

For Fidos & Felines

And other household pets

Fidos & Felines, LLC
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Inside this issue:

Grooming Your Cat	2
Know Your Treats	2
Introductions	2
Pleasures of a Trained Dog	3
Tips to Winterize	3
Welcome New Pet Clients	3
Mayzie and her Bowser Ball	4
Angie's List	4
Hilarious Pet Story	4

Professional Standards of the Job

We LOVE our work! We get to spoil your pets and then give them back to you when you return. Your pets get our undivided attention during our visits, and they enjoy it!

As with other professions, we have established practices that protect both our clients and our company. While there are too many to review in this limited space, there are a few I want to review for you.

Handling your keys/codes

We protect your home and pets by coding your keys so that, if picked up by someone, that person will not know whose keys they are. Every key goes on a Fidos & Felines key ring that

shows our names and phone number only. We never deviate from this practice.

Communicating with others

Confidentiality is always a priority. Neighbors and friends may ask where you are and how long you will be gone. Unless the person is your emergency contact or someone we know you trust, we do not disclose any information about your absence.

Scheduling

We pride ourselves on never saying "no" to an existing client when they request our services. By letting us know in advance when you will need our services, we can continue that practice



Pepper, a satisfied customer

and accommodate everyone.

Cancellation of engagement

Our liberal policy allows you to cancel a pet-sit up to 48 hours before the start of that job at no charge. Cancellations within 48 hours of the start of the job will result in a \$25 cancellation fee.

Popular Names from 2008

Our mission:

To provide exceptional, trustworthy services to clients and their pets, treating their pets as we would our own and providing clients with peace of mind when away.

Pet owners think of their pets as family members and the names reflect that. None of ours made the list, but perhaps you can find your pet's name here on the list of the most popular pet names from 2008:

Dogs:

1. Max
2. Bailey
3. Bella
4. Molly
5. Lucy
6. Buddy
7. Maggie
8. Daisy
9. Sophie
10. Chloe

Cats:

1. Max
2. Chloe
3. Tigger
4. Tiger
5. Lucy
6. Smokey
7. Oliver
8. Bella
9. Shadow
10. Charlie





Our cat, Sylvia, needs a nap after her grooming. She is always ready for her brushing. It is amazing the amount of hair we get each time we brush her. I would much rather dispose of the hair than wear it!

The Importance of Grooming Your Cat

Many cat owners talk about how much they love their cats and hate the hair. In fact, there is clothing available that says, "No outfit is complete without cat hair." While some cat hair can be expected, owners can reduce it by regularly grooming their feline friends.

Here are some pointers for easy (or easier) cat grooming:

1. Begin when your cat is young.
2. Introduce it as a regular routine.
3. Give a treat when the grooming is done.

4. Comb or brush shorthaired cats at least once a week, and longhaired cats every other day (at least).
5. Use both wide- and fine-tooth combs for the best results.
6. Use the opportunity to examine your cat's body for skin irritations, fleas or ticks, and mats.
7. NEVER use scissors to cut out a mat; you may cut the cat.

No matter what your cat's age, start grooming today!

Real Life Story

CJ is a cat with a regular routine. She begins the day with a little breakfast of canned and fresh dry food. Her owner then takes her into the bathroom where she patiently stands on the bathroom counter for her combing. After the combing, CJ gets some special kitty treats.

Because of this routine, it is very easy for me as her pet-sitter to keep up the same ritual and make sure CJ is properly groomed in her owner's absence.

Know Your Treats

It is such a great feeling to reward your pet with treats when he/she has done something good...or when he/she just gives you one of those looks that stir your heart. It is important to think what you are doing.

Most often when pets are overweight, it is a result of a couple of things.

- They are being fed too much
- They don't get enough exercise
- They eat food spilled by youngsters
- They beg for attention and a treat is a handy way to get them to stop

Many of the treats that may seem size-appropriate may also be filled with calories that Fido (or should I say Max) doesn't need. Multiply the number of calories per treat by the number of treats, and you'll see that they really add up. One client found that the treats she was giving her dog were 30 calories each!

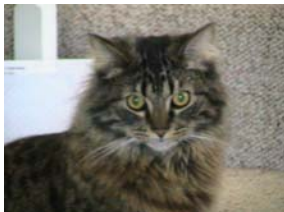
We use one treat in particular that we give with good conscience, Charlie Bear Dog Treats. They come in Liver and Egg & Cheese flavors and dogs really like them. We even found Turkey Liver & Cranberry flavored treats for the holidays! Each treat

is made with U.S. products, which is really important given the problems with imported products that we had the past few years. Each treat is only three (3) calories. They are small in size, so they are easy to put in your pocket and use anywhere your dog deserves a reward.

We sell these treats to our customers or you can find them at PetCo. They are affordable, convenient, and health-conscious treats for your pet. Check them out as part of your dog's overall fitness plan.

"Obese pets can suffer from some of the same physical problems obese people do. Measuring their food and providing healthy treats should be part of your fitness plan for your pet."

Jayne Sikyta



Introducing our Independent Contractors

As our business grows, we cannot be everywhere at once, so we have some helpers that step in when needed. Some of you have met these important people; many have not.

Before we introduce them to you, we want to assure you that we do complete criminal background checks prior to bringing them on board. After all, it is our reputation and your "stuff" that is at risk here; and we don't view either lightly.

Sue Rigsby is a retiree who loves dogs and the bigger the better. She likes overnight pet sits and services Lee's Summit, Independence, Pleasant Hill, and other nearby areas.

Holly Bunyard is a sucker for pretty canine and feline faces. She helps with some of the evening and weekend visits when we are swamped with business. She started over the Christmas period and learned quickly how important it is to budget her time.

Mary Alice McGill is a recent retiree who is excellent with those shy, withdrawn, and special needs pets. Her patience and kindness really comes across to the animals, and they love her. Mary Alice primarily does overnight pet sits.

Jenel Moline is on her first overnight pet sit with us this month. She loves dogs, especially big dogs. Jenel may be helping with daytime visits as well as we go forward.

Your pets love our independent contractors

The Pleasures of a Trained Dog

By Cassie Schmidt - Co-owner of K-9's in Motion

I take my dog everywhere. When we're out in public, I often have people comment that they wished their dog was as well-behaved. It's as if they think she just magically came that way. Let me tell you, she didn't just "come that way." I'm sure that left to her own devices, my dog would be an overactive, out-of-control nuisance. Her manners are the result of many hours of patient and positive training.

Unfortunately, some dog owners are willing to settle for unruly behavior because they haven't really considered the benefits of having a well-behaved pet. Or they aren't willing to invest the energy and resources it takes to train. Training is a respon-

sibility dog-owners must take seriously.

Aside from having a pet you can live with, another advantage of training is the relationship you develop with your dog during the process. Through the use of positive training techniques, your dog will learn to trust you and acquire a desire to please you. The bond you can develop with your dog is profound.

Trained dogs also enjoy a more secure life. A dog that has been taught self-control and boundaries will have a more balanced mindset and avoid many fear and insecurity issues that lead to unwanted behavior. A reliable recall can even save

your dog's life in some situations.

I recommend starting your puppy in a puppy class for basic obedience and socialization at around twelve weeks of age. However, it's never too late to start. Even older dogs will quickly respond to positive training techniques. Make training a game with lots of praise and rewards and your dog will love learning new behaviors.

The time you invest in training your pet can make the difference between a peaceful household and an unpleasant, chaotic existence. Training time and expense should be considered an investment in quality of life for both your family and your dog.

As a special offer for Fidos & Felines clients, the owners of K-9's in Motion are offering \$10 off a class session at their facility. To find out about classes, simply go to www.k-9sinmotion.com to access the class schedule.

**\$10 Off for
Fidos & Felines clients!**



Ten Tips To Help Winterize Your Pets

Pet Sitters International offers the following winter-proofing tips to help keep your pets healthy, happy and safe during the cold winter months:

Keep pets inside as much as possible. Young pets, old pets, and short-haired breeds are more vulnerable to cold weather and should not be left outside unsupervised.

Dogs should never be left out during a snowstorm because they frequently lose their scent in snow and ice and easily become lost.

If your pet has to be kept outside, provide adequate shelter. Add straw

for additional insulation from the cold and furnish a snug, warm bed that does not sit directly on the ground.

Supply your pet with extra food and water when outside for extended periods of time. Make sure to use plastic dishes, as glass or porcelain can crack when temperatures drop.

Ice-melting chemicals and salt can irritate and burn the pads of your pet's paws. Thoroughly wipe off your pet's feet once it has returned inside. Clip the long hair on the bottom of your dog's feet to prevent buildup of ice balls that can be pain-

ful and difficult to remove.

Trim nails regularly. It is difficult to maintain solid footing in icy conditions with long nails.

Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep. All pets, including small caged pets, need to be kept warm and away from drafts.

Drivers are advised to blow the car horn or bang on the hoods and sides of the car prior to driving to alert cats that may be taking advantage of the engine's warmth.

Dog Coat Available

One kind client has given us a wonderful dog coat for a medium sized dog. If you can use the coat, please call us at 816-824-4735 and we will get it to you.

Welcome to Our New Pet Clients

Booby Clark & Jager (cats)
Satchell (Sharpei)
Geisha (Sharpei)
Kitty (cat)
Chief & Bella (Golden Retrievers)
Sasha (Siamese)
Kelly (Beagle)
Bode (Yorkie-Poo)
Puppet (Black Lab) & Eliot (Old English Sheepdog)
Gabby (Peke-a-poo)
Cami (Shih Tzu)
Napoleon (Cat)

Lucy & PeeWee (cats)
Ozzy (Umbrella Cockatoo) & Dexter (Goffins Cockatoo)
Missy (Boston Terrier)
Kami (Shepherd Mix)
Millie (Golden Retriever)
Lily (Bichon Frise) & Whitney (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel)
Court Jester aka CJ (cat)
Charlie (Lhasa-Poo)
Riley (Miniature Schnauzer)
Cord, Elizabeth, Abby, & Elf (Irish Wolfhounds)

Riley & Tubby (English Bulldogs)
Flex (Scottish Terrier) & Bantam (Miniature Schnauzer)

We love all of our pet clients and enjoy caring for them. Please give them a hug and kiss from Larry & Jayne!

Adopt a homeless pet

Are you looking for a pet? We suggest you try shelters/rescue groups first!

www.furrykidsrefuge.org (you can also see their pets at the PetCo in Lee's Summit on Saturdays)

mogsadoptions@yahoo.com (not a web site, but contact them if you are interested in German shepherd rescues)

www.waysidewaifs.org (nearby in Grandview—we adopted three of our pets from there)



Pet Care at Home

Phone: 816-824-4735

Fax: 816-246-1198

E-mail: fidosandfelinesllc@gmail.com

We're on the web!

www.fidosandfelinesllc.com

**The best place for your pet is
in your own home.**



Mayzie (one of our pet friends) was in our Pet Sitters International December e-newsletter promoting the Bowser Ball. This is a product we found that is wonderful, especially for dogs who love to play fetch. The packaging says it is a "Superflex Baseball" with "super bounce," it's "practically indestructible," it floats, and it is "vanilla flavored" (I haven't tested the flavor part). What more could a dog ask for? I have used these with a couple of Labs and they love it. Of course, we don't recommend you leave them laying around to test the "practically indestructible" claim. We use these when we have a specific play time and put them away when play time is over. If you are interested in one of these Bowser Balls, let us know. They are \$5, plus tax.

Angie's List

Have any of you used Angie's List as a tool to find someone who provides a service? This is a list developed by members who use the services and recommend them to the rest of the community. It includes reports about the level of service, including price, quality of work, responsiveness, punctuality, and professionalism, and is a valuable resource.

We would love to be on Angie's List and are asking any of you who are members to go online and submit a report on our business. We would really appreciate it.

Hilarious Pet Story

Here's a story I found on the Internet

My husband raised birds and had three favorites in the house as his personal pets. Amanda was an African gray who was just too smart. She hated women and loved to flirt with any man who came into the house. She had an awesome vocabulary. One of her many talents was to invite people in when she heard the doorbell or heard someone knock on the door. "Come on in," she would yell out.

Another one of his birds was a Mexican redhead, Captain. He was not too smart, but he picked up a word or two. His favorite word being "what." My husband was hard of hearing, and he was always saying "what" to questions or statements. It was quite annoying because he didn't want to use his hearing aids, but that darn ol' bird just loved that word and it drove us nuts.

My husband passed away, and a friend of mine took the birds to her house to "birdsit" for a time. Her brother was living with her to get away from an old ex-girlfriend. She had them

sitting by the front door near an open window. One day, the ex-girlfriend showed up at the house to see him. Neither my friend nor her brother wanted her to know that they were home, so they hid behind a wall till she left. She began to ring the bell and knock on the door, and to my friend's amazement the African gray (Amanda) began to yell out, "Well, come on in!" The ex-girlfriend tried to get in the door, but thankfully the door was locked. She shook the handle and began to yell, "I can't, the door is locked". Right on cue, the other bird, Captain, yelled out "What, what?" She

would yell, "I said the door is locked!" She would knock again and would hear, "Well, come on in" and then the resounding "What?" from Captain. You would think that this woman would have given up, but not her. She kept this up till my friend and her brother were laughing so hard that she wet her pants.

