



For Pets' Sake

Pet-sitting

610 - 917 - 3670

Dog Walking

Celebrates 15 Years!!

Believe it or not, *For Pets' Sake* opened for business in 1993. That means that during 2008 we will be celebrating 15 years of outstanding service! My how the time flies!

When I began in 1993, the concept of pet-sitting was very new. I had a hard time convincing my friends that this idea of mine was viable. While brainstorming with them one day the name *FOR PETS' SAKE* popped into my head, and I knew instantly that that was the name I would use.

My good friend Annie Kipper designed my logo one afternoon as we sat in a nursery/kindergarten classroom setting owned by a friend in beautiful Honeybrook, Pennsylvania. We were just doodling around and Annie sketched out the dog, kitty, and bird - and that was that. Our [LOGO](#).

I was one of only a few other Professional pet sitting services in the entire area in 1993. Now there are over 35 services within a 15 mile radius! I have seen a lot of similar businesses come and go over the years. It isn't as easy as it appears!!!! The logistics of getting an in-home pet sitting service to run smoothly requires vigilant attention to detail, a lot of dedication and commitment, plenty of STAMINA, a comfortable pair of boots, a true love for ALL types of pets with all types of temperaments, a strong knowledge of animals, and a very reliable means of transportation.

Initially operated out of my home in Audubon, I relocated to Phoenixville in 1999. For a brief time, I moved the business to a more retail-like storefront off of Pawling's Road where the office became the central hub of the surrounding area in which we provided service (a 10 mile radius of Audubon). In 2005 I moved the business back into my home, where the main-stay of *For Pets' Sake* has remained in-home professional pet sitting, dog walking, and doggie transport.

Since 1993, the cost of fuel has risen an unbelievable 200%(!!!), while our rates have increased by barely 15%. The original rate for one dog or cat was \$10.00 per visit. Today, nearly 15 years later, our rate (locally) for one dog/cat is only \$15.00 for a steady regular mid-day visit and \$16/\$17.00 for a vacation pet-sit. (A multi-pet discount is available.)



Our visits remain at 30 minutes MINIMUM (and often longer). Many other pet-sitting services have both increased their rates well above ours, and have decreased the amount of time allotted to each pet-sit. Our fees remain consistently lower, as mostly YOU, our clients, do our advertising as you pass on the *For Pets' Sake* name to others. We constantly scrutinize our procedures so that we can keep all costs as low as possible.

I take a tremendous amount of pride in the high quality service my sitters provide, and the integrity with which they provide it. I would ask any one of them to come into my own home and do service for me personally at any time.

All of my wonderful sitters are thoroughly screened and competent to do service if the need were to arise. The team I have is strong, dependable, personable, trustworthy, compassionate, loving, and above all honest. They go above and beyond, improvising as necessary, and are continually willing to make adjustments to accommodate as many clients as possible, especially with last minute requests.

Last year, Lisa Coons joined the *For Pets' Sake* team in the office. She has helped me tremendously by keeping the office running smoothly and allowing me to get back on the road, doing what I love best - caring for your pets.

I have put my heart and soul into *For Pets' Sake*, and believe me, it has been a challenge. It's all about details, details, DETAILS! Never would I have thought that "p-p's" and "poopies" would be such a very big part of my daily vocabulary.

Thank you all for being such wonderful customer's of *For Pets' Sake*. I cannot express how much my sitters and I enjoy providing care to you and your wonderful pets. It is through your patronage that I have been able to succeed. I truly could not have thrived in this business for 15 years without such wonderful clients.

Thank you kindly for your business and I am looking forward to continuing to provide you and your furry, feathered, and finned friend's tender and loving care as often as you need.

Caren Sipkin

Owner, For Pets' Sake



OWNER: CAREN SIPKIN

Caren owns and operates *For Pets' Sake* and has been pet-sitting for 15 years.

Caren has her own menagerie of pets, including three cats and a dog. Unfortunately, Caren has lost two additional kitties this past year, one to illness, and one to natural causes. Peanut and Mr. Evie will be missed.

Clockwise from Top Left: Eltie, Jasper Kitty, Levi, Sweet Pea (Peanut), Shelby, and Mr. Evie



Caren Sipkin and Abigail wave Hello!

Some of our BEST Friends!



For Pets' Sake
SPECIAL REFERRAL OFFER!
610 - 917 - 3670



As a current *For Pets' Sake* customer, give this coupon to a friend, neighbor, or relative.

When they call for service and turn this coupon in with payment, you *both* received \$10 towards your account.

Customer Name: _____

New Customer Name: _____

Address: _____

Referred customer must schedule a minimum of three visits to qualify for discount.



SITTER PROFILE: LISA COONS

Lisa joined *For Pets' Sake* in August 2006. Lisa was one of the many respondents to an ad that I posted to craigslist.com. Initially, Lisa applied for a part-time pet-sitter position. Ironically, while interviewing, I came to discover that Lisa also had a very skilled background in accounting and public relations. It was a perfect fit, as I was also looking for someone to help out in the office.

Lisa was born and raised in Phoenixville, and aside from a two year stint in Perris, California, has lived in the area all her life. Lisa graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania with a BA in Education.



Lisa and her husband Bob

For several months Lisa handled double-duty, both pet-sitting AND keeping the office running smoothly. Her pet-sitting days ended when she gave birth to her son, Justin, on April 28, 2007. Now, Lisa works exclusively in the office assisting with the administrative duties, answering and returning phone calls, preparing the schedules, and basically keeping me out from under all the paperwork. Lisa brings Justin with her to the office, and he hangs out while Lisa works.

Lisa and her husband Bob have their hands full with not only Justin, but three dogs and four birds! Additionally, Lisa fosters rescued and abused Pugs, providing them with a loving and secure home for a short while until they find a permanent home.



This is Justin. Isn't he CUTE!!



Auntie Caren, doin' some snugglin' with a sleeping Justin while Jasper the cat has a snack.



This is Toby the bulldog.



Pugs, Dylan and Nicky



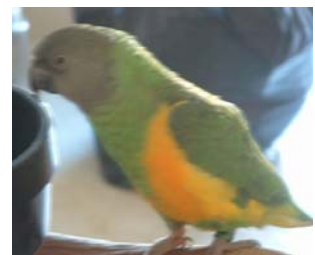
Spike
a Mealy Amazon Parrot



The Blue and Gold
Macaw Cody



This is Max,
a Green-Wing Macaw.



Peanut
the Senegal Parrot





DOG OWNER'S BEWARE CUSHINGS DISEASE



Cushing's disease, or hyperadrenocorticism, is caused by the over-production of hormones from the adrenal glands, and commonly affects middle-aged to older dogs. The extra high levels of these hormones in your pet's body can cause varied and serious symptoms

High levels of these hormones in the body can cause a number of health problems in pets including:

- increased/excessive water consumption
- increased/excessive urination
- urinary accidents in previously housetrained dogs
- increased/excessive appetite
- appearance of food stealing/guarding, begging, trash dumping, etc.
- sagging, bloated, pot-bellied appearance
- weight gain or its appearance, due to fat redistribution
- loss of muscle mass, giving the appearance of weight loss
- exercise intolerance, lethargy, general or hind-leg weakness
- new reluctance to jump on furniture or people
- excess panting, seeking cool surfaces to rest on
- symmetrically thinning hair or baldness on torso and other coat changes like dullness, dryness
- slow regrowth of hair after clipping
- hard, calcified lumps in the skin (calcinosis cutis)
- susceptibility to infections (especially skin and urinary)

The symptoms may creep up on the pet and pet owner. The danger signs of vomiting, diarrhea, pain, seizures, and bleeding do NOT occur; the pets do not appear to be critically ill. To the contrary, the symptoms often appear to be connected to normal aging.

There are two different distinct forms of the disease. There is pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism (PDH) and there is an adrenal-based disease.



Pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism: PDH involves the oversecretion of ACTH by the pituitary gland. ACTH is a hormone that stimulates the adrenal gland to produce glucocorticoids. The pituitary gland is most likely overproducing ACTH because of a pituitary tumor. The PDH form of the disease is responsible for around 80% of the cases of canine Cushing's disease.

Adrenal-based hyperadrenocorticism: The adrenal-based form of the disease is usually a result of an adrenal tumor that causes an over-secretion of glucocorticoids. Adrenal tumors are responsible for around 20% of the cases of Cushing's disease. There is also a form of the disease called "iatrogenic" Cushing's disease that occurs as a result of giving the animal high doses of steroids. In this form of the disease, symptoms of Cushing's disease will go away once the steroids are discontinued.

Once suspected, Cushing's disease can be diagnosed by blood tests. Once it is diagnosed, tests can also differentiate between disease caused by pituitary gland tumor and disease caused by adrenal gland tumor.

Left untreated, Cushing's disease will progress and can lead to life-threatening disorders such as diabetes, congestive heart failure, and liver and kidney failure, and to chronic maladies such as hypothyroidism and infections of the skin, ears, gums, eyes, or bladder. If your pet exhibits any of the early signs of Cushing's and is six years old or older, make an appointment with your vet right away. Pituitary Cushing's disease cannot be cured, but the treatments available can prolong your pet's quality of life and keep him around for years longer. If an adrenal tumor is causing the disease, surgery may be indicated. Either way, it's better to get started on treatment.

