

HOW TO BE A PET SITTING TRAVELER

Part I of III

Do you like pets? Haven't had your own for a while and need a dog fix sometimes? Would you like to live rent free? Do you have adequate income to cover food and some travel? Do you have a few family and friends you can hang out with between gigs? If you answered yes to these questions, join a few pet and house-sitting sites and start planning your next trip!

In 2017 I finally retired. I mean REALLY retired. I have no car and no apartment. What I do have are kids, family and friends who don't mind me hanging out with them occasionally, using WiFi, maybe borrowing a car if I can't take the bus, trolley or train, and planning for my next trip. I do what I can to help around the house by driving kids, taking care of pets, doing some housework, paying for groceries and cooking. No rent, no car payment and no car insurance make a huge difference when stretching those pension dollars. My sister says she couldn't stand not having her own place to return to. But I'm more like our dad: a gypsy at heart and maybe with just enough ADHD that staying in one place is not just boring but difficult.

I have been pet sitting a few years now. My first was in 2009 in Los Lunas, NM for a sweet white German Shephard mix named Paco. I went back a second time and have a cute story about Paco helping me herd chickens. That led to sitting for their friends nearby for my first blind dog who would bump into furniture trying to find the door. More followed using those as references and later, when I was driving a cargo van nationwide, I also delivered numerous pets for people using the uShip.com site. People put feedback information about me directly onto that website and I refer to it when listing my experience.

What I have been able to accomplish is 100% positive feedback and references that help me get more and more gigs. Being a retired cop doesn't hurt when you're trying to convince strangers you can be trusted in their homes. The various house-sitting sites offer background checks on sitters to help ease the homeowners' worries, but not inviting a thief into their homes is only part of their concern. Of course, they want their house cared for and kept clean, but above all else, pet owners must know they have someone who will be kind to their furry children.

To Be Continued...