

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Professional Care for Your Pup: Not a Neighbor's Job**

*NAPPS Urges Pet Parents to Hire a Professional Pet Sitter for Quality Pet Care*

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J., June 6, 2012- The summer season is quickly approaching and many families are taking advantage of the warm weather by venturing away from home for mini vacations, day trips and outdoor adventures. The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, is urging pet parents to secure professional care for their furry friend while away from home—before the car is backing out of the driveway.

With summer comes spontaneity and many families are planning their trips away from home, packing their necessities and hitting the road all in the same day. As a result, it's not uncommon for pet parents to ask a friendly neighbor to look after Fido as a favor. Unfortunately, unless your neighbor is a professional pet sitter, Fido won't be getting the specialized expert care he deserves. Although you may have a friendly relationship with your neighbors—who seem reliable enough—it can be risky to trust them with the responsibility of caring for your furry loved one.

“If you must be away from home, determining your pet's caretaker should always be a top priority,” said John D'Ariano, president of NAPPS. “While hiring a neighbor may seem like a quick fix, it's not the best option for your pet's well-being.”

NAPPS encourages pet parents to use the “Pet Sitter Locator” tool at [www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org), to connect with a professional who can offer specialized care for your furry friends. Hiring a professional pet sitter to look after your four-legged loved ones ensures that your pet is receiving expert care and attention when you're away from home.

To help keep Fido's best interest in mind, NAPPS urges pet parents to consider the following:

- Professional Pet Sitters are experienced in providing quality care for animals. Many professional pet sitters are trained in animal first aid and safety—your neighbors aren't likely to have the same training.
- Forget the “to do” list—determine your “must dos” before heading out for an extended period of time. Securing a professional pet sitter should always be top priority.
- Are you impulsive? Be prepared for those spontaneous summer trips and locate a professional pet sitter through the NAPPS website and create a customized care plan with a local pet sitter.
- Hang a written list of Fido's daily routine on your fridge. This will help your professional pet sitter determine the last time he ate or went outside before you left the house.
- A professional pet sitter is committed to delivering quality care and ensuring client satisfaction. A friendly neighbor who is feeding Fido as a favor may not have the same priority.

“Selecting someone to care for your pet while you're away shouldn't be a last minute decision,” adds D'Ariano. “By hiring a professional pet sitter, you can alleviate all worries regarding your pet's well-being.”

**About NAPPS:** NAPPS is the only national nonprofit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as "the most respected authority in professional pet sitting." It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide "Pet Sitter Locator" at [www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org). For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/TheNAPPS](https://facebook.com/TheNAPPS).

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