

Top 10 Tips Assuring Pet Sitting Satisfaction

This summer many traveling pet owners are now opting to use a pet sitter rather than a kennel boarding facility when making plans for their four-legged family members. "Despite conventional thinking, however, all pet care services are not alike," notes FETCH! Pet Care's Paul Mann, founder of the nation's largest and most sophisticated pet care franchise offering professional pet sitting and dog walking services.

For the throngs who plan to use a pet sitter so their animals can maintain normal activities and be nurtured in familiar surroundings, or with the hope of avoiding serious health concerns associated with kennel boarding even beyond canine influenza - including depression and kennel cough, FETCH!

Pet Care offers these "Top 10 Tips Assuring Pet Sitting Satisfaction":

1. Diligently check all of the company's references - at least three should be voluntarily provided;
2. Ensure the company is fully licensed, bonded and insured;
3. Verify that the sitter can accommodate both your pet's daily feeding and walking schedule as well as your desired vacation schedule during busy holidays;

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4. Ensure the company offers 7-day per week telephone and email availability;
5. Confirm that your sitter has undergone a criminal background check and has received proper training;
6. Pre-interview sitter with your pet(s) present to observe interactions and establish a "comfort level" for both you and the pet(s);
7. Clearly state how you would like the sitter to use his/her visit time in terms of walking, playing, feeding, cleaning, etc.;
8. Provide medical and behavioral history about your pet(s) as well as veterinary and other emergency contact information, and gather all necessary supplies, including food, vitamins, and treats in one central location;
9. Ensure company has "backup" measures in place should your sitter have an emergency that prevents them from completing your assignment;
10. Confirm the service is a current member of Pet Sitters International, the world's largest organization for professional pet sitters;

"These tips are what we consider to be the cardinal rules of picking a professional pet sitting service, said Mann. "If a pet owner takes these ten relatively simple things into account before they entrust their pet to an animal sitting service, they can enjoy peace of mind that their pet - and their home - will be well cared for."

"Selecting just the right sitter to care for both my pet and my home is not a decision I take lightly," notes Deanne Christopolus, a FETCH! Pet Care client in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"Now, however, I no longer need to burden or impose on family members or friends, or worry that my beloved pet will be subjected to kennel boarding.

FETCH! Pet Care's highly trained, reliable and well-screened sitters ensure my dog receives the love, attention and skilled



treatment I expect of a professional caregiver, and that my home remains safe and secure while I'm away. That kind of peace of mind is priceless." ❖

Paul Mann is Founder of nationally franchised FETCH! Pet Care - America's largest and most sophisticated pet care network that offers professional pet sitting and dog walking services. For franchise information or to find a location near you, visit the company's Web site at www.fetchpetcare.com or call the corporate office at 866-338-2463.

