

# For Fidos & Felines

And other household pets

## Our mission:

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

**Fidos & Felines, LLC**  
**816-824-4735**  
**www.fidosandfelinesllc.com**



## CATS AND WATER

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Ever tried to give a cat a bath? It is very difficult to do. Cats seem to equate being bathed in a tub of water with people being bathed in a tub of garbage. Yuck!

Despite that, water is very important to the health of cats. This is especially true because of the dry diet many feed their cats. Owners like the dry food because it is easier, less messy, and certainly less stinky! But they must remember to have plenty of water available for their feline friends.

Cats have been known to snub one source of water, e.g., a bowl or other vessel, and drink from the owner's glass or cup.

They simply seem to prefer one container over another. That may be true. Some cats like to drink from large bowls so their whiskers don't touch the sides of the bowl when they drink. Others don't mind the contact. Some cats love the cat fountains that circulate the water and prevent it from becoming stagnant. Others choose to drink from a running faucet or a simple bowl.

So how does the owner know what will work? Oftentimes it is a matter of trial and error. Once an acceptable container is found, the next step is to keep it filled with fresh water. When water sits, it can cause scum on

the bottom of the vessel, sometimes causing a pink film to develop. This stagnant water can be just as unappealing to a cat as it would be to the owner. Cleaning a cat's bowl regularly with soap and water (making sure to rinse thoroughly), is the best practice to prevent this scum from developing and maintaining a fresh water supply for cats.

One more word about a cat and water. Owners must carefully monitor the cat's intake of water. If a cat stops drinking altogether, or drinks a lot, it can be a sign of physical problems and warrant a visit to the veterinarian.

## Memorials

Please let us know when a beloved pet passes away. We make donations to local rescue groups as a memorial to deceased pets. Local organizations that have benefited include Furry Kids Refuge and Wayside Waifs.

## AT HOME ENTERTAINMENT CAN BE THE BEST

During difficult financial times, we all struggle. Going out to dinner suddenly becomes something we think twice about. Enjoying a movie at the theater is definitely something we carefully consider, given the cost of admission and refreshments. During these tough times the best entertainment may be as

close as beside our chair or across the room on a pillow.

A laser mouse or a flashlight in a dark room can provide hours of entertainment with a cat. An old tennis ball thrown in the back yard gives your dog great exercise, gets you out of an easy chair, and provides both with some fun. Taking a walk

around the block might just give you and your pet physical activity and give you a chance to catch up with a neighbor or friend you might happen across.

The weather's great, so let's get active and enjoy some free entertainment.





## EXERCISING YOUR DOG WITHOUT OVERDOING IT YOURSELF

We had an opportunity recently to care for the most wonderful German Shepherd, Greta. She was such a sweet dog, obedient, and obsessed with one toy in particular...a tennis ball.

Thankfully, her owner had a ball launcher in his closet and that was the key to Greta's happiness. We spent a lot of time in the back yard, launching tennis balls, which she so nicely fetched and returned for another shot. This ball launcher was such a great contraption that I decided to investigate the product on the Internet.

For those of you with hyper

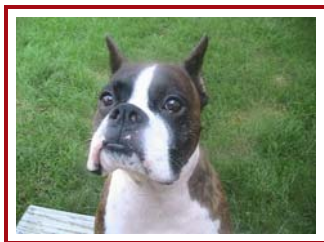
dogs, (and you know who you are), there are all kinds of products you might want to check out. The web site, [www.Hyper-products.com](http://www.Hyper-products.com), shows a variety of mechanisms and products for your hyper puppy. There are bark-n-bats, doggie drivers, ball launchers, hyper dummy launchers, hyper disc launchers, and more. It is great fun looking at , reading about, and watching videos of the products.

Now, let me tell you about my experience. I loved the idea of the ball launcher, but it took a little practice for me to get it

right. I sometimes shot the ball backwards (don't ask me how I did that), straight down to the ground, or just a few feet in front of me. If any of the neighbors had been watching, they would have had a great laugh! In fact, I had quite a few laughs over it. My husband, on the other hand, had no problem launching the ball quite a distance, giving Greta a good amount of exercise and some challenge.

I think it is worth checking out if you have a hyper dog that needs a lot of exercise.

## BRACHYCEPHALIC BREEDS TAKE EXTRA CARE



Some dogs belong to brachycephalic breeds, those with short noses, such as a Boxer, Bulldog, Pug, Boston Terrier, Pekingese, and Shih Tzu.

These dogs tend to snore and breathe through their mouths. During hot weather, they can become overheated easily and tire rapidly with exercise.

Owners of these breeds should give their dogs a little extra care to keep them happy and

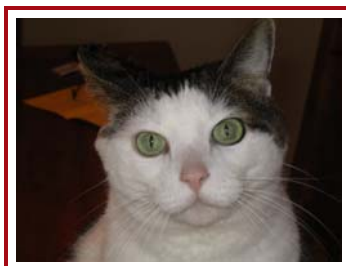
comfortable.

1. Keep your dog's weight under control. Obesity makes it harder for these breeds to breathe.
2. Avoid exercise during hot, humid weather.
3. Instead of a neck collar, which puts pressure on the throat, walk your dog with a harness.
4. These dogs have the same number of teeth, (42), as

other dogs. They are packed into a small space, so dental care is very important. Brushing teeth at home and having them cleaned by a vet regularly is good disease prevention.

5. If your pet has skin folds, keep the folds dry and check them regularly for irritation. If irritated, see a veterinarian.

## IT'S GOOD TO CLEAN YOUR CAT'S EARS REGULARLY



Cats are clean animals, right? So why worry about their ears? While cats can frequently be found lounging around, licking their fur clean, they don't always take care of the cracks and crevices in the ears.

It is best to check your cat's ears weekly. If you find some dirt, use a cotton ball moistened with vet-approved cleaning

solution. Never use a cotton swab, and don't stick your finger in the cats ear farther than your first knuckle.

Always sniff the ears. There should not be any bad odor. If there is, take your cat to the vet for a check.

If you need to give your cat ear medication, squeeze the drops

into the ear and massage it gently. You will hear a squishing sound as the drops go into the ear canal.

Your cat will likely enjoy the attention; but when you are done, stand back. He/she will likely shake the head, sending medicine flying on any innocent bystanders!

## ADVICE FROM YOUR PET SITTER

Pre-trip preparations can really help us provide the best care for your pet. Here are some items you might want to take care of before leaving.

- Set thermostats or AC units/fans at temperatures that will be comfortable for your pets. Leave operating instructions for adjustments.
- Stock up on enough paper towels, pet food, kitty litter, medication, etc., to last your entire trip. Consider leaving extra supplies in case you are delayed.
- Clean the litter boxes and fill with fresh litter before leaving.
- Count heads before leaving.
- Inform neighbors who may be looking out for you property that we will be making visits to your home.
- Remember to leave your emergency contact numbers for us.
- If you have a security system, please notify the company that we will be coming to your home. Provide us with a password in case the alarm goes off.
- Update your personal information regularly, e.g., phone numbers, vet information, etc., so we have current information.
- Please let us know if anyone has your permission to enter your home while you are away.
- Leave a flashlight out in case of power outages. Tell us where the circuit breaker/fuse box is.
- Be sure to let us know if your departure or return is delayed. Take our phone numbers with you in case you need to call us.
- Call the office as soon as you return so we know you are home safely.

### Checklist for pet-sitter

- Set thermostat
- Stock up on Supplies
- Clean litter boxes
- Count heads (of pets)
- Inform neighbors of pet sitter
- Leave contact info
- Notify alarm company
- Update info with pet sitter
- Leave names of anyone with permission to be at house
- Leave flashlight on counter
- Notify pet sitter of travel delays
- Call us when you return 816-824-4735

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO RELATIONSHIP

Communication with clients often happens by e-mail or notes left on the kitchen counter. We look for and encourage written communication when it comes to the care of your pets. Here are some things we would like to know when we start a pet sitting job:

- If your pet has been ill, gotten into the garbage, or eaten a different food—so we can watch for vomiting or diarrhea.
- If one pet doesn't get along with another pet or with children in the neighborhood.
- If there are food restrictions due to allergies or health issues.
- If the pet has had a recent injury, so we aren't surprised to see sudden limping and assume something just happened.
- If there should be exercise restrictions for any reason.
- If the pet does not like to be touched in a certain area or reacts badly if you touch a certain area.
- Where to find a coat or sweater for bad weather if the pet needs it.
- Any fears or phobias the



“One of my clients leaves a note pad and we regularly write notes back and forth to keep each other updated on what is going on with the pets, the house, their schedules, etc. It is very helpful.” says Jayne.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PET CLIENTS

Maggie (Mini Schnauzer)  
 Bingo, Lucy, & Gabby (Border Collies)  
 Sandy (Hamster)  
 Figaro, Little Bit & Harley (cats)  
 Heineken (Husky), Maggie (Beagle Mix), Delilah (cat)  
 Willy & Woody (Mini Dachshunds)  
 Beatty (Terrier Mix)  
 Mac & Scooby (cats)

Jynx (Bichon/Shih Tzu Mix)  
 Katie (Cairn) & Bennett (cat)  
 Lily (Maltese)  
 Tiger & Jupiter (cats)  
 John Brown (Portuguese Water Dog), Zelda (St. Bernard), Trillian (Golden Retriever), Apache, Oracle & Widget (cats)  
 Harley (Golden Retriever)  
 Mozart (Mini Schnauzer)  
 Liesl & Tressa (Mini Dachshunds)

George (Chow Mix), Weezie (Sheltie/Corgi Mix), Bosco, Midnight, Sophie, Spike, Manson, Erin, Simba & Smokey (cats)  
 Ali & Rylee (Shih Tzus)  
 Maizy (Yellow Lab), Mattie (Shepherd Mix), Dewey (Mini Dachshund)  
 Solomon (Boxer)  
 Baldy (Beagle) & Schmoltzie (Mini Dachshund)

Samson (Golden Retriever)  
 Greta (German Shepherd)  
 Piglet (Sharpei)  
 Bobby (Lahsa/Poodle Mix)  
 Buddy (Yellow Lab), Molly (Lab Mix), Betty (Lab/Beagle Mix)

**We love you all!**



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We're on the Web:  
[www.fidosandfelinesllc.com](http://www.fidosandfelinesllc.com)

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

We appreciate your recommendations to neighbors, friends, and relatives about our service. Your recommendations are our best source of new customers. In appreciation of your kind words about our services to others, we are offering \$10 off your next pet-sitting engagement.

Thanks for helping us help others.

## Ever wonder what your pet is thinking? Read on!

### Why pay retail?

Shop our on-line store with its great **selection**, **save** money, and enjoy the **convenience** of having your purchases delivered to your door!

[www.fidosandfelinesllc.com](http://www.fidosandfelinesllc.com)

Click on the PSI icon to be directed to our on-line store.

You can choose from a variety of products, including:

- Toys
- Treats
- Collars and Leashes
- Training Aids
- Stain & Odor Remover
- Beds
- Attire
- Health Care
- Carriers & Crates

### Dog Diary

**7:00 AM** Outside! My favorite thing!

**8:00 AM** Dog food! My favorite thing!

**9:00 AM** A ride in the car! My favorite thing!

**9:30 AM** A walk in the park! My favorite thing!

**10:30 AM** Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!

**Noon** Lunch! My favorite thing!

**1:00 PM** Played in the yard! My favorite thing!

**2:00 PM** Looked out the window and barked! My favorite thing!

**3:00 PM** Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!

**4:00 PM** Chased a bird out of a tree! My favorite thing!

**5:00 PM** Milk bones! My favorite thing!

**6:00 PM** Watched my people eat! Table scraps! My favorite thing!

**7:00 PM** Got to play ball! My favorite thing!

**8:00 PM** Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!

**11:00 PM** Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!

### Cat Diary

Day 983 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. The 7 dine lavishly on fresh meat while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for my rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the

carpet. Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear in their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a good little hunter I am. Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my captors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow—but at the top of the stairs. I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog continues to receive special privileges. He is regularly released and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded.

*Author unknown*