

Your New

PET CARE

Career

**20 Ways to Transform Your
Passion for Pets into a New
Career or Business**



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About the Author



Danielle Chonody got her start in the pet care industry in 2003 when she opened her pet sitting business - [Claws Paws & Jaws Professional Pet Sitters](#) - in the Mid-Cities of Dallas Fort Worth. Since 2003 she has worked a full time job and grown her part time pet sitting business to over 100 customers. In the last 2 years she has partnered with 4 independent contract pet sitters to grow her business.

Danielle has recognized that the pet care industry is growing rapidly, driven by trend of owners to treat their pets as members of the family. She knows that this growth brings a wealth of opportunities for pet lovers to turn their passion for pets into a rewarding pet care career or business.

Danielle wrote this e-book to show you the many varied pet career options available today. A pet care career can be started as a full time venture or can often offer the flexibility to be fit around another career or business.



Danielle is also the owner of :

[Working with Pets](#) – The Blog for Pet Lovers and Pet Care Professionals Working with pets provides pet lovers with pet news and information about pet care career options. Danielle also provides resources and tips to pet care business owners and pet professionals that help them grow and strengthen their business through knowledge and excellent customer service.

[Home Biz How-To Newsletter](#) – A bi-monthly e-zine that delivers marketing, management, and motivational tips for small and home business owners.

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Your New Career in Pet Care

In the US alone there are 120 million pet owners who spend over 32 billion dollars on their pets each year. As pets are increasingly being viewed as a member of the family, pet owners will be more willing to spend increasing amounts of money on pet care in future years. This in turn creates higher demand for quality pet care professionals.



This e-book will show you the many options that are available for you to take advantage of the booming market for pet care by becoming a pet care professional. There are so many options that whether you are looking for a part time job, a small home business, a new career, or a new way of life, there is no reason that you cannot turn your passion for pets into a new career or business. In each section I will give you some basic information on each option so that you can start to assess which options interest and suit you most. You can find much more information on each career by searching the web or at your local library or book store.

Working with pets is more than a job but is a lifestyle choice. Many of the pet care careers described in this e-book provide the opportunity of business ownership and a low stress alternative to the 9-5 rat race. I started my pet sitting business in 2003 and I have found that working with pets is fun, rewarding, and invigorating. Of course sometimes as with any job it has its challenges, but every day I come home with a smile on my face. And how can I help it – at every job I am greeted with smiling faces, wagging tails, and purring kitties!



1. Pet First Aid Instructor

First aid instructors provide classes to small groups of pet owners. Class topics include basic pet first aid, caring for senior pets, and dental care for pets.



One company that provides training is Pet Tech (www.pettech.net). Their 3 day instructor certification training course covers identification of symptoms and signs and the actions to be taken for proper emergency medical treatment. Their 3 day course is \$1295 and includes 10 student packs. As a Pet Tech instructor you are listed at their website in their instructor directory. Recommended rates that can be charged to first aid students is \$50-\$90 per ½ day or full day class.

This job makes a great add on income for pet sitters, pet retailers, veterinarian staff, dog groomers, or dog trainers. Teaching pet first aid classes is also a great marketing tool for these businesses as it puts them in touch with more responsible pet owners, and can increase access to pet shelters and local humane societies.

The downside of this job is that you do need have the courage to stand up in front of others and teach a class. If you need help with this contact your local Toastmasters group. Toastmasters can give you practice and encouragement in a non threatening environment and build your confidence in public speaking. Find a group near you at their website: <http://www.toastmasters.org/>

2. Pet Boarder

Boarding is the way pets are traditionally cared for while owners are traveling for work or pleasure. Pet owners have two options for boarding their pets – boarding pets at a boarding facility or in-home pet boarding.

Let's cover the boarding facility first as this is most common. Typically standard boarding facilities keep pets in crates, small runs, or cages and let the pets out for play and exercise several times per day. I'm sure you are aware of these facilities in your area – many are operated out of veterinary clinics.



It is becoming more common for boarding facilities to offer more luxuries for pets such as open suites or rooms that give pets more room to move and that can be shared by



more than one family pet. Some facilities even offer the pets cable television for their entertainment!

Running a boarding facility is a high overhead startup business as specialized facilities must be bought and maintained, and staff hired and trained. These facilities compete with veterinarian run boarding facilities and must be able to provide sufficient supervision and on call health care for pets. Standard boarding facilities charge owners \$10-\$20 per night per pet while the more luxurious facilities may charge up to \$50 per night per pet.

The other opportunity available in this field is in home boarding. In home facilities are run by small operators who care for a limited number of pets in their own homes. Pets boarded in a home environment are often offered the run of the house and yard and given the same treatment as the operators own pets.

Due to the sharing of space that is involved with in home boarding the operator must screen pets carefully to ensure pets are well socialized and will not be aggressive towards other pets. It is also recommended that pets are well supervised at all times, unless crated, to avoid injury should any unexpected aggression between pets occur.

In-home boarding offers a lot of flexibility for the operator and low startup costs and overheads. It is a good option if you are seeking a part time business to run from home and are able to cope with care of additional pets and the extra wear and tear on your home. Because of the personalized care given to pets in the home boarding environment operators can charge higher fees to clients than boarding facilities.

3. Doggie Day Care

Running a doggie day care is very similar to boarding dogs except that the pets are not kept overnight but just visit for the day (or part of a day) while owners are at work or running errands. Like boarding there are the two options of caring for dogs at a facility or in your own home.



Unlike boarding facilities, doggie day cares do not crate pets but allow them to run and play with other dogs (dogs are usually segregated by size). Day care services therefore help owners to socialize their dogs and their dogs get plenty of exercise so they are worn out by the time owners come to pick them up at the end of the day!



Most day care centers also provide convenience of on-site dog washing and grooming service to owners for an additional charge.

Like in home boarding it is important for operators of doggie day cares to screen pets well to ensure they are not aggressive toward other animals.

Starting a doggie day care business at a facility entails significant overhead as owner must rent or purchase site and customized buildings. Staff is also typically required so that dogs can be walked for bathroom breaks while the rest of the dogs continue to be supervised.

In-home day care is essentially the same as in home boarding and offers the same benefits and disadvantages.

Typical charges for doggie day care are \$20-\$30 per day. Most facilities offer a discount for purchase of weekly packages or 2 or 3 day passes.

4. Pet Sitter

Pet sitters visit animals in the owner's home while the owner is traveling or away from home. The popularity of pet sitting is increasing as an alternative to boarding pets at a kennel as community awareness of pet sitting grows. It is more suitable for many pets that react badly when taken from their familiar surroundings.

Typically pet sitters visit the home 1-3 times per day (depending on the type of pets) to feed, walk and play - both to provide for the pets daily essential needs and also provide companionship. Most sitters also administer medications and provide home services such as collect mail, water houseplants, alternate lights, and put out trash.



Pet sitting offers the following benefits to pet owners :

- Pets are happier and experience less stress at home
- Pets are not exposed to other animals therefore exposure to illness is reduced
- Diet and exercise routines are not interrupted
- Travel trauma for pets is eliminated
- More convenient for owners as they do not have to drop off and pick up pets at a boarding facility



- Gives their home a more lived in appearance while away and provides home security

There are two options for becoming a pet sitter – either finding work with an existing pet sitting service as an employee or contractor, or starting your own pet sitting service. If you wish to work as an employee or contract sitter most pet sitting businesses can be found in the local yellow pages. Most will require clean criminal and driving records, previous experience as a pet owner or professional, a reliable vehicle, and good personal references.

To start your own pet sitting service you will need to obtain liability insurance and bonding. You will also need a service contract that outlines terms and conditions of service, and collects pet information and emergency contact information. Insurance and forms can be obtained by becoming a member of Pet Sitters International who offers reduced rates to members (www.petsit.com). They also offer accreditation courses, quality standards, and a pet sitter locator directory.

If you don't want to start a business from scratch you also have the option of purchasing a pet sitting franchise. Franchising offers the advantage of upfront and on-going training, provision of proven business systems and marketing methods, a network of support, and existing brand recognition.

Busy periods for pet sitters are during peak travel periods such as summer holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. If you are a sitter or business owner you must be prepared to work during these peak seasons. The pet sitting business is to some extent seasonal but regular business is always available from business travelers, daily dog walking customers, and clients working unusual shifts such as pilots, nurses, and firefighters.

The typical rates for pet sitting visits vary between \$15-25 per ½ hour visit depending on market location. Pet sitters can also offer add on services such as pet taxi service, pet grooming, or pet massage.

Some pet sitters also offer overnight visits where the pet sitters sleeps in the client's home with the pets. Charges for this type of service vary from \$50-75 per night.



5. Doggie Day Trip or Safari Guide



With so many owners working long hours their dogs often do not receive the exercise they need to release stress and energy. This lack of both mental and physical exercise often leads to destructive behaviors such as chewing, digging, or excessive barking.

The need to exercise pets is being met by both dog walkers and a new breed of pet professionals – the doggie safari specialists. These services pick up dogs from your house and take groups of similar size dogs to the local dog park, beach, or wilderness trails to walk, hike and run to release energy and interact with other dogs. These types of trips usually last between 1-3 hours.

There are also companies springing up that offer exercise services for dogs that specialize in dog fitness and health (for example www.caninesafari.com). These services include initial and ongoing fitness assessments and include more rigorous exercise training and additional exercise activities such as running, swimming, and retrieving. Their sessions range from 30 to 45 minutes.

Group walkers and exercisers typically charge from \$25-30 per dog per session and offer discounts for regular customers.

This may be your perfect profession if you want to work outdoors and enjoy walking, hiking or running. Dog handling and first aid skills are the only essential skills for dog walkers.

To claim that you are dog fitness professional you typically would require more extensive training in physical education and pet health.

6. Pet Taxi Driver

Busy pet owners need help to transport their pets to grooming and veterinarian appointments, training appointments, boarding facilities or doggie day care centers. Pet taxi services pick up pets from the home,



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deliver them to their appointments, and return them home ready to greet their owners when they return from work.

Pet taxi operators must have a reliable vehicle that is fitted with pet restraints that ensure animals are not injured during transit. They must know how to handle large dogs and sick animals. Of course and taxi service driver should also have a good driving record.

Typical rates for pet taxi services range from \$20 - \$35 per trip, with an additional hourly charge for wait service.

7. Dog Trainer

Dog trainers are a very valuable resource to pet owners who are struggling to teach their new pets the basics commands and manners that make them good companions and members of the family. Dog trainers also work with pets that compete in agility and obedience competitions and pets that work in law enforcement, TV, movies, or advertising.



Dog trainers typically offer both group classes and one on one in home or on location training. Some also offer training camps where dogs stay with trainer for up to a week and are boarded. Trainers may be self employed or are hired by other trainers, pet stores, groomers, shelters, or veterinarians.

Dog training is not a career where you can dive in without experience or training. Unless you know a dog trainer who will mentor you as a trainer you will need to invest time and money in career training to learn the basic skills and training methods. Many schools exist that offer classes in theory and practical techniques. Here are just a few but you can find many more in yellow pages or online:

ABC Animal Behavior College - <http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com>

Penn Foster Career School - <http://www.career-diplomas.com>

Triple Crown Academy - <http://www.schoolfordogtrainers.com>

Some of these schools are home study classes that partner you with local trainers that will teach you practical skills. Others require that you travel to train at



their location classes from 4 to 12 weeks. SPCA groups in some areas also offer training classes.

Certification as a dog trainer can be gained through assessment by the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (<http://www.ccpdt.org>). Certification can distinguish you from the many other trainers competing for business in your area.

To be a dog trainer you must have plenty of patience and have the knowledge of different breed characteristics. A good trainer will be able to apply the correct training methods to match each dog's personality and needs. Volunteering at a shelter or rescue organization is a good way to gain experience working with a range of dog personalities.

A good first step is to join an association where you can meet other trainers and get more information and education:

<http://www.apdt.com> - Association of pet dog trainers

<http://www.dogtrainerclub.com> – A club with resources and member discussions

Trainers typically charge around \$95-\$150 for 6 x ½ hour group sessions, or \$150-200 for 2-3 in home one on one sessions. Charges for a week long training camp and boarding can be up to \$800-\$1000.

8. Pet Masseuse

Natural health care is a growing field and massage has the same great health benefits in pets as it does for us humans. There are various techniques and methods of massage taught and practiced but the common aim is to increase oxygen flow to muscles and tissues and can give pets a greater range of motion and better flexibility. It also is physiologically therapeutic as it releases stress and tension from the body.

Massage is also very beneficial for working dogs and canine athletes involved in agility or obedience training. Any mentally or physically demanding work can leave muscles tight and sore. Equine massage is commonly used to increase performance of horses used for dressage, racing, cutting, and ranch and police work.



Many courses in pet massage are offered in formats including home study and hands on training. Here are a few that I found online:



PetMassage Ltd - <http://www.petmassage.com>

The Lang Institute - <http://www.dogmassage.com/massage.htm>

Equissage - http://www.equissage.com/request_canine.htm

Northwest School of Animal Massage - <http://www.nwsam.com/programs.html>

Bancroft School of Massage Therapy -

<http://www.bancroftsmt.com/procedure/index.cfm?id=11>

Dogma Inc - <http://www.denverdogma.com/>

Boulder College of Massage Therapy - <http://www.bcmt.org/training/canine-massage-schools.htm>

To meet other massage professionals and research the profession you could consider joining the International Association of Animal Massage and Bodywork (<http://www.iaamb.org>). Their annual membership fee is \$90.

Pet massage is another business that you can start part time from your home with very little start up costs and overhead. It is also a great add on service for pet sitters and groomers. Massage therapist are hired by groomers, pet stores, veterinarians, boarding facilities, and horse training professionals.

9. Dog Bakery

If you love to cook and have a flair for food presentation this option may be for you! Specialist pet bakeries are becoming more common at malls and pet stores to provide pet owners with tasty and healthy treats for dogs and cats.



Pet owners love to treat their pets with goodies and are looking for treats that are unique and contain fewer additives (i.e. more natural ingredients) than standard store available mass produced biscuits. Pet owners also buy boutique treats and gift baskets for their pets for special occasions and to give to other pet lovers.

Many boutique bakeries are supplying treats for sale in large chain pet stores, independent pet stores, grocery store chains, and mail order stores. Treats are also sold at smaller locations such as local pet bakery stores, stalls at farmers markets, and community pet events, as well as in online stores.

There are many online sites that have pet recipes to get you started – just type “pet treat recipes” in any search engine. For example I found



<http://www.globalpaw.com/dogtreats/> that gives you recipes for over 200 different pet treats.

With this career option you have the choice to start small by baking treats in your home kitchen to keep startup overheads low. There are also opportunities available to buy a bakery store through a franchise or trademark licensing agreement if you want to start a business with a pre-existing brand and system.

10. Pet Photographer

If you are good with a camera this is a job to put this skill to use. Pets are considered family members and like their children people want to capture them on film to remember and display. But far from being a market just for pet owners pet photography is also widely used for commercial purposes. Cat and dog breeders need great shots of their pets for to market them to prospective buyers and promoters of pet products also need pet photos to include in their media advertising campaigns. Magazines and books for pet lovers need pictures of pets to fill their pages.



Pet photography requires patience and practice and you will need an adept assistant to entertain and maneuver pets into their poses using toys, treats, and other distractions. Many photographers are using digital cameras as it allows them to transfer to an image enhancement program such as Photoshop.

Many photographers run their own business, but others are hired by studios, magazines and pet stores. Cat and dog shows hire photographers to attend their events and are willing to pay for all travel expenses for a well know photographer.

This business does require the initial expense of buying cameras, lighting equipment and supplies. It has the flexibility to be run from a home studio, portable studio, or storefront studio location. A great book to get you started is "Photography" Eighth Edition, by London, Upton, Stone, Kobre and Brill.



11. Pet Toys, Pet Accessories or Pet Food Distributor

If you're crafty and like to sew or work with metals or ceramics then you could start a business creating your own range of unique dog clothing, dog chew toys, collars, leashes, bowls, or carrier bags. These can be sold at your own storefront location or sold through mail order catalogue companies, pet stores, groomers, boarding facilities, veterinarian clinics or online at Ebay or your own online store.

There is also a large market for decorative pet products such as greeting cards, photo frames, calendars, and mugs. In most cities there are entire stores dedicated to cat or dog products.

There are several network marketing or direct sales business opportunities to market foods and accessories as an independent distributor. A few choices include:

Pet foods – HealthypetNet - <http://www.healthypetnet.com> and Flint River Ranch - <http://www.flintriver.com>

Pet Accessories – Pet Lane - <http://www.petlane.com> and Shure Pets - <http://shurepets.com>

12. Pet Travel and Moving Specialist

When I moved from Australia to the US in October 2000 I brought my Burmese cat with me. I had him transported by a company that organized to board him for 2 weeks after I left to give me time to settle in, put him on a plane in Australia, organized for him to be delivered to immigration for his check up in Los Angeles and then put him on another plane to meet me in Dallas TX. This made the move easier for my kitty and for me.

Making moving your pets worry and hassle free is the mission of the pet transportation industry. With the population being as transient as it is today this service is in high demand. Transporters will move your pets from one continent to another or just to another city or state. They take care of pick up and delivery, all paperwork and



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customs/immigration requirements, and care in-between flights when necessary.

Corporate companies often partner pet shipment companies to provide a pet relocation service for relocated employees. The horse racing industry is another large market that employs specialist animal transportation companies to move horses to and from international events. Zoos, conservation groups, and game reserves also need to transport animals internationally using animal transportation services.

There are two major associations for pet transporters that offer information and resources: The Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association International (<http://www.ipata.com>) and the The Animal Transportation Association (<http://www.aata-animaltransport.org>).

These companies hire consultants to meet with movers, pet handlers, and veterinarians. If this type of job appeals to you find the major transportation companies online or in the yellow pages and ask how you can apply.

Starting this type of business requires licensing and a network of national and international locations. It is not a business that can be run part time or from home but will need large initial startup investment into office locations and communications.

13. Groomer

Many breeds of dog require regular cuts to maintain manageable coats. Groomers provide washing, styling, and nail trimming services to pet owners. Groomers can be self employed but also employed by veterinarian's clinics, large pet supply stores, and day care centers.

Grooming requires extensive training to learn the styles for different breeds and general use of grooming tools. There are study at home courses available but most groomers study at a school location so that they can get the necessary hands on practice grooming dogs at the school salon. Schools typically run for 10 to 11 weeks and require an investment of \$5000 - \$6000 plus the cost to purchase your own set of grooming tools. Some schools do offer placement services to find post school employment to their graduates.

Groomers have the ability to earn up to \$90,000 per year if they can average a workload of 12-15 pets per day. However, grooming is hard work and groomers



are typically on their feet all day. Bending and lifting of animals is also required so groomers must be healthy and physically fit.

Mobile groomers have their own grooming van, or use a van supplied by the company for which they work. The van is fitted with grooming tables, tubs for bathing and all other required grooming tools. Mobile grooming franchises are available including Aussie Pet Mobile - <http://www.aussiepetmobile.com> and Zooming Grooming - <http://www.zoomingroomin.com> .

This is another business where you can establish a regular repeat clientele who book services every few weeks or every month.

14. Veterinarian

The veterinarian is responsible for health maintenance, diagnosis and treatment of sick pets, and emergency pet care.



This job will require the most in classroom training of any of the career options outlined in this book. A veterinary science degree is a 4 year program and upon graduation candidates must also obtain a state license to practice.

Competition for university placements in the US is strong as there are only 28 colleges that meet accreditation standards set by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

In the US applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT), or the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Most applicants admitted to courses have already completed an undergraduate degree majoring in sciences and mathematics.

Demand for veterinarians is on the rise as pet owners become more willing to use advanced and intensive veterinary care to prolong the lives of their pets.

Veterinarians take on the difficult job of counseling pet owners when decisions regarding emergency treatment or terminal illness care must be made. They also help owners make choices for care for their older pets, and often must inform owners of the loss of a pet. As vets spend so much time interacting with pet owners they must have excellent communication skills. Surgery is a major job function so it is important that vet candidates also must have good manual dexterity.



Veterinarians often work long hours and must share on call hours with other vets in their practice. If in a solo practice they can work extended and weekend hours responding to emergencies or unscheduled appointments.

The average veterinarian's salary in the US ranges from \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year.

15. Veterinary Technician

Veterinary Technicians (vet techs) aid veterinarians to perform services such as routine laboratory and clinical procedures, performing preliminary checks at client visits, administering vaccinations, and preparation of animals for surgery. Techs also assist the vet during surgeries.

The Associate of Science degree required to become a vet tech usually requires 2 years of full time study. The program consists of courses in surgical principles, anesthesia, anatomy and physiology, animal medical techniques, and animal husbandry and diseases. All US states also require that vet techs pass a state regulatory examination (National Veterinary Technician Exam) to gain the credentials to work as a vet tech.



Vet techs are primarily hired by private veterinary practices but are also employed by shelters, research facilities, zoos, and in pharmaceutical sales and livestock health management. Current demand for vet techs is very high, it is estimated that there are 8 job openings for every vet tech graduate in the US.

New vet tech graduates earn between \$10 and \$15 per hour. This may vary depending on area. With current shortage of vet techs this salary band should be negotiable. According to Bureau of Labor statistics in 2002 the annual salary for a vet tech ranged from \$16,170 to \$33,750.

There is also an opportunity to learn on the job and become a veterinary assistant. Contact local veterinary clinics to ask if they are willing to take on trainee vet assistants.

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (<http://www.navta.net>) is a organization where vet techs can network and get assistance with career development. Several states also have their own veterinary technicians associations.



16. Working for a Non-Profit

Non-profit organizations rely mainly on volunteer help but they also need staff to co-ordinate their volunteer workforce and perform marketing and management duties. Organizations include SPCA, Humane societies, privately owned animal shelters and animal rescue groups.



PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is a large non-profit organization that works to end exploitation and promote animal rights. If these causes interest you PETA offers a very varied number of positions at their webpage (<http://www.peta.org/about/jobs.asp>). Most are based at their headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia but they also have a few international positions. The jobs are very varied from admin assistants, marketing, media relations, campaign coordinators, paralegals and attorneys, research associates, accountants, IT engineers, and web designers.

17. Pet Psychologist

Pet psychologists are animal behavior specialists who help owners with extreme pet behavior problems. They work with owners to give a 3rd part opinion and understand motivation for pet behavior patterns. They then prescribe techniques to modify the unwanted behavior.

Most psychologists have completed a formal program of study at an animal behavior college or university. Some start their careers as human psychologists and have interests and experience in animal behavior. Many have experience as pet trainers.

This job requires many years experience working with animals. Psychologists also need compassion, energy, and logical thinking. A large element of the psychologist's job is counseling pet owners therefore good communication skills are also a necessity.

There are also pet psychics or animal communicators that claim that they can telepathically communicate with pets – I think you need to be born with a natural talent for this job!



18. Pet Breeder

Breeders produce litters of pure-bred puppies or kittens (or other animals) to sell privately to prospective pet owners.

Breeders market their pets and build the reputation of their product (the puppies or kittens) but participating in shows and competition. They are also involved in dog clubs and organizations to promote and improve the breed they choose to work with.

Before you choose to become a breeder you should research and understand the characteristics and health issues associated with the breed by attending shows and talking to other breeders. You should also be knowledgeable about the breeding process, house breaking, training, and socializing of the pet. Breeders need to be able to screen applicants who want to purchase their pets and be able to educate them on the needs and proper care of the pet.



The set up expenses to start breeding pets includes purchasing breeding couples, or a breeding female, set up of facilities to house animals. Pedigree puppies and kittens can sell for up to \$1500 each. However, pet breeders do not make much profit due to the high expense giving puppies and kittens the medical and nutritional care they need in first few months of life before they are ready to be sold. They also have to manage unexpected expenses due to pet sickness and problem pregnancies.

19. Pet Store Owner



Pet owners need to buy supplies regularly to take care of your pets. Opening a pet store that carries supplies such as pet foods, pet treats, leashes, bowls, crates, and aquariums fulfills this need. Although there is a lot of competition from large chain pet stores, there are still many people who shop at local stores where they get personal service and a selection of specialized products.

There is also a market for specialist stores that service one particular segment of the pet market such as birds, fish or reptiles. These stores sell the animals and help new owners to select the right equipment and supplies to care for them. If



the owners have problems with the pet they have someone to return to who will help them fix the problem or give them a solution.

If you don't want to jump in and start your own pet store there are also opportunities to work in existing stores. Stores are looking for cashiers and sales staff that love pets and can talk to owners about their pet needs. They also need staff to care for the animals that they have for sale.

20. Pet Waste Removal Specialist

Backyard clean up, otherwise known as poop scooping, is a job that many pet owners would rather contract to others than regularly do themselves. There are many services that will come clean up a yard weekly for around \$7-15 per week so who can blame them?

This is also a valuable service to apartment complexes, dog parks, cities, and home owners associations.

You can start up a pet waste removal business with minimum equipment investment and build up a regular clientele.



There are a couple of franchises available including Pet Butler (www.petbutler.com) and Doody Calls (<http://www.doodycalls.com>). There is also an Association of Professional Animal Waste Specialists (<http://www.apaws.org>) that raises awareness of the profession and provides resources to professional scoopers.

Are you ready to get started?

I hope I have opened your eyes to the many opportunities to work with pets. With the option to start small, part-time or full time there is no reason that you cannot start a rewarding new business or career today.

Before starting any new business you should check with city to see if licensing is required. The US Small Business Administration (www.sba.gov) website has business resources where you can get information on business grants, taxes, mentoring and business planning.

Also, I have a resource page on my blog that I update regularly:
<http://workingwithpets.com/resources/>



Any business that is responsible for the care and safety of pets should carry liability insurance. One supplier of this type of specialist coverage is Business Insurers of the Carolinas (<http://business-insurers.com>). Other suppliers can be found through the associations related to each profession that I have listed throughout the book.

Pet professionals should also be trained in first aid for pets – see your local Red Cross (www.redcross.org/services/hss/courses/pets.html) or find a Pet Tech trainer (www.pettech.net) for one day pet first aid schools.

CONGRATULATIONS you are now aware of the many options available in the pet care industry and are on your way to starting your own pet business! To jump start your new venture I want to offer you the following 2 bonuses:

Special Bonus #1 – “25 Low Cost Marketing Ideas to Expode your Business” My report on the best and most cost effective ways to market a new business and get your name known in your community.

Special Bonus #2 – "Pet Care Career Jump Starter 5 part E-course" gives you 5 Pet Care Business Naming, Market Research, Marketing, and Planning Success Tips to get your business off to a flying start!

To pick up your bonus gifts please visit :
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Good Luck with Your New Career in Pet Care!

Visit me at my blog www.workingwithpets.com for more pet care business tips or email me at daniellechonody@gmail.com