

A Codex of Birds and Beasts

OR A COMPLEAT GUIDE TO THE MAINTENANCE, UPKEEP, USE, AND ENJOYMENT OF CASA DE LOS PENSADORES, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE MENAGERIE

THE SCHEDULE KEPT BY ANIMALS

Times are approximate

Morning – Dogs go outside

- Dogs come inside
- Dogs eat breakfast
- Dogs go outside
- Chickens go outside (eggs collected)

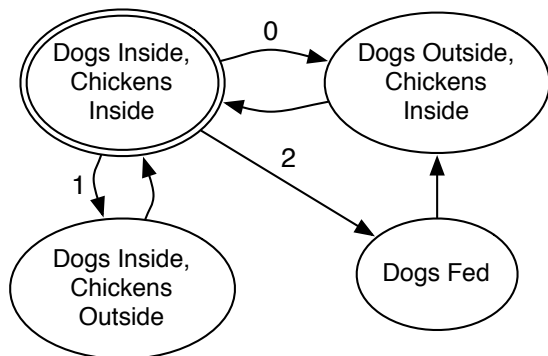
In the afternoon, if you are in the house, the dogs may want you to take them inside. They will ask, with less courtesy than you might like. You may ignore them or follow their wishes, as you like. But of course, the chickens must return to their coop first, and then the operations must be reversed.

Early Evening – Chickens go inside (eggs)

- Dogs go outside
- Dogs come inside
- Dogs eat dinner
- Dogs come inside

Later Evening – Dogs go outside & return.

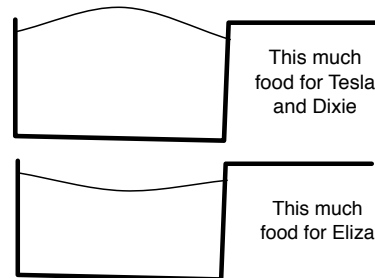
THE SCHEDULE, RENDERED AS A FINITE STATE AUTOMATON



In this FSM, the schedule can be conveniently represented as 021022 or 02101020.

ON THE FEEDING OF DOGS

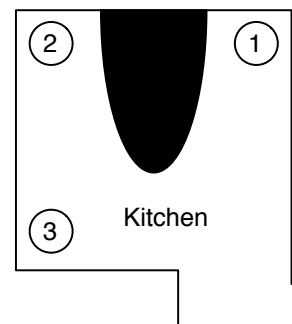
The three dogs eat food in two different amounts:



The dogs are somewhat finicky, and prefer to be fed in a particular order. If you feed them out of order, they are likely to quarrel, eat each others' food or, perhaps, to file a complaint with the management.

The appointed order is:

1. Tesla
2. Dixie
3. Eliza



It may be, because she is not used to you, and she is somewhat timid, that Eliza will go on hunger strike and refuse to eat in the kitchen. If you take her food bowl to her crate and feed her there, she will eat.

FURTHER RULES ON BEASTS

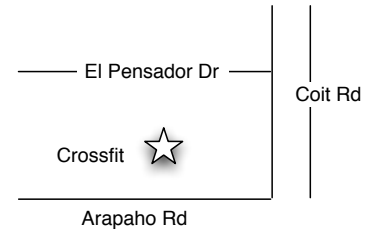
1. Dogs must be crated whenever you leave the house (they will chew on things).

2. Dogs should not be left alone more than 12 hours during the night or 8 hours during the day, and preferably less in each case.
3. Dogs are allowed treats, but in limited quantities (1 total / day), including:
 - a. 1 milkbone / day, or
 - b. 1 liver chew treat / 2 days, or
 - c. 1 rawhide bone / week
4. Chickens are allowed treats as well, and some of their favorites are (we will leave a few such things behind):
 - a. Peaches or peach pits with significant fruit remaining, though not if the pit is so fragile they can eat it.
 - b. Yogurt, plain and unsweetened.
 - c. Strawberries (can be overripe or wilted, but not moldy).
 - d. Oatmeal, cooled, unsalted and unsweetened.
 - e. Lettuce or other greens, wilted such that you would not want to eat it is okay is okay, but not so wilted or rotted such that you would not yourself eat it in a pinch.
 - f. Bread, in very small quantities, not moldy.
5. The following are poisonous or unhealthy for chickens:
 - a. Potatoes, raw.
 - b. Potato skins, raw or cooked.
 - c. Salty foods.
 - d. Sweetened foods.
6. The bulk of the chickens' food should come from their pellets. You are also welcome to feed them those out of your hand.
7. The chickens should be good on food and water for the duration of the trip, but if you would check one week through to make sure, that would be awesome. Water thing must be twisted and pulled apart, food is in the purple bin outside.
8. Never speak harshly to Eliza.
9. Always speak in a high-pitched, excited voice to Dixie.
10. Tesla is to be respected, but he is not the boss of you.
11. Dogs are allowed on all furniture, but are to be kept out of the dining room / library, Esther's room, and the studio.

12. You are welcome to try to walk the dogs, but really, all of them except Tesla are a PiTA on the leash.

FOR VEGETABLES OR TO MEET CUTE VEGANS

Vegetable co-op delivery is on Saturday, June 16th, between 8:30-10:30am, at the Crossfit on the corner of Arapaho and Coit. It will be just outside or perhaps just inside the gym. You must bring the black, plastic, collapsible bin that is outside in the garage, give them my name (Brown, Matthew), and exchange it for a full bin. Follow any instructions from cute vegans with absolute precision and faithfulness, without question.



ON THE FEEDING OF HOUSE-SITTERS

You are absolutely welcome to any food you find in the refrigerator or pantry, any quaffables you find in the bar fridge, any liquors or wines that are sitting out in the bar (though not those that are below in the cabinets). Let me draw special attention to:

- Eggs, fresh, collected from chickens each day (lately 5-6 per week due to summer weather)
- Vegetables from co-op (see above)
- My homemade cider (still, dry, very strong)
- You're especially encouraged to eat anything than might spoil.
- Apologies in advance for anything already spoiled that you might discover.

AMENITIES FOR YOUR USE

1. TV, without cable.
2. Playstation 3 allows playing of DVDs, Blu-rays, and includes Netflix and various other streaming services, and of course, games.
3. Wii and various accessories.
4. Retro Duo gaming device allows playing of NES and SNES games.
5. Library of games and movies, various, including
 - a. LoTR Extended Edition boxed set.

- b. Buffy the Vampire Slayer boxed set.
 - c. Gamer (starring Gerard Butler)
 - d. Batman: The Animated Series boxed set
 - e. Justice League: The Animated Series boxed set
 - f. Skyrim
6. Telefuner tube-driven radio (working).
 7. Kitchen, stocked with all major appliances and cooking apparatus.
 8. Bar, somewhat stocked.
 9. Library, includes books on fiction, comics, philosophy, progressive era literature, sexuality studies, and misc.
 10. Library also includes large-ish collection of board games, which you are welcome to play with friends and associates.
 11. Art and music studio.
 12. Collection of comics, sorted and unsorted, found in studio.
 13. Garage workshop, with various power tools (somewhat messy, will try to clean up a bit before we go).
 14. Three bedrooms, with various comfortable beds and clean sheets.
 15. Fireplace (use in summer not recommended).
 16. A/C that works OK.
 17. Artworks, various (for appreciation only).
 18. Festive bar tree.
 19. Communist / anarchist library, in German and in English, circa 1930-1950.

RECOMMENDATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, RULES, LEGENDS, AND USEFUL THINGS

As per our prior agreement, it is not necessary that you stay the night in our apartment, though I think the dogs would prefer if you would stay the night sometimes. My general sense is that they are not altogether fond of being alone at night.

You are welcome to have people over if you so desire, even in quantity. We are set up for Rock Band, the bar area and backyard are pretty good for entertaining, the neighbors are pretty reasonable.

The wireless network is "Stargirl." The password is:

The backyard as you may know once had a pool, which was left by irresponsible owners (us) to rot and decay, and then eventually mercilessly destroyed. What you may not know is that the backyard is now haunted by the pool's ghost. Do not let it convince you to dive into the backyard.

Money for the housekeeper has been left in envelopes (actually, wrapped in paper and stapled because I couldn't find the envelopes), labeled with the housekeeper's name and the date they are to be given to her. She will arrive that morning at 8am. The "envelopes" have been placed discreetly on the right-hand bookshelf in the library, and should take no more than 15 minutes to locate if you look carefully.

My cellphone number:

Sabrina's cellphone number:

Our address for our vacation:

We are ever so appreciative of your agreeing to house-sit for us. We will owe you one, big time.