



## Pet Services

Imagine spending the day with a fluffy, four-legged friend or listening to the tunes of a bird chirping. Pet services are a great way to fundraise, as well as learn key life skills, such as independence and responsibility. Hours are flexible to suit you in your busy day-to-day schedule. You can mind the pet at your own home or at the owner's home, and for some pets you could offer a walking service in the local area!

Some benefits of pet services are:

- They allow you to have an hourly rate for tending to the needs of the pet.
- They allow you to be flexible with your schedule to suit the needs of the client and their timetable.
- They allow you to learn independence and responsibility by taking care of a pet.

### What services could you offer?

#### **Pet Sitting**

Pet sitters come in to help the owners out when the pet owner can't be at home. These may include holidays, work commitments or any other reasons, which allows a pet sitter to give care, love and attention to the pet. Ensuring the pet has an adequate amount of food and water, as well as plenty of pats. Or if it is taking care of fish or reptiles, such as lizards or turtles - this may look like cleaning the tank or their cage/enclosure and providing them with an adequate amount of food they need.

#### **Dog Walking**

Exercise for you and the pet! This gives you and the pet a chance to get out and about to explore the outdoors, and get some exercise.

#### **Pet Grooming**

Whether the owner wants their pet looking their best, or for a special occasion, pet grooming is a great way to tend to the needs of pets. Pet grooming helps with the overall well-being of the pet. Some grooming services you may want to consider:

- Washing
- Nail clipping (Keep note: Some dogs are sensitive and may require a muzzle, or a trained professional)
- Ear cleaning
- Haircut/trimming

If you are unsure on how to groom a pet, consider watching some tutorials on YouTube on how to wash, walk and take care of a pet. You could alternatively ask someone who has had experience in these areas, where they can give you some advice.

## How to Prepare

Before beginning your pet services, make sure you have your parent's permission. If you don't know the owner, consider bringing your parent(s) along to ensure your safety.

### 1) Advertising

How are you going to promote your services? Create some posters, and post on social media the pet services you offer. You could post a job on Facebook Marketplace or on Gumtree, which can help get the word out about your pet services. You may get a lot of interest, so factor in where you will advertise your services, how much free time you have, and how you will incorporate that into your schedule. You may also consider doing a letterbox drop in your street and local community to help get the word out!

### 2) Materials and Equipment Required

With the services you offer, consider how much the materials and equipment you need cost. Brainstorm the materials and equipment you need to meet your service needs. If you have a tight budget, consider only dog walking to start with, where you only require a leash and bags to pick up poo!

*An example of materials required:*

#### **Dog grooming materials and equipment includes:**

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - dog conditioner/shampoo | - ear cleaner and cleaning pads |
| - scissors                | - nail clippers                 |
| - brush                   |                                 |

These are only a few things you can use for your dog grooming services. Before buying any products, ask the owner if they have any you could use. *(The dog may have a sensitive coat, so many need a specific cleaning product, but asking the owner for products will reduce the cost.)*

### 3) Meet and Greet Owner of Pet

When meeting with the owner of the pet discuss the following:

- Discuss what is expected of you
- Discuss any behavioural issues you may need to be aware of. e.g. what to do when the dog is constantly barking, and what strategies are in place by the owner that you need to use to stop the dog from barking?
- Discuss whether the pet has a routine or schedule that needs to be followed. Some pets may have a set time for bed, for walking etc, so you need to ensure you follow and respect what the owner has put in place.
- Discuss with the pet's owner how much you charge for your services and ask them what is the best way for them to pay you (online or by cash).

#### 4) Finalise time and dates with the owner

- What time do you need to arrive?
- What is the address?
  - How will you get there?
- Do you have all the equipment needed for your pet services?
  - What do you need for your service(s)?

### Things to keep in mind

There is a large range of different pet services you can offer. Start by considering what parameters you have. Parameters could include how much free time you have, outside of school or work, where you live, and your own access to a vehicle.

### On the Day

#### 1) Knock and Greet

When you arrive at the owner's house, knock and wait patiently. Greet the owner cheerfully and greet the pet cheerfully.

#### 2) Ask Questions and Clarify

If you have any questions or need to clarify things, ask the owner now! Make sure you have all the information, equipment and resources needed.

#### 3) Enjoy Yourself!

How often will you groom a dog, take them for a walk or have the opportunity to pet sit? Take this opportunity as an exciting and new opportunity for you to work on your responsibility and independence!

#### 4) Thank the Owners!

Thank the owners for allowing them to use your services for their pet. It would have been a blessing for both you, and the owners!

