



When You Want Only the Best for Your Pets

An Interview with Lisa Howard

**distinctiv^o
petsitting**

WHEN YOU HAVE TO be away from home, whether on vacation, business or an emergency, you are naturally concerned about the welfare of your pet. Many pet parents prefer to have their pets stay in their own home to maintain normal routines and have their pet feel more relaxed and reassured.

Distinctive Petsitting, located in the Smyrna-Vinings area, provides personalized petsitting services for puppies, dogs, cats, exotics and medicated pets with daily visits tailored to your instructions.

If you have lived in the NW Atlanta area for very long and have NOT heard of this “jewel” of a petsitting business, you have missed something truly special! Distinctive Petsitting is no longer a secret among pet owners who insist on quality, professionalism, and superior service.

“They take the time to get to know you and your pets and it is obvious the petsitters genuinely and passionately love animals. Trustworthy, reliable, responsive, extremely professional, loving...I can’t say enough good things about Distinctive Petsitting! My two cats adore their petsitter and I know without a doubt they are very happy and comfortable when I’m away - what peace of mind to have!”

As is described at length in the above quote found on Kudzu.com (and there are many more there too!), this petsitting service is an extraordinary experience and the unsolicited reviews are well supported by Distinctive Petsitting’s level of service and commitment to excellence.

“Being a professional petsitter is a ‘labor of love’ for all of us at Distinctive Petsitting” says Lisa Howard, President. Our extraordinary team of petsitters subscribe to our mantra, “There’s no place like home, we know it and our pets do too!” We all believe pets are happier and healthier when able to follow a consistent diet and a familiar routine at home – with lot’s of TLC!

When asked to elaborate, she states, “When it comes to our pets, many of us see them as beloved family members. We understand that our pets, like other family members, have individual personalities and physical needs that may require special consideration.

She goes on to say, “We believe our clients and our petsitters are a reflection of who we are – Responsible Pet Parents. We consistently bring tools, techniques and education that will differentiate Distinctive Petsitting from the competition.”

Q&A



Q HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PETSITTING?

A Since 1993, I have had the privilege of serving hundreds of pet owners and their remarkable pets. I began petsitting as a hobby when I was a young adult living in Vinings. As a mature adult in Washington DC, I was considering a career change from an increasingly unfulfilling corporate environment. Spending time with adorable, appreciative pets truly lifted my spirits and changed my life. It didn't take long to decide to become a corporate refugee and care for pets full time.

Q WHAT ARE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE CHALLENGES IN PETSITTING?

A We are continually reminded of September 11th, the natural disasters of Hurricane Katrina, tornadoes and our recent local floods in 2009. Our Distinctive Petsitters know all too well the importance of having a disaster preparedness plan for our homes and our pets. A solid, thoughtful plan that includes a pre-existing relationship with an experienced, professional petsitter can be a savior when you cannot be with your pets due to unexpected circumstances.

Lisa recalls the morning of September 11th, 2001, "I had 40+ petsitters working around the beltway in the Washington DC area. As fear and confusion enveloped the Pentagon, CIA and surrounding areas of Virginia and Maryland, it became abundantly clear, our detailed client information and their emergency contact information was so valuable with this unexpected tragedy.

I remember cell phones did not work, [all signals were purposely jammed for the protection of government centers] and clients struggled to reach us. Our clients were desperate to contact us for petsitting services because they would not return home for days. Our office staff had to plug in our old corded, landline telephones to receive and make telephone calls. We were eager to calm our concerned clients and provide the peace of mind in knowing we will continue to care for their homes and their pets until they could return home almost six days later.

These experiences have taught us to proactively plan for the unexpected. We know that the pet owners who use professional petsitters think of their pets responsibly and lovingly. We provide peace of mind for pet owners even when they do not believe unexpected circumstances or a natural disaster will happen to them.

Q WHAT KEEPS YOU BALANCED IN A 24/7 BUSINESS?

A "In celebrating over 18 years in the petsitting industry, I am grateful for my supportive husband and our peaceful home life with our pets. I am grounded in my Atlanta/Vinings roots and energized by the pets in my care.

Most recently, Distinctive Petsitting participated in an Open House event co-hosted by Good Mews.org and Cat Care of Vinings with Dr. Michael Friedlander. The event is one of many in which Lisa and her Distinctive Petsitters participate to raise money for shelters and animal welfare efforts.

When asked about the many animal charities she supports, Lisa says, "Because of my passion for pets and the unconditional love they provide, it is my duty to give back to the animal community by advocating pet adoptions, donating to multiple animal charities and promoting pet health and education. Our continued commitment to making a measurable difference in the welfare of animals is the hallmark of Distinctive Petsitting."

Q WHO ARE YOUR PETSITTERS?

A We believe that professional petsitting is more than a career – it's a passion. Our petsitters are veterinarian technicians, active retirees, nurturing mothers, caring fathers and other like-minded people. It's a unique service industry that comes with its own challenges and rewards. It's not a vocation for everyone, but we believe those who choose it are a special breed.

Distinctive Petsitters care about their industry and strive to be their professional best.

Atlanta is full of entrepreneurial power and leadership - this petsitting service provider demonstrates a commitment to superior service and dedication in their charitable actions. *If you would like to inquire about their services or consider becoming a Distinctive Petsitter, please contact them through their website www.DistinctivePetsitting.com or telephone 770-431-0088.*

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