will find another Host Home Ministry Partner for the Resident if the need to do so arises. If this is the case, the staff asks that you give 30 days' notice to give us time to find another host.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS WHEN HOSTING A RESIDENT

1. Communicate clearly from the beginning (see Communication Guide on p 8).

- Cover “house rules” within the first couple of days.
- Clearly define boundaries, especially regarding personal space and common spaces.
- Put rules & boundaries in writing and have both parties sign (see attached document on p. 13 to help with this process)

2. Don't let any potential conflict or tension build.

Residents appreciate the hospitality and want to follow the boundaries and house rules of host families, but may be unsure of what those are if they haven't been discussed. They appreciate clear, direct communication of expectations!

If you feel your Resident isn't respecting your expectations, communicate that right away. If you need someone from the church to help mediate a situation, or you need advice, please contact Petra Ray, our Host Home Coordinator at hosts@sentchurch.cc.

3. Check expectations. For example, you may ask yourself these questions:

- Do I have an expectation the Resident is an active member of my family, or am I comfortable with a Resident or Resident couple living in my home with the potential they may “do their own thing” and not be as involved or “close” relationally household member(s)?
- Do I expect the Resident to be home at a certain time each night or do I understand they need young adult community and sometimes late-night ministry?
- Am I willing to frequently and clearly communicate with the Resident our expectations/boundaries when needed?

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SENT CHURCH RESIDENT:

- Be respectful of the host's personal space and "house rules."
- Abide by the "staff handbook" standards that Sent Church staff are held to.
- Clean up after themselves in both their private space and common spaces (including weekly bathroom cleaning, cleaning kitchen after use, etc.).
- Proactively offer to help out with light tasks around the house and yard (dump the trash, sweep/vacuum, etc.).
- Ask permission to invite guests to the home.
- Be responsible for their own groceries and meals.
- Provide their own transportation.
- Notify the Host(s) when going away for an extended amount of time.
- Abstain from alcohol while in the Harvest Program

RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOST HOME COORDINATOR:

- Communicate expectations and boundaries to both the Host Home Ministry Partner and the Resident.
- Provide mediation and conflict resolution as needed.
- Provide ongoing support through quarterly check-ins (or as needed) and host home meetings.
- Recruit additional hosts for future years as needed for current and future Residents.
- Provide another Host Home Ministry Partner for a Resident if the need to do so arises. If this is the case, the church asks that you give 30 days' notice to give us time to find another host.

COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Sent Church Residency staff highly recommends you read through and discuss this guide with everyone living in the host home. Once you have sorted through some of your expectations and boundaries, we recommend starting this conversation with the Resident prior to their arrival. We realize a lot of expectations and boundaries work out naturally, but you will find some recommended topics below to discuss with your Resident

We acknowledge that even when a person knows they are following God's will and are united with their spouse on a decision, there may still be nervousness and unknowns to navigate! Continue to lean into prayer to discern what the Holy Spirit intends during this time of hosting a Resident and to help navigate the process. Our prayer is not that this process would be perfect, but that this journey will be God-honoring, life-giving, and joyful for all involved!

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNICATION

1. Open in prayer together
2. Best done in a direct, kind, and frequent manner.
3. As the situation permits, communicate in person (or over Zoom/FaceTime prior to their arrival)
4. Acknowledge your nervousness, as it will affirm the same with them.
5. Communicate early.
6. Convey an openness to any topic that the Resident may feel needs to be addressed.
7. Open the discussion around house rules/boundaries/expectations, rather than waiting for the resident to bring up the conversation

RECOMMENDED TOPICS TO COVER

- Share with them about yourself & your family (and vice versa)
- Offer to show them around town if they are new to the area
- Provide info regarding the living space
- Find out what the Resident's living situation was prior to your home
- Communicate your preferred method of communication (text, phone, email)
- What is your expectation on "response time"
- What is your expectation on absences

- House Rules
 - Allergies
 - Food sharing/not sharing
 - Food storage space (Residents are informed that they are responsible for their own groceries and meal; they may need a designated shelf in the pantry or drawer in the fridge)
 - The expectation of sharing kitchen/cooking spaces
 - Cleanliness expectation of shared living spaces (dishes, laundry, etc)
 - Cleanliness expectation of bedroom, personal living space
 - Shared living space chores, if applicable (taking out the trash, running a load of dishes, etc)
 - Laundry usage
 - Guests
 - Guest of the opposite gender
 - Overnight guests
 - Expectations/boundaries regarding significant others
 - Alcohol: Residents and Interns are not to partake in alcohol while in the Harvest program.
 - Firearms (do you own any; do you hunt, etc)
 - Entry and exit (keys, garage door openers, alarm codes, garage code, etc.)
 - Parking
 - Internet access codes
 - Other (shoes off at the door; lights off when leaving a room, etc)
 - How to treat, care, love your animals if you have any.
- Boundaries
 - Opposite gender communication (group texts and emails)
 - Physical boundaries (side hugs vs frontal hugs; home alone with the opposite sex)
 - Space boundaries (knocking before entering personal)
 - Time
 - Acknowledge the Resident's ministry, school commitments, and relationship. Their need for alone time / decompressing is key
 - Express your own personal commitments and personal time
 - Open dialogue about how to avoid monopolizing each other's time or what to do if one party feels this is happening.
 - Nature of the host home family/Resident relationship
 - What are both parties' expectations for the nature of the relationship between Host Home Ministry Partners and the Resident?

EXAMPLE EMAILS TO START THE CONVERSATION

The following example is from a former host couple. They communicated some info via email, along with FaceTime conversations. Once the Resident couple moved in, the host family took them out for dinner and initiated the conversation of expectations /boundaries. The Resident couple appreciated the directness of the host family and open communication right off the bat because it cultivated openness and frequent communication as they all navigated the process together

EMAIL #1

(include photo of family and pets)

We are very excited for you and your fiancé on your pending nuptials and graduation. We certainly want to be respectful of your schedule, knowing the pressures of having to do a lot in a very short amount of time, so we can talk, email, or video chat when it's convenient. While we have never hosted or participated in this type of program, we are very much looking forward to meeting you two and having you both live in our home. We know that there are a lot of uncertainties and anxieties that can occur in this type of situation and we're sure we'll have a lot of questions about each other, but we're confident that the Holy Spirit will guide us appropriately. We'll have plenty of time to talk through your transition to Omaha and the move, but we didn't want too much time to go by before we had a chance to say welcome and that we want to help any way we can.

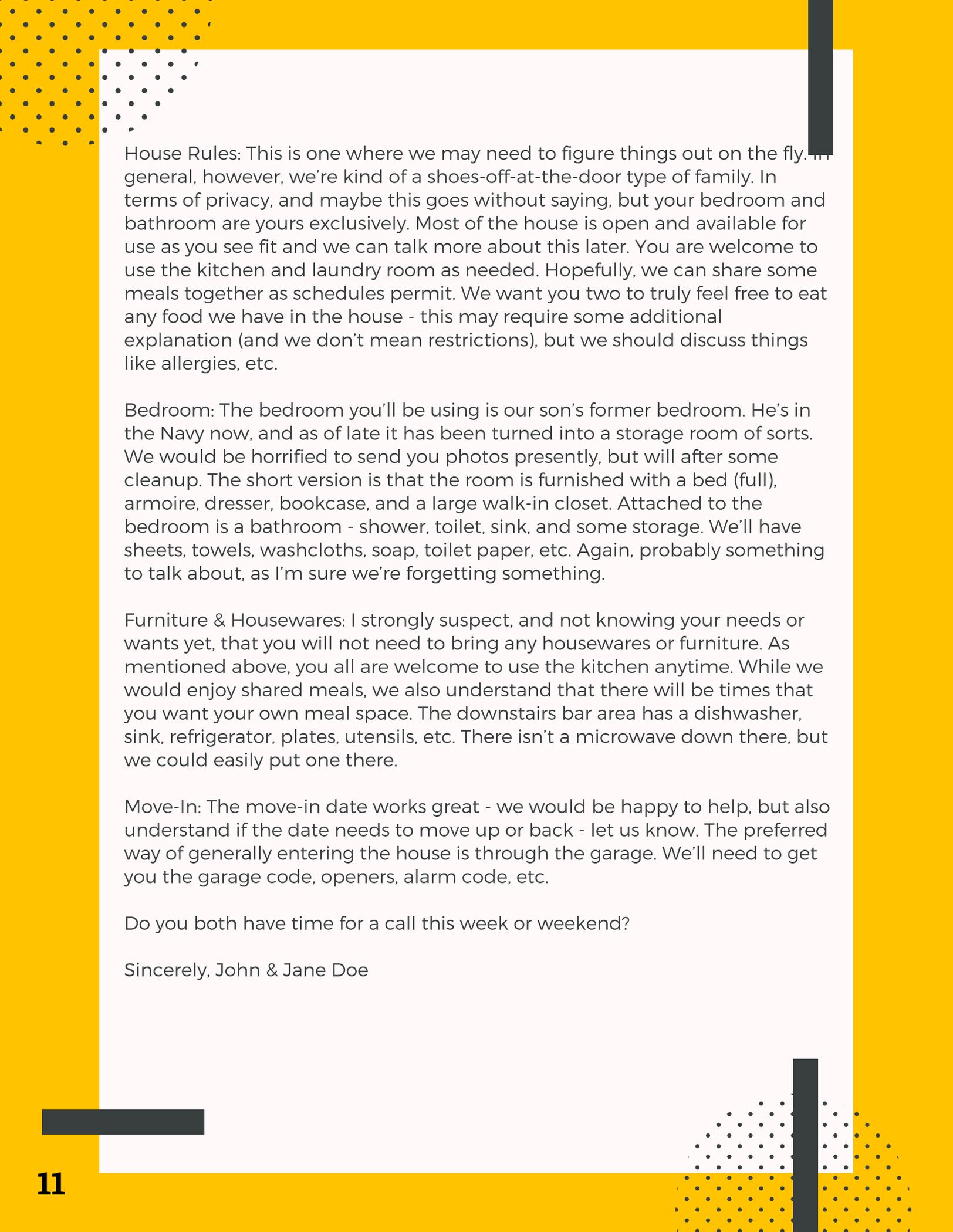
Sincerely, John & Jane Doe

EMAIL #2

(include photo of family and pets)

Good Evening!

Thank you for your contact information and for writing. Wow-what a great picture - you both look so happy. We've probably written or rewritten this message more than a few times; trying to not only answer your questions but also to properly convey the blessing it'll be to have you both here. It might be easier to conference sometime to talk through the mechanics of moving in: likes, preferences, etc. Please keep in mind that we've never done this before and much of what needs to be determined we may need to work out as things progress, but again, we're happy you're coming to Omaha and staying with us. Below is our attempt at answering your questions:



House Rules: This is one where we may need to figure things out on the fly. In general, however, we're kind of a shoes-off-at-the-door type of family. In terms of privacy, and maybe this goes without saying, but your bedroom and bathroom are yours exclusively. Most of the house is open and available for use as you see fit and we can talk more about this later. You are welcome to use the kitchen and laundry room as needed. Hopefully, we can share some meals together as schedules permit. We want you two to truly feel free to eat any food we have in the house - this may require some additional explanation (and we don't mean restrictions), but we should discuss things like allergies, etc.

Bedroom: The bedroom you'll be using is our son's former bedroom. He's in the Navy now, and as of late it has been turned into a storage room of sorts. We would be horrified to send you photos presently, but will after some cleanup. The short version is that the room is furnished with a bed (full), armoire, dresser, bookcase, and a large walk-in closet. Attached to the bedroom is a bathroom - shower, toilet, sink, and some storage. We'll have sheets, towels, washcloths, soap, toilet paper, etc. Again, probably something to talk about, as I'm sure we're forgetting something.

Furniture & Housewares: I strongly suspect, and not knowing your needs or wants yet, that you will not need to bring any housewares or furniture. As mentioned above, you all are welcome to use the kitchen anytime. While we would enjoy shared meals, we also understand that there will be times that you want your own meal space. The downstairs bar area has a dishwasher, sink, refrigerator, plates, utensils, etc. There isn't a microwave down there, but we could easily put one there.

Move-In: The move-in date works great - we would be happy to help, but also understand if the date needs to move up or back - let us know. The preferred way of generally entering the house is through the garage. We'll need to get you the garage code, openers, alarm code, etc.

Do you both have time for a call this week or weekend?

Sincerely, John & Jane Doe

SENT CHURCH RESIDENCY STAFF INFO
SENTCHURCH.CC/HARVEST-PROGRAM/

Petra Ray - Host Home Coordinator
Email: hosts@sentchurch.cc
Phone: (513) 910 - 5098

Josh Sims - Youth & Residency Director
Email: jsims@sentchurch.cc
Phone Number: (559) 991-5317

Briana Stacy - Worship & Residency Director
Email: bstacy@sentchurch.cc
Phone Number: (360) 628.7702

SENT CHURCH HOST & RESIDENT CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Refer to Recommended topics to cover on p. 8 & 9

Food

Allergies, Food sharing/not sharing, Food storage space (expectations of sharing kitchen/cooking spaces)

Cleanliness

The expectation of sharing kitchen/cooking spaces, shared living spaces (dishes, laundry, etc), bedroom, personal living space

Chores

Shared living space chores, if applicable (taking out the trash, running a load of dishes, etc), Laundry usage

Relationships

Guest of the opposite gender, overnight guests, expectations/boundaries regarding significant others, Agreement about communication rhythms.

Boundaries

Opposite gender communication, physical boundaries, Space boundaries (knocking before entering personal, Time

Other

Firearms, Entry and exit, Parking, Internet access codes, Other (shoes off at the door; lights off when leaving a room, etc), animals
