

**"ASK Nanny Fran" Article**  
**Tropical Breeze - October 2003**

**QUESTION:** What is a petsitter and what can one do for me?

Pet sitters are licensed, bonded and insured professionals who work 365 days a year. They have your house keys on file and your best interests in their heart.

You telephone and they visit. Whenever they are needed they are only a phone call away. Everyone has family emergencies, unexpected business trips and planned vacations. Pet sitters give peace of mind regarding the emotional and physical health of your animals as well as heightened security for your home.

This professional comes to your home so that your animals do not have to be transported to another environment that might be scary or unsafe for them. They visit your home multiple times daily, or sleep overnight, to give love, attention, medication if needed, exercise to your animals and make your home appear "lived in". Having regular visits to your home with a pet sitter who DOES NOT advertise their business on their vehicle or their clothing gives your home incredible security. Not one home in Pinellas County is safe from robbery.

At the initial interview you ask if your pet sitter has liability, bonding and medical insurance coverage, how long they have been in business, you ask for names and phone numbers of current clients to call for reference and you DO call them. You ask if he/she will be coming alone. You ask if the pet sitter brings anyone else along with them. Only they should visit. During the interview you study how comfortable your animals are with the pet sitter and how comfortable and knowledgeable the pet sitter seems to be with your animals.

5,000 pet sitters worldwide belong to Pet Sitters International or The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters.