

M a k i n g A D i f f e r e n c e

Pawsitive Pet Care

Choosing a Professional Pet Sitting Service

By Rose Navarro, RVT

Over the years I have watched Pet Care and House Sitting services change over time. I started pet sitting in the Bay Area in the late 1980's, in addition to working as a Veterinary Technician. There were no formal contracts or advertising at that time, and side jobs were mainly through word of mouth from Veterinary clients.

During this time, I saw that starting a professional pet sitting service would benefit people that were not comfortable with boarding their animals at a hospital or facility. And those with livestock or horses could easily benefit from someone coming out to their ranch.

Adding a touch of professionalism with contracts and insurance would gain confidence and trust in the business. At that time there were only three pet sitters in my home town, and I was once of them. The three of us would have

monthly meetings to discuss marketing and ways to improve our business. We were all so busy though, we could not keep up networking. Eventually more pet sitters came into the area and the business of pet sitting over next 10 years grew to astounding numbers. Retired folks, students, and "Stay at home Mom's" found this to be a lucrative business, and many of these services were professional and successful especially in highly populated areas. But while the businesses grew, so did the problems.

Among these problems were thefts, accidents, fires, damage to property and general laziness with some unscrupulous people never showing up to feed or care for a client's pets. This really had a negative impact in the trust of this business. As a result, some people hired family members, neighbors and neighbor's children to look after their pets. But, eventually, family members get tired, neighbors feel imposed upon, and children are often not the best choice for this huge responsibility.

Thank goodness for Patti Moran. In 1994 she founded PSI, Pet Sitters International.

Her contribution to providing an educational organization was key to attracting professionally minded people to the business of pet sitting. As the organization evolved, so did the members.

There is a member code of ethics, education in marketing, animal care and business management. Also, there is access to liability insurance, bonding for employees, and legal service resources. Since then, other professional organizations have come around, including NAPPS, National Association of Professional Pet Sitters.

- The sitter is knowledgeable and experienced in caring for pets and presents themselves in a professional manner.

- The sitter has liability insurance. This is very important. Bonding is not enough and should only be used in addition if the business carries employees.

- The sitter provides professional service contracts and literature describing services.

- The sitter is accessed easily through ads or internet, and is well known with other public organizations such as shelters, veterinary hospitals and

local humane societies. The sitter can also provide client references.

- The sitter has certification in CPR or has Veterinary medical experience.

- The sitter has a Veterinary Authorization form to enable them to take your pet to the hospital in an emergency, and permission for the Veterinarian to treat your pet.

- The sitter has a backup plan in case the sitter is ill or in inclement weather, and has dependable transportation.

- The sitter has had a background check, and/or has been fingerprinted through Live Scan.

- The sitter is a member of a professional pet sitting organization.

A professional person combined with a background in animal experience will be able to deliver a feeling of confidence at first visit. Sitters are as individual as their clients, what may be a good match for one, will not be for another. Choose the person right for your animal family by meeting and interviewing several before making your choice.

Rose Navarro is a CA State Registered Veterinary Tech with a Veterinary medical background in Internal Medicine, Emergency, and Critical Care. She owns a local pet sitting service. More about Rose at: www.pawsitivepetcareservice.com.

The California Automobile Museum

Now through March 12, 2010 --- Born to Ride: Motorbikes Past and Present --- Feel the adrenaline rush as you experience the evolution of the motorbike! This exhibit, sponsored by Elk Grove Power Sports, will include early 20th century models, classic cruisers, and a unique collection of racing motorcycles and artifacts. Some of the bikes on exhibit will include a 1914 Indian once owned by Steve McQueen, a rare 1942 Crocker, and a collection of racing motorcycles, chronicling local and regional racing history.

The Museum is located at 2200 Front Street, between Broadway and Old Sacramento with ample free parking. Open daily from 10am - 6pm, taking the last admission at 5pm and open until 9pm every third Thursday. For more information, visit www.CalAutoMuseum.org or call (916) 442-6802.

You find out interesting things when you have sons, like... If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.

When you hear the toilet flush and the words 'uh oh', it's already too late. The spin cycle on the washing machine makes cats dizzy. Cats throw up.

CVI Ownership

Continued from page 1

...25 years. Construction is expected to be finished by late March or early April 2010. Enhancements include the latest technology in slots and videos with 200 new slot games and upgrades to over 120 existing games. Phase 2 and 3 of the Carson Valley Inn remodeling project will begin later in 2010-2011. The Carson Valley Inn (www.cvin.com) is located on US Highway 395 in Minden, NV near the start of State Highway 88, 20 minutes from Lake Tahoe's south shore and 45 minutes south of Reno.

Book of Eli

Continued from page 15

...thugs to roam the countryside and kill travelers for any belongings they have, especially books. Eli believes he has the last remaining copy of the New King James version of the Bible and that he has been told to carry the book westward to a place where it will be printed again. Carnegie understands the historical power of how theology can rule and run political systems and plans to use it for his own corrupt purposes. The plotline of Eli is about as bizarre as it is improbable. It's hardly even entertaining. I'm Don Rima, and that's the way I saw it, *From Where I Stand*.

Plymouth School Gardens

Continued from page 11

...UCCE Master Gardeners. "Google Earth" is handy for an MG taking a phone call (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 209.223.6838) from a flora-concerned citizen. Audubon's nature guide apps are useful, especially "California Wildflowers." Independently produced "Butterflies" and "iButterflies" are good in the field for lepidopteraddicts.

Visit Online

www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx
www.charlesspinettawinery.com/Wine/Tour/tour.html

www.esquiresblues.com/
www.ceamador.ucdavis.edu/Master_Gardener

Gardens & Playground Funds Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Write checks to "Amador Community Foundation"; note in the lower left, "Plymouth Elementary School Gardens Fund" or separately for new playground equipment, note "PEP Club" and send to ACF at P.O. Box 1154, Jackson, CA 95642. Volunteers, call PEP Club at 209-257-7800.

michaelspinetta@yahoo.com

To find out a girl's faults, praise her to her girl friends

Win a trip to Cabo, 1ct. Diamond Earrings, a weekend in Monterey or 12 Rnds of Golf!

Take a Chance on Love

by participating in the fabulous

Hospice

Valentine's Day Raffle.

Purchase a raffle ticket for \$10 and have a chance to win 1 of 4 prizes!

1st prize: an ALL EXPENSES TRIP FOR 4 TO CABO SAN LUCAS FOR 5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS with fishing aboard a beautiful and private 48 ft. yacht. Trip valued at over \$10,000*

2nd prize: 1ct. platinum-mounted DIAMOND EARRINGS valued at \$3,000*

3rd prize: 3 NIGHTS FOR 2 in a beautiful oceanside condo on the MONTEREY BAY valued at \$1,300*

4th prize: 12 ROUNDS OF GOLF with carts at three of our local golf courses valued at \$750*



1CT tw diamond earrings
GORGEOUS!

Drawing will be held at Noon on Feb. 13th at the new Angels Camp Hospice Thrift Store
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

1
TICKET
ONLY
\$10

TICKET INFORMATION

\$10 a ticket or purchase 10 tickets for \$100 and receive absolutely free:

- An additional 5 tickets (that's 15 in all!)
- A delicious Valentine's Day Basque Cake from Andrae's Bakery

To purchase tickets with your credit card, call 223-5500

TICKET LOCATIONS

Jackson: Gold Mine Jewelers, Hospice Thrift Store and the Hospice Corp Office

Sutter Creek: FineEye Gallery

Angels Camp: Guaranty Bank

Pine Grove: ACES Waste Management

* VALUES APPROXIMATED

FOR INFO: HOSPICE OF AMADOR & CALAVERAS • 209.223.5500