



The Pet Sitters of America, Inc.

523 W. Park Avenue Libertyville, IL. 60048
(847) 816-4744 fax (847) 816-4746

Check out our new website: petsittersofamerica.net
The leader in professional pet sitting since 1987

Issue 115

Spring/Summer 2001

**Providing In-Home Pet Sitting and
In-Home Dog Training since 1987.**

Why Hire PSA?

Over 14 years of experience

Thoroughly trained pet sitters,
trained in: First aid for Pets and
Home and Personal Safety and
regular company meetings

Mature sitters, all 21 or older

Insured

Bonded

Member of P.S.I.

Member of N.A.P.P.S.

A full service office

Backup for your pet sitter

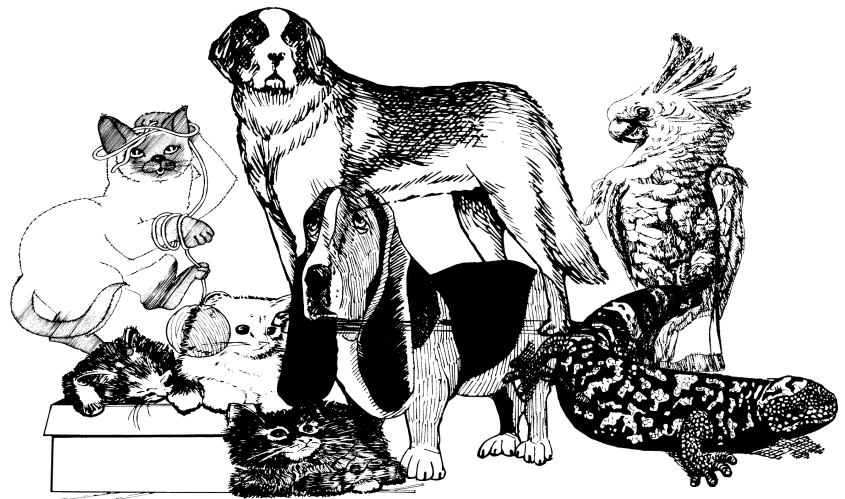
Professional

Family owned and operated

Winner of the LUCI Award,
recognizing President Sandy Kamen
Wisniewski as a leader in business

IN THIS ISSUE

Questions to Ask Yourself Before Getting a Dog	page 2
Pet Sitter Profile	page 2
First Aid Kit & Announcements/Specials	page 3
Company Information & Internet Information	page 4
Just So You Know	page 5
Vet's Voice	page 6
President's Message	page 7
In Memory of Nashi	page 8



Considering a new dog?

When you decide to add a new dog to your home, consider these questions:


1. Do you want a puppy or adult dog? Puppies are like small children and can be overwhelming for many.
2. How large a dog do you want and why?
3. Do you mind shedding? If you want a non-shedding dog, keep in mind it will need regular grooming.
4. Do you have children? If so, you should get a breed that is good with children or have a dog expert go with you to pick one out at a shelter.
5. Do you want a dog that will also be a good watch dog? Do you know exactly what that means?
6. Have you ever owned a dog before?
7. What are the good and bad qualities of the breeds you are considering?
8. Do you currently have other pets? If yes, do you know how to introduce the new pet and what kind to get to best suit your home?
9. Do you want a male or female? Why?

If you cannot answer all these questions with confidence, call our office. We'll do what we can to help you pick the right dog for your home.

What makes PSA the best? "Our commitment to superior quality service. We have back up staff so you will never be called out of town with us saying 'sorry, we can't service you.' We have company policies, rules and a proven system that all pet sitters adhere to. Equally as important we deeply care about our clients and their pets."

Sandy Kamen Wisniewski; President

Pet Sitter Profile



It is with pride that we introduce to you our featured Pet Sitter this newsletter, Heather Johnson. When I first interviewed Heather and screened her application, I knew she had the qualifications to join our team. My only question was how could she possibly pet sit and take care of three small children simultaneously? Never one to pass judgment without giving someone the chance, I hired her. Well, Heather proved she can do it. Her husband Rick is an intricate part of the plan, making her job work because he shares the responsibility of caring for the kids plus holds down a full-time job. They make a great team. Heather keeps a positive attitude at all times, even when stress would consume the best of us. She loves all the pets she cares for as if they are her own and does a superior job.

Since first writing this and before publication, Heather and her family have decided to move to Minnesota, following a wonderful job offer Heather's husband Rick received. Heather will have the opportunity to be a full-time mom without having to work. She is excited to be able to devote 100% of her time to her three growing children. We are thrilled for them all! We will miss Heather and wish her and her family all the best.

HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE!

From All of Us at The Pet Sitters of
America, Inc.

**To schedule service or learn more
about us, check out our new web
site at: petsittersofamerica.net**

Pet First Aid Kit

1. The First Aid Box

- Shoebox-size with handle (or bigger).
- Label and keep in easily accessible location;
 - Tell all family members/pet sitters where it's located.
- Replace expired products yearly (medications, hydrogen peroxide, etc.).

2. Supplies

- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Nail trimmers
- Styptic powder (Kwik Stop)
- Rectal thermometer
- Benadryl/Diphenhydramine (liquid or capsules);
 - Ask your veterinarian for your pet's dosage.
- Dosing syringes
- Rubbing alcohol
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Saline solution (8 oz.)
- Lubricating Jelly (K-Y Jelly)
- Antibiotic ointment
- Non-stick adhesive tape
- 12 gauze sponges (3" x 3")
- 2 rolls 3" gauze (e.g. Conform)
- Non-stick bandages
- Muzzle (sized for your dog)
- First Aid and Plant Identification books
- List of First Aid Box items
- Emergency information and numbers on a card:
 - Veterinarian's number and hospital hours
 - After-hours emergency clinic, address
 - Poison Control Center number

Thank you Dr. Cheryl Roge for this complete list!

Did you know you can tip your sitter? Well, you can and the sitters really do appreciate it. You may either tip them directly or send a check to our office.

Announcements & Specials

Join us for Pet Therapy!

How about doing something that brings both smiles to people's faces and lots of tail wagging from your special pooch? Join us for Pet Therapy! The only requirements are:

1. Your dog must be good with people.
2. Your dog must be good with other dogs.
3. Your dog must be outgoing.
4. Your dog must have all his shots.
5. Your dog has to be obedient.

We go to nursing homes in the Libertyville and surrounding area monthly. For more information call our office at: 847-816-4744.

Pet Sitters Wanted

Quality individuals who love animals and are 21 or older may be needed in your area. Excellent references and job history a must. Join the elite group of people who love animals and enjoy spending time spoiling them! Call 847-816-4744 for details.

Client Spring Promotion

For the month of July, if you refer someone to our company and they use our services before November of 2001, you will receive 20% off your next pet sitting service if your trip is scheduled before November 15, 2001.

Dog Adoption Program

Ever thought of adopting a dog from a shelter but don't know how to pick out the RIGHT dog for your home? We'll help, at no charge! Why? Because we want to see the dogs in shelters find loving homes.

For all your pet sitting and training needs, call The Pet Sitters of America, Inc. at (847) 816-4744.



Pet Info on the Net

Following are some fantastic websites regarding pets.

To look at pets up for adoption at local animal shelters, check out: www.petshelter.org.

For pets of all kinds up for adoption including dogs, cats, birds, pigs, reptiles, horses and more, go to: www.petfinder.com.

The House Rabbit Society's website is: www.rabbit.org.

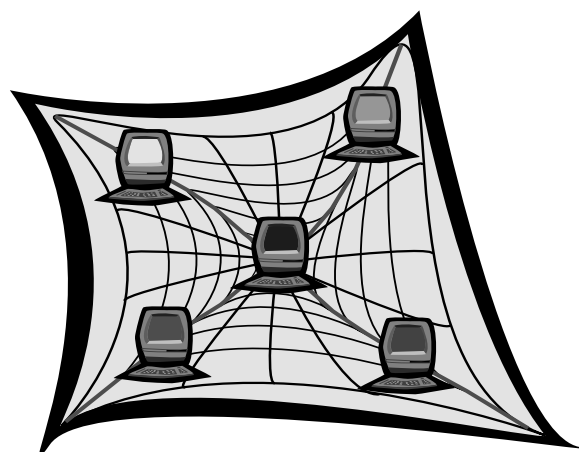
For advice on pets check out: www.petadvisor.com.

Another great site for advice is: www.centric.com.

For a hands-on cyber visit to the veterinarian, check out: www.thepetcenter.com.

For alternative medicine for pets, check out: www.altvetmed.com.

For all pet sitting and dog training needs: petsittersofamerica.net



Summer is Here!

All of us at PSA are gearing up for the hot summer. Here are some things we need from you in order to have everything run smoothly while you are away from home. Please read the following carefully.

1. Please be sure that your air conditioning is serviced and working before you leave for your vacation. Your pets will thank you for it!
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 after dark. It is a vital requirement to insure your pet sitter's safety and well-being.

Also, for your information....

If your pet sitter assesses that the weather is too hot or severe to walk your dog, he/she will take your dog out long enough for it to eliminate and then bring it 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 them out back on leash to "go potty."

We have a vacation checklist of things you should do to prepare before going out of town. If you'd like a copy, call us and we'll fax it over!

Due to inflated gas prices, we are asking clients to pay an additional \$1.00 per visit that would go directly to the sitter to help with the gas.



Just so you know....

1. Due to the high demand and limited staff and backup, all service scheduled from June 15 to August 30 is nonrefundable.
2. All scheduling of service **MUST** be done through the office. **PLEASE DO NOT call your sitter directly, even if it's just to "see if they're available."** All pet sitters have been instructed not to agree to any pet sitting unless it's done through the office. We have a foolproof system. If everyone follows it, we never worry an animal is not cared for because of confusion of dates. It is for your pet's protection we have this policy. So once again, **PLEASE DO NOT CALL YOUR SITTING DIRECTLY FOR SERVICE.** (Sorry if this sounds harsh but it's been an ongoing problem and we've mentioned it in every newsletter and to many clients directly. So we figure maybe we need to shout it.)

*Be a responsible pet owner
and
have your pet
spayed or neutered!*

First Aid for Pets

This fall PSA is sponsoring a First Aid for Pets class in conjunction with Libertyville High School. Students will learn basic first aid and preventative medicine. For more information call our office at: (847) 816-4744.

In Memory of our Four-legged Friends

*You will always be in the hearts of
those people you've touched.*

Codi Ford, Taylor Clark,
Buddy Kusher, Munchie Noonan,
Venus Mosier, Nuby Rich, Ziki Brent,
Mollie Vance, Nashi Kaczmarek,
Shadow Loundy, Sigming Fanara,
Max and Tippy Cooper
and Sandy Gary

Vet's Voice

Recognizing Pet Emergencies and Getting Help

by Dr. Cheryl Roge

The most important aspect of emergency pet care is to know when you have an emergency situation. Some emergencies are obvious, such as a dog hit by a car, but others are not so obvious. One such situation is a male cat with urinary blockage. Following, I will provide you with a guideline for serious symptoms, contacts, and recommendations for help. It is always important to know your animal hospital's hours, telephone number, and who to call after normal business hours.

The following Emergency Pet Clinics are in the immediate area. Keep these numbers handy!

Animal 911 in Skokie 847-673-9110

Animal Emergency & Critical Care in Northbrook
847-564-0651

Animal Emergency of Lake County in Buffalo Grove
847-680-8600

All Creatures Emergency in Grayslake 847-548-5300

Animal Emergency of McHenry in Crystal Lake
815-479-9119

Animal Emergency of Arlington Heights in Arlington Heights 847-394-6049

Poison Control Hotlines can help pets that have ingested toxic plants, human medicine, or other material. National Poison Control Center provides assistance 24 hours a day. A credit card is required; the charge is \$45.00 per case with follow-up calls at no additional charge.

The telephone number is: 1-800-548-2423

Contact a veterinarian if any of the following symptoms are seen --

Bleeding: Amount of blood may not reflect the severity. Rectal bleeding can be secondary to diarrhea, poisoning, anal gland abscesses, and other causes.

Breathing Problems: Increased breathing rate or effort, inability to sleep/lay down, pale/bluish colored gums, poor appetite.

Diarrhea: Potentially a serious medical problem. Can lead to dehydration, electrolyte disturbances, possible blood loss, shock, and collapse.

Eye Problems: Redness, excessive tearing, pain, pawing at eyes or squinting suggest an acute problem. Symptoms can get much worse, even causing a loss of vision.

Lacerations and Bite Wounds: Wounds are contaminated and become infected very quickly. Small punctures or bite wounds may seem minor but often have deeper more serious injuries below the skin's surface.

Major Trauma: If your pet has fallen, been hit by a car or has suffered multiple wounds, this is an emergency, **EVEN IF THE PET IS ACTING OKAY!** Absence of surface wounds or superficial skin wounds can disguise tremendous, life-threatening damage below.

Poisoning: If you know or even suspect a pet has ingested a chemical or human medication, call immediately for help. Pets may have no symptoms initially but can die hours or days after the ingestion of toxic substances if not treated immediately.

Seizures: Can take many forms from trembling/inability to walk to collapse with paddling and loss of bladder/bowel control. May be due to serious, life-threatening problem or may be epilepsy. Ultimately, treatment is based on what the underlying cause is determined to be.

Vomiting: Nauseous pets may drool, gag, try to drink excessive amounts of water, or try to eat grass. It can be a serious problem, leading to dehydration, electrolyte disturbances, bloat, or shock.

Urinary Problems: Frequent attempts to urinate without normal urine flow can indicate infection or obstruction (especially male cats and male Dalmations). Straining to urinate may be mistaken for constipation. Obstruction can rapidly lead to death. Do not wait -- call if you suspect a pet is having urinary difficulty.

This fall our featured veterinarian, Dr. Cheryl Roge of Best Friends Animal Hospital in Grayslake, will be teaching our First Aid for Pets class. Join us and learn even more about how to keep your pet safe and healthy! For more information call our office at: (847) 816-4744

President's Message

by Sandy Kamen Wisniewski

This past week I finished a remarkable book by Jane Goodall called A Reason For Hope. In it Ms. Goodall chronicles her interactions and observations with chimpanzees and talks candidly about her life, the world, and her belief of where our future is headed. I was highly moved by her perspective and as I read, I saw much of myself in her. I'd like to share some of her views -- which I also share -- hoping to encourage change in all of us.

As Ms. Goodall says, many people's attitudes are, "What can I do to help? I'm only one person." With that global attitude, that's right -- we will be unable to do anything. If we changed that and said, "What CAN I do," imagine the change!

It is obvious to me that the people reading this newsletter are animal lovers, environmentally conscious, and highly intelligent. (You are my clients and friends after all!) We are the species with the highest intellect. We have a moral foundation, unlike our other animal beings. In my eyes, and that of Jane Goodall, we then are left with a moral, social and intellectual responsibility to the other animals of this world, the plants, trees, and environment. We are responsible for causing the pollution, diminishing forests, extinction of many species, and more. Without taking a stance to commit to change we will wipe out the planet.

Okay, some people may think, "Sandy, you've gone over the edge." Research it on your own if you don't believe it, but don't ignore it. I challenge you skeptics: prove me wrong!

Regardless of your thoughts on the future of this world, we can make changes. Here's some simple things you can do:

1. Recycle everything you can. If your area does not offer recycling, talk to whoever you have to to make it available.
2. Buy eggs laid by free range hens. Yes, they are more expensive but those eggs come from hens that are fed all-natural foods and are not caged and debeaked.

3. Do not eat veal. Even for those of you who are not vegetarian, you would be horrified at the process by which you get the veal that people eat. Calves are put in small cages, left in the dark, and are taken from their mothers very young.

4. Do not buy any products that are tested on animals. Look for labels that say "Not tested on animals."

5. When possible, walk, bicycle ride or share rides with others in order to cut down on pollution.

I'll leave you with this final thought. When you think of your children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, young neighbors, and friends, realize that we have an obligation to them. I know I don't want to leave this world knowing I have not contributed to the wellness of our future, leaving a mess for my children to clean up after. We can make this world a place where the future is one of greatness and wholeness if we all do our part. Thanks for listening.

Take care and be well,

Sandy Kamen Wisniewski

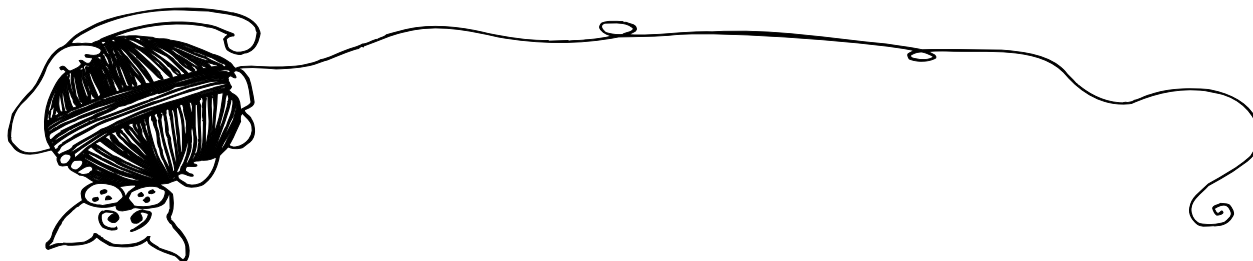
Special thanks goes to

Dr. Cheryl Roge
of Best Friends Animal Hospital

For teaching our First Aid for Pets Class



Someone very special to all of us at Pet Sitters passed away this spring. Her name was Nashi. Nashi was a 14-year-old brown Akita. She had been part of our Pet Sitter's family for about a decade. She touched many pet sitters' lives with her sweet nature and gentle manner. She has a brother Tojo (featured in this picture also), who misses her, as do her human mom and dad. While I know how sad it is when we lose a beloved pet like Nashi, I also know once we get past the sadness we are left with memories of love so great it can not be duplicated the same way twice. Thank you, Nashi, for sharing your love with so many.



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