

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beat the Back to School Blues!

When Summer Fades into Fall, Pets are Likely to Get the Blues, Too!

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J.--July 19, 2012 – Heading back to school seems dreadful to most children after weeks of enjoying the summer sunshine and freedom from homework. It's also no surprise that when the chill of the autumn air picks up and school is back in session, the four-legged family members also dread the days when they're left home alone. With each new school year, there's an adjustment period for the entire family—including Fido and Fluffy. Luckily, pet parents can start the new school year worry-free, knowing their furry loved ones are receiving expert care.

The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, encourages pet parents to help their pets adjust to the "back to school" routine by hiring a professional pet sitter who can offer care and companionship while the family must be away from home. A professional pet sitter is able to offer your pet pal the attention and care he needs while you and your human family members hang up your flip flops for and strap on your sneakers for the new school year.

"Jumping into a new school year and adjusting to a new routine can be difficult for all members of the family—including pets," said John D'Ariano, president of NAPPS. "A professional pet sitter can help make the adjustment period less stressful by offering the daily afternoon companionship your furry friend became accustomed to over the summer."

To help families prepare their pet pals for the new school year, NAPPS urges pet parents to consider the following:

- Pets lose the constant interaction with people when families head back to school. Hiring a professional pet sitter can offset the sudden loneliness and prevent separation anxiety.
- Those old t-shirts you were planning to throw out can serve a new purpose—leave an item of your clothing near your pet while you are away. This will help offer comfort when you're away from home.
- Incorporate exercise into your pet's daily routine. Just because you're away from home, doesn't mean Fido has to be cooped up inside! A professional pet sitter can help implement an exercise schedule for your playful pup.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national nonprofit 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. For more information

on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](#) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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