

Vogezen 81 - A guide



Phone numbers

Sharon 0611272766

Rick 0614747322

Scarlett 0618131457

Oscar 0624171869

The neighbours

We are friendly with all our neighbours, but especially with numbers 83, 86, 94 and 96. They all know we have house sitters. Our next-door neighbours at 83 (Joop & Evelien) are away until August 4, but they may have a house sitter themselves.

Millie

Feeding - Millie needs food twice a day. In the morning she needs **4 spoons of dry food*** from the container in the cupboard under the stairs. (If the container is empty, you'll find refill bags there, too. It's called "AH menubrokken adult zalm"). In the late afternoon or early evening she needs **2-3 bags of wet food**. These bags are in the top drawer to the right of the hob. Squeeze the bags a bit to break the food up a bit before you empty it into the bowl. This helps Millie to eat it more easily. You don't need to give the all the bags at the same time, but you could if you wanted to. It's easiest to give the wet food in a separate bowl from the dry. Sometimes Millie only finishes the dry food at night. The bowls from which Millie eats are also in the top drawer right of the hob. Clean them regularly (but not necessarily every day). Some days Millie is hungrier than others. If she keeps on moaning for more food, you can always give her an extra bag of wet food. She can't really be overfed. Other days, she'll hardly eat anything. Just offer her food and throw it away if it hasn't been eaten the next day.

Should you ever not be there one evening or so, then just leave food out for Millie, e.g. by giving her everything at once. Feeding her later in the evening is also fine every now and then (she'll survive!).

The cat tray - This is easy. There is no cat tray.

Millie's whereabouts - Millie is allowed to leave the house whenever she wants to. She's also allowed to go everywhere in the house (but she's not allowed on the table during meals). At night, however, it is best to keep her downstairs, so she can get out whenever she wants and so she doesn't disturb you. So, when you retire, you should make sure she is outside or in the living room and then close the living room door. During the day, you should try to keep the living room door open so Millie is not accidentally locked up upstairs (meaning she can't do her business outside). There's a white foam door-stopper thing above the keys next to the door which you can stick over the top of the door when you go out.

Social - Millie is a very social cat. She enjoys keeping people company and being talked to (she'll chat back). She also likes being stroked, but she especially likes sitting with people. Be a bit careful when she becomes playful. She occasionally scratches you.

Wifi

The wifi router is in the living room in the corner on the garden side. The network is called "Rossnet" and the passcode is **TheTigerWhocameToTea1!**.

Wifi should work all through the house and is generally very reliable.

Once you are on the wifi, you can play music off your phone or other device to the Sonos speakers (called Living Room + Kitchen).

Recycling

In Lunetten we separate rubbish into:

paper There's a box in the cupboard under the stairs where you can put paper and cardboard. When it's full you can empty it in the underground container just up the road from the house

glass There's a crate in the cupboard under the stairs where you can put glass bottles etc without deposit. As with paper, there's an underground container just up the road.

"restafval" There are three underground containers for general waste up the road. You don't need a pass for this. General waste includes plastic packaging and tins. These are separated later.

organic waste There's a bin in the garden in front of the shed for organic waste. It gets emptied once a week on a Thursday morning. If you can, try and remember to put it out either early on Thursday or late on Wednesday, also when it is not very full. You put the bin to the left of the underground containers.

In the kitchen, there are three bins under the sink. We usually use the front right one for organic and the other two for general rubbish ('restafval').

NB: All plastic bottles (even small ones), all tins, and most beer bottles have a deposit ('statiegeld') on them in the Netherlands. There is a deposit machine in the Hoogvliet and Albert Heijn supermarket. (We usually keep these under the stairs with the glass until someone can be bothered to take them to the shop.)

The kitchen

The hob - The hob is pretty self-explanatory. The only thing is that you need to press the knobs for quite a long time before the rings will stay lit. Also, some rings are a bit temperamental in that they at times fail to light or fail to stay on (especially back right and back left). The lighter of the wok burner (front left) doesn't work at all anymore. There's a electronic lighter in the jug next to the hob.

The oven - This is also pretty self-explanatory. The fan setting for the big oven is the next to last one. The little oven doesn't have a fan.

The de Buyer pans - There are two heavy carbon steel frying pans hanging up to the left of the hob. They are very handy for all sorts of things and are pretty much indestructible. However, **they should not go in the dishwasher**. Also, you should avoid acidic foods in them (tomatoes, vinegar), since it removes the seasoning on the pan. To use them, preheat them well (several minutes on medium heat, but not smoking hot), then add oil or butter and they should be reasonably non-stick. You can use metal utensils in it - it doesn't matter if they are scratched. Clean them using the steel scrubber under warm water. Dry them well (for instance by heating them a bit after washing), or else they'll rust. Don't worry if you accidentally strip them of seasoning - it is easily restored by cooking more with them.

The Chinese cleaver - Best knife we have for vegetables, herbs etc. Please don't put it in the dish washer.

The quooker tap - For near-boiling water (e.g., for tea or for cooking) push the ring down, up and then down again and then you move the ring counter-clockwise when it's still down. The light around the bottom of the tap will turn red. Turn the ring clockwise to stop the water. Beware: the regular hot water from the tap (the handle points towards you) is rather hot.

Coffee / Tea - For coffee you can use the French press on the worktop. The coffee for that is in the green Russian doll tin. Use two spoons for a full cafetière. For a really nice cup of coffee, however, you can use our new espresso machine. It's fabulous and pretty easy to use. Turn it on by pushing on one of the three main buttons. Grind some coffee into the 'piston', compact it with the stamp-like thingy, insert the piston into the machine and press the left-most or middle button for respectively a short or a long coffee. There are two kinds of buckets for the piston: small and large. Small is for a single espresso shot. We normally use large. You get a nice medium size and strength coffee by using the large bucket and pressing both the short and long button (consecutively). The right-most button is for steaming milk. This too is reasonably self-explanatory. Note, though, that once you've steamed milk you need pull the steam pipe upwards and wipe it really well with a wet cloth. Then put it back down, which will trigger it to clean itself by running some more steam through it.

The manual for the espresso machine is in the top drawer.

Dishwasher - We normally run the dishwasher on its ECO setting. A full cycle takes almost 3 and a half hours. If you are in a rush, you could do a quick(er) wash by pressing "Vario speed plus" which takes just over an hour (but is less eco-friendly). You start the dishwasher by pressing "start" and then closing the door. Dishwasher tablets are in the polka dot jar on the window sill. Please just use these - don't bother buying new ones. There are more tablets in the cupboard under the stairs. (If the dishwasher acts up, the first thing to try is to reset it by pressing "start" for several seconds until it beeps. Then turn the washer off and then back on. More often than not, things are back to normal then.)

Freezer - There is no freezer in the kitchen. There is, however, a freezer on the landing in the attic. It's pretty full but you could use it if you can find space in it. Make sure the door is properly shut after you close it - it is a bit temperamental.

Baking equipment - There are all sorts of baking tins in the cupboard above the fridge and some in the draw under the oven. Please feel free to use these. There's a second bowl for the KitchenAid in the white cupboard against the yellow wall. Other baking things (cutters, icing stuff) are in the bottom drawer to the right of the hob. The bottom right-most part of the dresser also has oven-related (mostly bread-related) stuff in it.

Foodstuffs - Please feel free to help yourself to anything you see. (Really). There are various foodstuffs in the tins on the top shelf in the unit under the clock. What's in each tin is written on a sticker on the back. Any herbs or spices you can't see might be in the cupboard to the right of the fridge. There are different kinds of flours in the bottom drawer to the left of the hob. There is more flour in the bottom right part of the dresser.

Equipment - There's various bits of kit in the cupboard to the right of the sink, including the toaster, a

tosti and waffle maker, and an ice-cream machine (it's easier not to use the bowl, freeze for 10 mins before using). The blender/smoothie maker is on the work surface above the dishwasher. Feel free to use any of this. There's attachments for the KitchenAid in the cupboard under the stairs.

Floor

The wooden floor doesn't like prolonged contact with water so should you spill anything, wipe up as soon as possible.

Crockery & glassware

All our crockery and glassware is in the large white dresser or the white cupboard against the yellow wall. Feel free to use anything, with the exception of the spotty red jug (which has sentimental value).

Upstairs bathroom

At the sink there is a switch to operate the fan. Push it down to start the fan. If you push it back up, it will take 10-20 minutes for the fan to turn off. Use the fan whenever you have a shower. It also helps to leave the bathroom door open after showers.

Please use the squeegee to remove water from the glass pane in the shower, to keep it clean.

Cleaning

The Hoover is in the cupboard under the stairs.

There are cleaning products and cloths below the sink in the kitchen and also in the cupboard on the first floor landing. Tea towels and kitchen hand towels are in the big white dresser in the living room.

Try and be careful with the sofa (it's pretty new). Should you accidentally spill anything on it, there's some special cleaning stuff with a dedicated cloth, in the cupboard on the landing.

The TV

The TV is the picture frame on the wall opposite the sofa. The best way to use the TV is to use the small white roundish remote control (it controls a chromecast). Turn the tv on by pressing the bottom left button. From there you have access to all sorts of things. If you go down to "ziggo" you have access to all TV channels. We have accounts for netflix and amazon prime.

The lights in Scarlett's and Oscar's rooms

The lights in Scarlett's and Oscar's bedrooms are ikea smart lights. Scarlett has two remotes for it, one small one on her desk and one magnetically attached high up on her wall to the right when you come in.

Oscar's remote is behind the door on the left, stuck against the side of the bookcase. (If for some reason you can't get these to work, then you can switch the lights off and on using the normal switches, which is the cord in Scarlett's room and behind the cupboard immediately to the right when you enter Oscar's room.)

Plants

We have a lot of plants (most of which are in the attic, including on and behind Sharon's desk). Please water them once a week. There are two watering cans in the attic. If it's very warm, it's good to keep the blinds down in the attic during the day and then open things up in the evening. Otherwise the plants get a bit unhappy.

The basil on the window sill in the kitchen (please help yourself by cutting one third of a branch, i.e. don't pick individual leaves) needs a tiny bit of water every other day. On hot days they may need more. (It's been a bad year for basil, so don't worry if it dies.) The odd terracotta thing should be topped up every now and then (remove the lid and add water to the top). This has rocket growing on it as a micro green. You can/should eat this as it will likely die whilst you're here.

Awning

Our house is pretty cool (temperature-wise). On hot days it helps if you keep the kitchen blind down in the morning and put the awning at the back out lateish afternoon to keep the sun out of the living room.

Garden

If it doesn't rain much, it would be good if you could water the hanging basket (front of the house), the big round steel planter in the middle of the back garden, the geraniums on the shed and the clematis to the right of the pizza oven. As you will see, most of the rest is on its last legs but if it's super dry, would be good to give the garden a soak. The hose pipe is in the corner at the back and there's a tap next to the front door.

The cushion for the green bench under the fig tree is next to the back door, as are the green cushions for the seats at the table. They can stay outside as long as it doesn't rain. If they get wet, it's not a big deal, just bring them in let them dry.

The figs might well ripen up during your stay (you'll know when you see lots of butterflies hanging around). Please feel free to help yourself. Picking the ripe ones will stop the butterflies and birds eating them all up!

BBQ

Feel free to use the BBQ in front of the shed. Implements are there and there are some more in the shed. The grills for the BBQ are also in the shed (leaning against the wood in the back). The chicken wire basket is there so you can have some indirect heat. There are fire lighters on top of the wood in the shed. (There may be some coal there, too. Feel free to use that).

Shed

Feel free to use any toys, scooters, longboards, pennyboards etc. from the shed.

Two of the bikes are in the shed and two are behind the pizza oven. Please use the additional lock if you leave it outside of a guarded bike shed. The keys are either in the bikes or hanging in the living room.

There are free bike sheds across town. You can access them with the barcode sticker on the bike frames and the keyring with another barcode on them.

Pizza / chips in Lunetten

- There's a decent chip shop ("de Koppel") at walking distance (Furkabaan 741)
- There's also a more than decent (but pricy) pizzeria (pizzartutrecht.nl, Zevenwouden 236)

Other things nearby that are nice to visit / use

- De Veldkeuken in Amelisweerd (café)
- Cherry orchard (on the way to Amelisweerd, you can't miss it)
- Zwembad Krommerijn (open-air 50m pool)
- Flower market at Janskerkhof all day Saturday
- Lapjesmarkt Saturday morning (near Voorstraat)