

# Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters

*A Growing Network of Pet Sitters Offering Stellar Care for Area Pets*

It's

a concept that is nearly unfathomable: In Sarasota and Manatee counties, there is a group of professionals that make a living in the very same industry who have chosen to be collaborators, rather than competitors and who have intentionally opted to work together for the "greater good" in order to offer the very best services they can provide to their clients.

Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters is a relatively new association of pet-sitting professionals here on the Suncoast who believe not only that there is strength in numbers, but also that sharing expertise and experience with one another ensures that both area pet parents and their four-legged friends receive unparalleled care.

Founded in 2015 by Mary Oberdier of Chase 'n Tails Pet Care, LLC, a Bradenton-based, pet-sitting service, Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters has become a network of 20-plus pet sitters in our community in less than two years.

When asked what inspired Mary to launch Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters, she says, "At the time I started the group, I was the sole pet sitter and worked alone in my business. I believed it was important to get to know other individuals who also provide pet-sitting services in our community.

"On occasion," Mary continues, "my schedule does not allow me to take an additional pet-sitting job, and I wanted to be able to recommend another pet sitter with complete confidence to ensure that nothing less than exceptional service would be provided to the client and his or her pet."

To get the new group off the ground, Mary began an e-mail campaign to introduce herself and her networking concept to other pet sitters in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

"I wasn't looking for 'hobby pet sitters,'" Mary explains. "My vision was to create a referral network of professional, bonded-and-insured pet sitters that provide a variety of services to area pet owners and who take their jobs seriously."

Jessica Murphy, who is the owner of Suncoast K9 Concierge and a member of Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters, is quick to comment on the enormity of responsibilities that pet sitters handle on a day-to-day basis.

"People generally don't consider the tremendous responsibility that pet sitters have in providing service to clients," she says. "They are allowed into their personal spaces and are hired to take care of their homes and their pets.

"Pet owners should shy away from 'fly-by-night' pet sitters," Jessica cautions. "Instead, they should hire professionals who take these responsibilities very seriously."

Now with 20-plus pet sitters involved in Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters network, members can call on each other to not only address concerns about how to handle issues that arise, but also to outsource pet-sitting jobs when additional coverage is needed.

"I had a job once where the client's two dogs would play well together, but then, all of a sudden, would start growling and fighting," Mary recalls. "I honestly didn't know how I would was going to

get through the next five days of the job, so I called Jessica, who was immediately there for me, offering lots of valuable advice."

What's especially interesting to note is how well the pet sitters in the network work together to ensure that the best person for the job is called.

According to Ashley McCollum, owner of Rediscovered Moments Concierge, LLC, a pet-sitting service that offers overnight and vacation visits within 15 miles of zip code 34202, members of the network frequently receive requests for other services.

"There are times that one of my clients will require daily visits, which I do not provide," Ashley says. "With the network in place, I can call a pet sitter that I know and trust and who can provide the services my clients need."

Within the network, there also are pet sitters that cover only specific communities within Sarasota and Manatee counties.

"If I get a phone call from a client in a neighborhood that I do not serve, I can refer to a spreadsheet that I created that details which pet sitters provide services in those neighborhoods," Mary says (See the complete chart of pet sitters in the Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters network on pages 38 and 39.).

Still another benefit of choosing a pet sitter from the Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters network is the guarantee of 100 percent reliability that the group offers.

"Because we are all professional pet sitters, we are well aware that no matter what is happening in our own lives, we have to be there to take care of the animals that have been entrusted to us," Jessica of Suncoast K9 Concierge says. "Recently, I had to drop a family member off at the hospital for emergency surgery and then I continued with my pet visits that day; that's how seriously I take the work I do."

There are, of course, times that pet sitters have unexpected illnesses or, like Jessica, personal emergencies that make fulfilling their obligations more difficult. When that happens, the pet sitters in the group will call on others in the network to cover for them until they are back on their feet.

"I am so proud of everybody in our group, because we all share a concern for our clients and their animals," Mary, the network's founder, says. "This is not only our passion, but also our livelihoods, and we are here for each other with absolutely no sense of competition."

And, Mary adds, "The most important thing that has evolved since the group first was established is how much we trust and support each other."

Jessica agrees.

"I would never recommend another pet sitter that I have not met personally," she says. "What's more, if I had any kind of on-the-job emergency, this is the group that I would call."

For pet sitters in Sarasota and Manatee counties, participation in the network is free of charge; there are no fees or dues to belong. However, one criteria that is key to receiving referrals within the group is being a bonded and insured pet sitter.



"Bonding is an annual fee that protects both the pet sitter and the client," Mary explains. "If, for example, a client accuses a pet sitter of theft, the bonding company pays the value of the item or items that have gone missing."

Insurance is equally important to protect pet sitters in case the animals in their care suffer any kind of injuries or there is damage to a client's home or property.

"Personally, I will not refer to someone who is not insured and bonded," Mary says. "Pet sitters with these credentials have invested not only time, but also money into their livelihoods, which clearly demonstrates a professional approach to their businesses."

In our communities, the commitment of Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters has extended beyond providing exceptional pet sitting and home care services to include advocating for area animal groups.

This past summer, the women in the pet-sitting network held a collection drive, gathering literally thousands of pounds of dog and cat food, along with kitty litter, toys, treats, harnesses, leashes, bowls, carriers, paper towels, cleaning supplies and more, which they generously donated to Humane Society of Manatee County (HSMC).

"We wanted to do something special for HSMC for allowing us to take a photograph at the shelter," Mary explains. "One of the pet sitters in our group, Patti Quick of Quick Pet Care, who provides foster care for animals awaiting adoption at HSMC, suggested that we do a drive to collect items on HSMC's 'wish list.'"

"Members of our pet-sitting group reached out to clients, friends and colleagues and collected truckloads of supplies, which were brought to the shelter in August," Mary adds.

One of the priorities of the group from the outset has been to educate people to only hire professional sitters to ensure that their pets always receive optimal care.

"I really respect each of the sitters in our network, and I am glad that I have quality professionals I can refer my clients to when I cannot take a job," she adds.

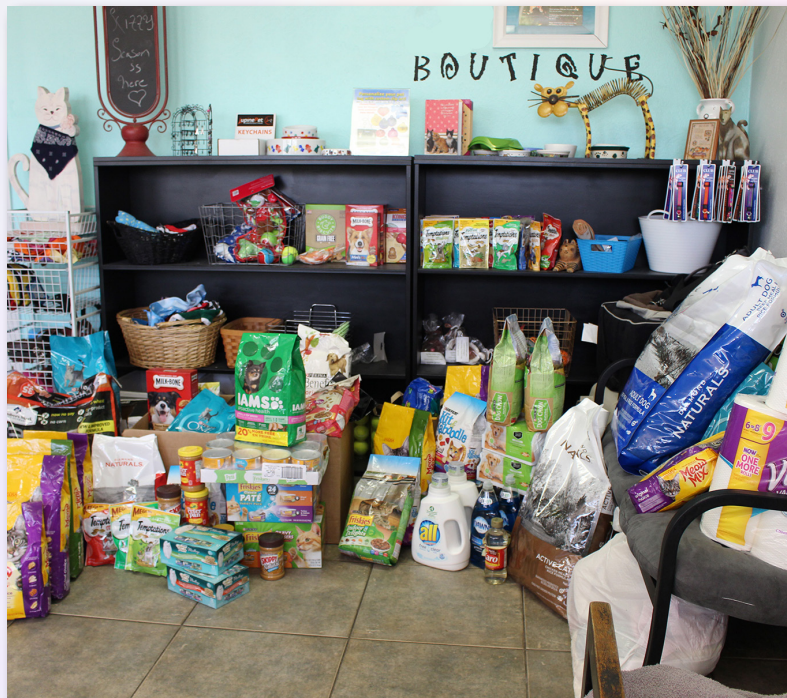
In just two short years, Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters clearly has had an impact in our community and, as the group continues to grow, pet owners in Sarasota and Manatee counties can rest assured that they are hiring local professionals that run their own pet-sitting businesses and who also prefer the one-on-one contact with clients that comes for working independently rather than with a nationwide, online pet-sitting referral service.

"Right now, we may be small in number, but we are mighty," Mary says.

If you are a professional pet sitter that would like to participate in the Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters network, you are invited to contact Mary Obedier by sending an e-mail to [chasentails@yahoo.com](mailto:chasentails@yahoo.com). For additional information about the group, visit [www.facebook.com/groups/bradentonpetsitters/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bradentonpetsitters/). 🐾

**Photo, top right: Pet sitters with Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters joined Executive Director Rick Yocum (far right, back row) and Director of Development Valerie Bliss (far left, front row) at Humane Society of Manatee County in Bradenton for a photo in mid-August. Pictured here: Front Row, from left: Lunell Owens, Home Sweet Home Pet Sitting, LLC, and Mary Obedier, Chase 'n Tails Pet Care, LLC; Back Row: Tracy Wallace, "Your Other Kids"; Jessica Murphy, Suncoast K9 Concierge; Patti Quick, Quick Pet Care; and Ashley McCollum, Rediscovered Moments Concierge, LLC.**

**Photos, center and bottom right: In addition to thousands of pounds of pet food, an extensive assortment of supplies and necessities were collected by members of Bradenton/Sarasota Professional Pet Sitters and donated to Humane Society of Manatee County. Photo, at right, by Jessica Murphy**





Pet-Sitting Company	Contact Name	Phone Number	E-Mail	Website	Bonded & Insured	Services
Chase 'n Tails, LLC	Mary Oberdier	941-447-9528	chasentails@yahoo.com	www.chasentailspet-care.com	Yes & Yes	Visits/Overnights
Rediscovered Moments Concierge	Ashley McCollum	941-681-0443	info@rediscovered-moments.com	www.rediscovered-moments.com	Yes & Yes	Overnights/Vacation Visits
Suncoast K9 Concierge	Jessica Murphy	941-725-8658	suncoastk9concierge@gmail.com	www.suncoastk-9concierge.com	Yes & Yes	Daily visits, Walks, Vacation Care
Sitting Pretty of Sarasota	Ali Tozer	941-412-44947	atozer@mail.usf.edu	www.spsarasota.com	No & Yes	Dog walks, weekend & overnight stays, drop ins, medication administration
Quick Pet Care	Patti Quick	941-518-1695	pmq117@msn.com	www.quickpetcare.com	Yes & Yes	Visits/Walks & Insulin Injections
Home Sweet Home Pet Sitting, LLC	Lunell Ownes	941-224-4887	homesweethomepet-sitting@mail.com		Yes & Yes	Dog Walking, Daily Visits, Overnight Stays
Sit and Stay	Faith Quici	941-527-9767	faithquici@hotmail.com	http://faithquici.wix-site.com/sitandstay	No, but going to be	Overnights and Drop Ins
Your Other Kids Pet Sitting	Tracy Wallace	941-313-0686	yourotherkids1@gmail.com	yourotherkids.org	Yes & Yes	Dog Walking, Daily Visits/Overnights Stays
Fur Nanny Professional Pet & Home Concierge, LLC	Emily Morris	941-315-1156	furnanny@live.com	www.furnanny.com	Yes & Yes	You name it... ...We do it!
Artful Twist	Andrea Guthrie	256-679-8381	artfultwist11@gmail.com	facebook.com/artfultwistdogssitting	Yes & Yes	Overnights, Daily Visits, On Call
Pet Sitting Fur Friends & Mobile Grooming, LLC	Gina Garcia	941-737-3026	petsittingfur-friends@gmail.com	www.petsittingfurfriends.org	Not Yet	Overnights, home visits, daily dog walks, full mobile grooming, admin. meds, house sitting for large & small animals
Carol The Dog Sitter	Carol Bourbeau	941-915-4816	carolthedogsitter@gmail.com		Yes & Yes	Overnight stays in my home...large and small dogs
Martee Hays, Loving Pet Care	Martee Hays	941-685-0173	FLforever666@aol.com		No & No	Overnights only; no visits, no cats
The Woofle House	Merryl Koven	941-526-5913	merryl1968@gmail.com		No & Yes	Overnights in my home. Small & medium dogs preferred, but will board breeds.
A Critter Sitter Co	Lisa Lewis	941-932-7049	lisalewis31@yahoo.com	www.acrittersitterco.com	Yes & Yes	Daily visits, overnight stays, dog walking, administer medications
B & A Funky Pet Services	Brooke Funk	941-448-4325	funk.brooke79@gmail.com		Not Yet	Breakfast, dinner, bed time and overnights
Cat Lady Pet Sitting	Lynn Wood	856-981-2047	catladypetsitting@yahoo.com	www.facebook.com/catladypetsitting/	Yes & Yes	Daily Cat Visits; administer medications

Bradenton	West Bradenton	SR 64	SR 70	Palmetto	Ellenton/Parrish	Sarasota	Longboat Key/ Anna Maria
Yes	Visits	Visits	Visits	Visits	No	No	No
Within 15 Miles of 34202	Overnights/ Vacation Visits	Overnights/ Vacation Visits	Overnights/ Vacation Visits	Overnights/ Vacation Visits	Overnights/ Vacation Visits	Overnights/ Vacation Visits	Overnights Only
34202 34212	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
10 Miles of 34231	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, and Osprey, Nokomis, Venice & Siesta Key	Longboat Key
34205, 34209, 34210	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
West Bradenton	Daily Visits/ Overnights	Daily Visits (West of I-75)	No	Daily Visits	No	No	Anna Maria Island: Daily Visits
E. Bradenton, Ellenton, Sarasota off exits near I-75 to Bee Ridge	If Needed	Yes	Yes	If Needed	Yes	Neighborhoods in Sarasota	No
Sarasota & Manatee County	Daily Visits & Overnights	Daily Visits & Overnights	Daily Visits & Overnights	Daily Visits & Overnights	Overnights	Overnights	Overnights
Sarasota & Manatee County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some Areas	Some Areas	Yes	Up to the Publix on Longboat Key
Sarasota & Manatee County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
All of Manatee County and most of Sarasota County. Cut off: Bee Ridge Rd. Also available in St. Pete.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	We only go as far as Bee Ridge Rd.	Yes
Will service anyone who brings their dogs to me	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clients as far south as Venice, north to Hudson, even Orlando	Overnights Only	Overnights Only	Overnights Only	No	No	No	No
Will service anyone who brings their dogs to me	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sarasota - Fruitville to south; 41 to west, downtown Sarasota, LWR & River Club	No	No	Daily visits, overnight stays, dog walking, administering meds	No	No	Daily visits, overnight stays, dog walking, administering meds	No
West of 301 is preferred	Yes	Overnights	Overnights	Overnights	No	No	Overnights
Lakewood Ranch & Nearby Communities	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No