

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Keeping Fido's Tail Wagging While Selling the Home** *Professional pet sitters provide tips to minimize pet trauma*

MT. LAUREL, N.J., June 2, 2011 – The process of selling a home is both an exciting and stressful time. With the opportunity for new beginnings in a new home just around the corner, homeowners are busy with frantic activity preparing to show the home to potential buyers. Unfortunately, the hustle and bustle can cause undue stress on household pets, as their familiar surroundings change. With home sales increasing nationwide, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) is reminding pet parents to consider pet-friendly solutions to minimize trauma throughout the process of selling a home.

“Pets are most comfortable when surrounded by familiar sights, sounds and smells,” explained John D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. “It’s important to take extra precautions in keeping Fido safe and happy throughout the transition of a home sale.”

To assist pet parents in helping pets cope with changes throughout a home sale, NAPPS is providing the following tips and recommendations:

- **Create a Safe Haven** – Does your pet have a favorite toy, blanket or pillow? Create a safe haven of familiar objects for your pet throughout the hubbub of renovations, furniture movement and packing.
- **Maintain a Routine** – While the household schedule may change to accommodate showings, make sure Fido maintains his regular diet and exercise schedule. Too busy to take your pet for a walk? Consider hiring a professional pet sitter for daily walks and play time.
- **Promote Your Home as Pet-Friendly** – Is your home the ideal haven for a fellow pet parent? Highlight the specific pet-friendly features – such as a large yard or the perfect sunny window for cat naps – in your home’s description. This could be the quality that sets your home apart from the rest!
- **Hire a Pet Sitter During Showings** – Pets are not able to run loose throughout the home during a showing, so many pet parents choose to hire a professional pet sitter to provide dedicated attention, play time and exercise during visits from potential buyers.
- **Relax** – Tension can build throughout the process of selling a home, so take the time to relax with your pet! A ten-minute break to play fetch in the backyard or a short walk around the block will give you and your pet the opportunity to take a deep breath and enjoy each others company.

#### **Hiring a Professional Pet Sitter**

To assist pet parents in the process of finding a professional pet sitter while selling a home, NAPPS offers the following recommendations:

- Develop a set of questions and conduct a thorough interview
- Ask for multiple references
- Request proof of bonding and liability insurance coverage
- Make sure he/she interacts well with your pet

The NAPPS website offers a nationwide referral network as a valuable online resource for locating professional pet sitters across the country. Accessible directly from the NAPPS Web site, [www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org), this free service provides contact information for all NAPPS member pet

sitters and pet sitting companies in the area. With one simple search, pet parents can learn all about the services provided, and even details regarding the sitter's experience and expertise.

**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, nationwide referral service, and quarterly teleconferences aimed to educate the pet owning public. 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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**Media Contact:** Liz Cies  
856-380-6811  
[ecies@ahint.com](mailto:ecies@ahint.com)