

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAPPS Educates Pet Parents on the Many Roles of a Professional Pet Sitter

Professional pet sitters provide safety and security for the pet and the home

MT. LAUREL, N.J., May 26, 2011 – Professional pet sitters, often hired for daily walks and feedings, provide a wide range of services and benefits to both the pet, pet parent and the home. The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a national non-profit dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, is educating pet parents on the many roles of a professional pet sitter, including pet caretaker, medical advocate, and house sitter.

“Using a professional pet sitter reaps benefits for pets, the pet parents and the home,” explained John D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. “Once you experience professional pet care in your home, you’ll never worry again about being away.”

Pet Caretaker

Whether hired for daily visits for a summer vacation, pet sitters ensure that your pet remains in his comfortable environment. While the parent is away, the pet maintains a proper schedule and remains safe. Pets benefit from being in a stable, comfortable, familiar environment following their usual diet and exercise regimen and medical treatments, as necessary. Although the pet parent is out of reach, the pet still receives lots of love and personal attention.

Pet parents are foregoing the burden and anxiety of transporting their prized pet in exchange for peace of mind and additional security. With a professional pet sitter, the parent can rest assured that their pet is receiving dedicated, professional care.

Medical Advocate

In addition to maintaining a safe environment with familiar sights, smells and routines, a professional pet sitter ensures that your pet’s health is monitored while you are away from home. Should a medical crisis arise, a professional pet sitter is able to arrange veterinarian visits, administer medical treatment when required, and provide dedicated attention and monitoring of the pet’s health.

Many professional pet sitters elect to pursue the NAPPS Certification Program, a broad-range, in-depth course covering such diverse topics as pet care, animal health, nutrition and behavior, including a complete pet first aid course. While completing the curricula – which is equivalent to the amount of work completed in a college course over one academic semester – NAPPS Certified Pet Sitters acquire expertise benefitting the pets.

House Sitter

In addition to the benefits to your pet, hiring a professional pet sitter also ensures that an individual is visiting your home regularly while you are away. Many pet sitters offer a wide array of house sitting services, including plant watering, turning lights on and off,

and mail and newspaper pick up. If an emergency takes place at your home, the pet sitter is often the first to notice and can alert you and any emergency contacts immediately.

To ensure optimal safety, it is important to fully investigate a prospective pet sitter's adherence to industry standards when selecting a caretaker for their beloved furry friend and home.

“Hiring a pet sitter is a serious process,” continues John D’Ariano. “When placing your pet and home in the care of another individual, safety and security should always be a top priority in the selection process.”

To assist pet parents in the process of finding a professional pet sitter, NAPPS offers the following recommendations:

- Develop a set of questions and conduct a thorough interview
- Ask for multiple references
- Request proof of bonding and liability insurance coverage
- Make sure he/she interacts well with your pet

The NAPPS website offers a nationwide referral network as a valuable online resource for locating professional pet sitters across the country. Accessible directly from the NAPPS Web site, www.petsitters.org, this free service provides contact information for all NAPPS member pet sitters and pet sitting companies in the area. With one simple search, pet parents can learn all about the services provided, and even details regarding the sitter's experience and expertise.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national non-profit 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, nationwide referral service, and quarterly teleconferences aimed to educate the pet owning public. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at 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.

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