

"Just because you've seen a pet sitter in an online directory—or even on a nationally-publicized site—doesn't ensure they are a legitimate, qualified pet-sitting business," explains Patti J. Moran, president of Pet Sitters International. "Anyone can post a profile advertising pet-sitting services, so it's important for pet owners to take a closer look to ensure they are hiring a 'real pet sitter' to care for their pets."

Pet Sitters International (PSI) is the world's largest educational association for professional pet sitters. By joining PSI, pet sitters show a commitment to professional excellence, ongoing education and to providing the best care possible for clients and their pets.

PSI advises pet owners to ask seven important questions when interviewing a potential pet sitter:

- 1. Does the pet sitter have the proper business license for your city or state?
- 2. Is the pet sitter insured and bonded?
- 3. Can the pet sitter provide proof of clear criminal history?
- 4. Does the pet sitter provide client references?
- 5. Will the pet sitter use a pet-sitting services agreement or contract?
- 6. Is the pet sitter a PSI Certified Professional Pet Sitter and/or has he or she participated in pet-care training, such as pet first aid?
- 7. Is the pet sitter a member of a professional and educational association, such as Pet Sitters International?

For more tips on selecting a real pet sitter, visit www.petsit.com/owners.