

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Only When Yard Work Ends, is it Safe for Our Furry Friends**

*NAPPS Offers Tips to Keep Pets Safe When Parents Tend to Chores Outdoors*

MT. LAUREL, NJ – June 19, 2012 – The summer season offers endless opportunities to spend time outside with family, friends and of course, Fido. The warm weather welcomes backyard barbeques, bike rides and daily walks with your favorite four-legged friends. In addition to the fun and outdoor activities that the summer brings, it's also the ideal season for landscaping and property maintenance. The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) is urging pet parents to take the proper precautions to ensure their pet's safety while doing yard work this summer.

“It's not uncommon for pets to roam around the yard while their pet parents spend time gardening and doing outdoor chores,” said John D'Ariano, president of NAPPS. “It's extremely important to consider your pet's safety before allowing them to accompany you; sharp tools and equipment used for landscaping can cause serious injuries and even result in death, if used in close proximity to an animal.”

NAPPS urges pet parents to consider the following before caring for your yard with your pets nearby:

- Be aware of plants, chemicals and flowers that can be dangerous to your pet's health. While they may look beautiful, they can be harmful and sometimes fatal to your pet.
- Keep all yard tools and lawn equipment out of your pet's reach. When it's time to use motor-operated tools, leave Fido inside and out of harms way. Once you've finished the job and the equipment is away, it's safe for Fido to play.
- Keep a bowl of water nearby! It's important for both you and your pet to stay hydrated when working (or playing) under the hot summer sun.
- Hire a professional pet sitter to take your four-legged friends for a stroll around the block. This will give you an opportunity to complete your outdoor chores knowing your pets are safe.

In addition to outdoor work, outdoor leisure presents a few reasons for caution; swimming pools can be extremely dangerous, especially if they are easily accessible to pets.

Consider these tips for pool-area pet safety:

- Pools are typically in open spaces, which allow extra sun exposure to the surrounding ground or deck; as a result, these areas tend to become hot quickly. Be sure your pet has a shady spot for cooling down—away from the patio, deck or pool.
- Chemicals used to clean swimming pools are generally safe for humans but can cause severe eye and skin irritations for animals. Avoid accidents and injuries—keep pets indoors when it's time to clean the pool.
- Install a fence around your pool with a secure, locking gate. This will help keep both your human and canine children safe.

- Consider a floating pool alarm to help ensure safety. These devices alert pool owners when someone (or something!) has unexpectedly gone into the water.

After all of your outdoor chores are completed, be sure to spend time enjoying the sunshine with your favorite playful pup! Reward yourself for crossing another thing off of your summer to-do list and show Fido you appreciate his loyalty and companionship.

**About NAPPS:** NAPPS is the only national non-profit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as “the most respected authority in professional pet sitting.” It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS’ free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS’ nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at [www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org). For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/TheNAPPS](https://facebook.com/TheNAPPS).

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