

Happy House Sitters

From: Sharyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 16 August 2010 3:35 PM
To: 'Happy House Sitters Website'
Subject: RE: Feedback

My husband and I have been astonished by how successful the experience of pet/house sitting has been for us since May 2010. We have pet/house sitters in our own home on the Sunshine Coast and we chose to explore your website as a means of getting a pet and "home" to live in instead of using inner city hotel accommodation which has been our usual arrangements during my husband's interstate and international contracts. As a non-working spouse I find a house with rooms, garden and a pet to care for very rewarding and this lessens my homesickness for my own home, garden and pet.

The first house sit with an energetic dog was one filled with the apprehension of the unknown, and even when there was a major plumbing issue that needed to be addressed before the owners returned, it was a success for us and the delightful dog and the owners have contacted us with the possibility of a return dog/house sit in November, which is indicative of their satisfaction with our fulfillment of the house sit. The second house sit was with a 19 year old cat with special needs. Once again we found it easy to settle into our temporary home and we were able to communicate via email with the owners in regard to a major development application affecting their immediate neighbouring property and this enabled the owners to take appropriate action of protest against the development application, from Europe during their family holiday. On their return the owners provided us with a very complimentary reference for our efforts with their cat and house.

The third house/cat sit is still underway, and there has been a significant medical issue with the beautiful cat and we have had several (expensive) vet. visits to ensure the health of the cat is provided to the best of our ability. Contact with the owners has been difficult and sporadic as they have been on a camping tour to inland Australia, however the owners' son has been supportive in regard to authorization and reimbursement of medical expenses. Problem solving for house and pet issues has been something that we have accepted as part of the house sitting responsibility.

We have had two meetings with the next and our fourth house/cat sitting position and we look forward to caring for the beautiful new home and cat of the lovely young couple who have engaged us as housesitters during their European tour.

So to answer your specific questions.... We have saved money, however this has certainly not been our motivation. As a non-working spouse I sought a home-like atmosphere with garden and pet and space not obtainable in hotel rooms. It has made a more normal life-style for us as a couple for the extended period of contract that my husband has currently in Melbourne which is generally uncertain (It was September 2010, and looks like being February 2011 now). We are reluctant to rent and arrange utilities, furniture etc and stress our own pet by relocation from Queensland for a short period of a few months, so house sitting is perfect for our situation, supplemented by hotel accommodation in between positions.

As one who adores my own cat, I totally understand the bond between owners and pets. It does not faze me at all to share my bed with the cat – if that is what the cat usually does when its owners are there. Likewise with exercising a dog.

The biggest reward of the house/pet sits so far has been the exploration of suburbs not usually visited as part of our normal lifestyle. The owners have all left lovely details in the house notes highlighting local eateries and attractions which have been valuable in enhancing our time in their locale. I even volunteered for six afternoons over three weeks at a Red Cross store during our second house sit position and felt a real part of the local community.

It is my opinion that a special bond does form when you hand over your home and adored pet to a stranger and return from your time away to find a happy pet and a home in good order. Where possible I like to provide an email update every few days about the pet's behaviours and small positives about the house e.g. new shoots on garden plants.

The homeowner listing on happyhousesitters is part of a special section of society that has a high level of trust in their fellow man. Two of our three house/pet sits have left the car keys and an invitation to

use their cars if we needed to – with “life’s too short” explanation when we commented on the kind gesture. We have not needed to use their vehicles – other than to collect them from the airport on their return – but the generosity of the gesture left us gobsmacked.

This has been a much longer response than you wanted I am sure. We are looking forward to our next responsibility and will continue to apply for positions that suit our situation and dates.

Your service has exceeded our expectations and we will continue the adventures that come our way via your website. We invite you to use any of the above comments on your website.

Sincerely

Sharyn and Warren

From: Happy House Sitters Website [mailto:admin@happyhousesitters.com.au]

Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 9:16 AM

To: Sharyn

Subject: Feedback

Hi

I'm writing to you to get some feedback on your house sitting experiences. Would you like to write a few sentences or so about the sits you have had through Happy House Sitters? Have you saved some money? Have you had an unusual experience? Have you cared for some unusual or especially wonderful animals? Have you made friends with the home owner?

We would love to hear about your experiences and put them on the site for others to read.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Please send your story via return email.

Kind Regards

Malcolm Myers

Happy House Sitters

If you liked our site tell your friends. If you didn't, tell us.

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