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Media Contact:

Yarissa Reyes

856-642-4420

yreyes@ahint.com

Beltsville Pet Sitter Wins Business of the Year Award

Christi Fries of Terrapin Pets Recognized by the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. – The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) has selected Christi Fries, owner of Terrapin Pets in Beltsville, Md., as the 2009 Business of the Year winner.

The NAPPS Business of the Year Award is presented to a member who has demonstrated outstanding business practices and vision in maintaining and growing their business. Fries, a professional pet sitter since 2002, opened Terrapin Pets in May of 2006.

Fries has also been recognized with the 2009 Members in Action Award. This award recognizes members for outstanding service to NAPPS and its members. Both awards will be presented during the 2009 NAPPS Annual Conference being held January 16-18 aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif.

Jerry Wentz, NAPPS Past President and a member of the award selection committee, said Fries was selected “because of her focus on customer service and compassionate animal care.”

“Christi exemplifies the NAPPS core values of honesty, integrity, responsibility, and excellence,” said Candance Labane-Godfrey, President of NAPPS. “Christi is an asset to the NAPPS membership and we’re thrilled to recognize Christi with this award.”

Fries became a professional pet sitter six years ago after spending more than 20 years working in customer service and management. Her immense love for animals and her desire to put her business skills to good use, prompted her to make her life-long dream a reality. After joining NAPPS in 2006, Fries decided to continue her education and has earned the prestigious NAPPS Certification designation.

Certification acknowledges the pet sitter is a serious professional who has obtained a high level of expertise through personal study by completing a course of study in pet care, health, nutrition and behavior, as well as, business development and management, and a complete pet first aid course.

“Being selected as the NAPPS 2009 Business of the Year will allow me to promote the value of continuing education, especially within our organization. I believe that to be recognized as a true professional pet sitter by your clients and colleagues, it is important to invest resources to improve business management skills in conjunction with animal care abilities,” said Fries.

In fact, Fries is so committed to the professional development of her peers that she will serve as Chairperson of the Certification Committee in 2009.

NAPPS is a national nonprofit trade association dedicated to promoting the concept of in-home pet care, supporting the professionals engaged in at-home pet care, promoting the welfare of animals, and improving and expanding the industry of pet sitting. NAPPS provides valuable credibility, networking and education to help foster the success of their members.

For more information on NAPPS, visit: www.petsitters.org or contact the national headquarters: 15000 Commerce Parkway, Suite C, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054; Phone: 856-439-0324; Fax: 856-439-0525; Email: napps@ahint.com.

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