

Is pet sitting a profitable career?

Written by By Sam Mazzota King Syndicate
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DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm a high school student and I'm thinking about what kind of career I'd like to have after I graduate three years from now.

I'm not sure college is for me, and I like being around pets — my family has two dogs and a cat, and I have a flop-eared rabbit. I've heard that pet sitting is a good business to be in. Is this true? Can I do that instead of college? — Caryn H., Fort Walton Beach, Florida

DEAR CARYN: Pet sitting is a huge and growing market, because almost every owner is going to need someone to watch their pet at some point. So, it's certainly worth considering as

a career. You can start your own pet sitting business or go to work for someone else.

This is a job that requires responsibility and self-discipline, because people are entrusting you with their pets. You have to show up at the agreed upon time, follow the owners' instructions to the letter, and make sure their pets remain happy and healthy. If dog-walking is part of the job, you've got to keep them under control and away from conflicts with other dogs. You've got to stay healthy, because a sick day is not an option unless you have someone to cover for you.

Start by visiting the websites of two major pet-sitting organizations: Pet Sitters International (petsit.com) and the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (petsitters.org). They offer resources, certifications and more. Talk to your parents and your school guidance counselor about your interest. They'll support you and help you explore this career option.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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