



The Pet Sitters of America, Inc.

523 W. Park Avenue

Libertyville, IL. 60048

(847) 816-4744 (800) PET-SITS (847) 816-4746 fax

www.petsittersofamerica.net

The Leader in Professional Pet Sitting Since 1987

NEWSLETTER FOR FALL/WINTER 2001

Why Hire P.S.A.?

We have an excellent reputation, having served clients since 1987.

To insure quality individuals working for us, we have a four-step process of hiring sitters.

All our sitters are trained in First Aid for Pets.

Our sitters are mature, all 21 or older.

We have numerous sitters so if your sitter is unavailable or has an emergency, we can still service your pets.

All our sitters attend regular company meetings and follow standard company rules and regulations.

We have a full service office available to you Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

We check messages twice daily on weekends for emergencies.

We are recommended by dozens of veterinarians.

We are a member of Pet Sitters International.

We are insured and bonded.



“Sandy,

Just a note to let you know how extremely pleased we were to have Violet as our pet sitter. She is a wonderful, warmhearted, extra special person to not only take care of our ‘zoo’ but to care for them with so much love and concern. Even our neighbors commented on the devotion she showed the barn cats. Thank you so much for employing such high quality, loving people!” Sincerely, The Ostmans



Business Hours:

Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Services provided by P.S.A.

Care of your pets while you travel

Overnight/House Sitting

Daily Dog Walking while you work or play

Dog Training in your home

Volunteer Programs

Join us!

Monthly visits to nursing homes with pets

Advice and guidance for adopting a new pet

Children’s educational programs

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Pet Sitter Profile

Dorothy Gallagher

Our featured pet sitter is Dorothy Gallagher of Highland Park. Dorothy is a devoted pet sitter, wife, mother, and pet owner. She has faithfully serviced our clients for over three years.

In addition to spending quality time with her family, she devotes many hours volunteering her time. An avid gardener, Dorothy volunteers at the Botanical Gardens every week. Additionally, she volunteers every month with her Sheltie, going to nursing homes with P.S.A.'s pet therapy program.

Dorothy's love for her pets and her client's pets shines through in the work she does. She takes her work seriously and makes sure each pet she cares for is happy and healthy.

We would like to extend to Dorothy our thanks for a job well done.

**Care For Your
PET**  **Be kind to
your pet. Have your pet spayed or
neutered!**

Many, many thanks to
**Dr. Cheryl Roge of Best Friends
Animal Hospital** for teaching the
FIRST AID FOR PETS class this
fall.

My Pal, Fuzzball

by Shari Brady

In 1991, I adopted my cat Fuzzball from the Humane Society in a suburb of southwest Florida. She was a Maine Coon cat -- hairy, exotically beautiful, and medium sized.

The minute we set her down in her new home, she ran underneath a large baker's rack for safety. It must have been a bit threatening to her to have my face pressed against the floor, looking in her hiding place. To attempt to lure her out, I scattered Pounce cat treats clearly in her view. I was so enamored by her from the start that I waited anxiously for her to come out.

Eventually she carefully, cautiously "tip-pawed" out and began smelling everything throughout the house. Then I looked at her, she looked at me, and I reached out to scratch her neck. She began purring and then I knew it was a match made in heaven.

I had never had a cat before so it was all so new to me. She would greet me from the top of the refrigerator when I arrived home from work each day. She would jump up to catch a ball of aluminum foil in her mouth. I would wake up from a night's sleep to find her face next to my face on my pillow.

About a year after adopting Fuzzball I started having severe asthma attacks. I would become so stuffed up and my breathing was so labored I had to be treated at the emergency room time and time again. This kept up for years. Medication didn't help. Finally I went to a pulmonary specialist who gave me the dreaded news: I was allergic to Fuzzball.

Well, immediately I rejected the idea of giving my cat away. I couldn't bear the thought of being without her. I thought of all the good times we shared and worried someone else would mistreat her.

One night my breathing was so bad that my family had to have the police help us get to the hospital in the middle of the night. My blood oxygen level was low and I was turning blue. I knew something had to be done. I was risking my health, had lost enormous amounts of time at work, and put my family in debt with the hospital bills.

Shortly afterwards, I was visiting my in-laws and they mentioned to me they knew of a retired couple from Michigan who were traveling around the country in an R.V. They had numerous grandchildren who visited them. They gently suggested that I consider giving Fuzzball to them.

After speaking at length to my husband, my parents, and many friends, I finally decided to give Fuzzball to the Michigan couple. I was not there when Fuzzball was dropped off with them because I knew I wouldn't be able to go through with it. I was broken hearted.

Well, it's been five years since that fateful day when I said a final good-bye to my cat. I am much healthier than before. The last word I've heard is Fuzzball was healthy and happy traveling around the countryside with her two new parents. There is no measurement to use to explain how much I miss her. Fuzzball rocks!

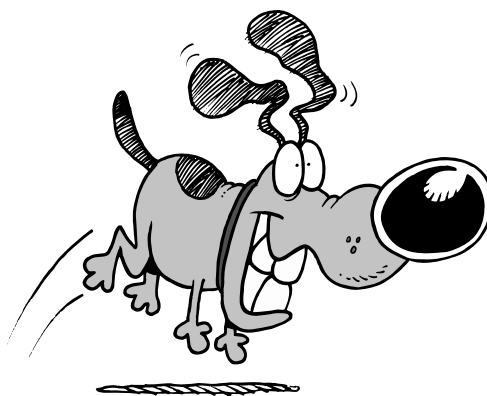


Fuzzball

“Dear Pet Sitters of America,

Thank you for outstanding pet sitting. We enjoyed our son's wedding in San Diego all the more knowing Aspen was under good care. Bonnie went above expectations and I am ever so grateful. We look forward to our next trip, Bonnie, and Pet Sitters of America. Again, thanks ever so much.”

Sincerely,
The Hartmann Family



Brrrrrrr! It's Cold!

All of us at PSA are gearing up for the long Midwestern winter. We have purchased our snow boots and are preparing to bundle up for the walks in the snow. But here are some things we need from you in order to have everything run smoothly while you are away from home. Please read carefully what we need from you:

1. Please be sure you have your driveway and walkway plowed while you are away. If your driveway is not plowed, your sitter will not be able to park and take care of your pets until the snow clears. So for your pets' well-being, don't forget to have your snow plowed!
2. Please make sure outside lights are on sensors or timers and are positioned by the entrances to the house. That way your pet sitter will have a clearly lit path to your home. Doing so will avoid any falls in the dark and ensure your sitter's personal safety.

Also, for your information . . .

If your pet sitter assesses that the weather is too cold or severe to walk your dog, he/she will take your dog out long enough for it to eliminate and then bring your dog back in.

If your dog pulls on leash your sitter may decide to either let the dog out in the yard (only if it's fenced in) or take the dog out back on leash to “go potty.” With the slippery weather, we don't want to risk sitters falling and hurting themselves.

Dear Clients and Friends,

It has been an honor and privilege to service you for the past fifteen years. It's quite extraordinary for me to have experienced so much in my professional career. I have met so many wonderful people and their pets throughout the years. I have so many fond, funny, frustrating, and intense memories from my adventures in pet sitting.

The first dog I ever pet sat for was a nasty, ornery, growling, spoiled, Golden Retriever mix named Teddy. Go figure. I guess it was my test. If I could handle Teddy, I could handle all the ups and downs this business would bring. Teddy and I never became friends but he learned to tolerate me and I took off my rose-colored glasses and knew then it would be a long, difficult ride.

While hard, I never ever regretted it. I have learned so many lessons in life through Pet Sitters. The company practically raised me, if that's at all possible (I was eighteen when I started it). It is an intricate part of my identity. My clients and their pets, my pet sitters, my husband and two children, and my assortment of pets form my family circle and I am ever so grateful for them all. Oh, and Teddy, thanks, buddy, you taught me well.

Happy Fall, Winter and Happy Holidays,

Fondly,



Sandy Kamen Wisniewski
President, The Pet Sitters of America, Inc.



Considering a new pet? Consider adopting one from your local shelter.



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