

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Professional Pet Sitters: Qualified Care for Pets, Peace of Mind for Pet Parents

Professional Pet Sitters Customize Plans to Meet the Needs of Furry Children

MT. LAUREL, N.J., March 30, 2012 – Professional pet sitters, often hired for daily walks and feedings, provide a wide range of services and benefits to both the pet and the pet parent. 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 professional pet sitters and is offering tips for hiring the most qualified professional for their cuddly companion.

“Professional pet sitters have the education and experience needed to provide pets with proper care when their parents are away,” said John D’Ariano, President of NAPPS. “Whether the pet sitter will be a caretaker or a medical advocate, his or her role is determined based on the needs of the family and the pet.”

Pet Caretaker

A pet sitter can offer Fido and Mittens the company they need while you are away, without uprooting them from the comfort of a familiar environment. With a professional pet sitter, parents can rest assured that all of their pets needs are being met and it’s 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 the health of the pet is monitored while pet parents are away from home. Should a medical crisis arise, a professional pet sitter is able to arrange visits to the veterinarian, administer medical treatment, when necessary and provide 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 curriculum –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

Many families are hesitant to leave their home for long weekends or vacations without leaving a sign that someone is still there. It’s become common to leave a lamp on when traveling, but doing so can be risky for the safety of your home and your pets. With a professional pet sitter, pets will receive high-quality care and the home will be visited regularly while they 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

the home, the pet sitter is often the first to notice and can alert owners and emergency contacts immediately.

To ensure optimal safety for both the pet and the home, it is important to fully investigate a prospective pet sitter's adherence to industry standards. 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 via telephone and in-person
- Ask for multiple references and contact each of them personally
- Request proof of bonding and liability insurance coverage
- Schedule a time for the pet sitter and your pet to meet. Monitor the session and make sure he/she interacts well with your pet
- Look for a Certified Professional Pet Sitter, which indicates the pet sitter is a serious professional who has obtained a high level of expertise through his or her personal study.

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 website, 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. In addition to the pet sitter locator tool, the NAPPS website also offers a section for pet parents, providing helpful information and tips for communicating with your pet, preparing your pet for your absence and benefits to hiring a pet sitter.

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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