

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safety Tips for Supporting Stray Pets *NAPPS Offers Tips for Caring for Strays in honor of National Wildlife Day: September 4, 2012*

MOUNT LAUREL, NJ—August 1, 2012-- The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, encourages the adoption of animals in need of a loving home, but urges pet parents to be cautious when caring for strays.

In honor of National Wildlife Day on September 4, 2012, NAPPS is raising awareness about the many homeless pets in need of quality care and is urging their potential pet parents to keep safety in mind before welcoming a stray animal into their home.

“Stray dogs and cats are just homeless pets, looking for love,” said John D’Ariano, president of NAPPS. “Regardless of whether the animal is abandoned, feral, or simply lost, it needs and desires care and protection. However, it’s crucial for individuals offering care to be cautious.”

In order to keep you, your resident pets and stray animals safe, NAPPS urges you to consider the following, before offering care to homeless pets:

- A stray animal may appear hesitant or frightened when approached. A sick or injured animal will display especially unpredictable behavior.
- Use your best judgment: even if an animal appears to be friendly, it’s best to allow him time to decide for himself whether or not he wants to interact with you.
- Never bring a stray animal into your home without first making an appointment with your veterinarian. All of your resident pets should be up to date on their vaccinations and immunizations before they are introduced to a new animal—regardless of whether it is a temporary or permanent pet resident.
- Properly introducing the new animal to your resident pets is extremely important. Be sure to monitor the animals’ behavior and interactions to avoid a forceful first encounter.
- If you are wishing to welcome the homeless pet into your family, consult your veterinarian first. When transporting the animal, be sure to use proper restraints to ensure both you and the animal are safe and protected while in transit.

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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