

In This Issue...

Social Media

What is SPAN?

Back to School for Fido!

Dog Bite Prevention Begins With You!

Will You Be Prepared When Disaster Strikes?

Are you keeping up with the latest information for you and your pets?



What is SPAN?

SPAN stands for Seniors Pets Assistance Network. SPAN serves Dallas County low income senior citizens by providing assistance with basic veterinary care as well as pet food. They also assist with other vet needs on a case by case basis depending on availability of funds and other factors. This fabulous network is

manned by volunteers that strive to improve quality of life for seniors AND their pets! Join Guardian Pet Sitters in advocating for and supporting senior



August 2014

As I write it is cloudy and cool outside and we had a wonderful soaking rain last night. What a wonderful summer this has been weather wise I wonder what the rest of August will bring?

Lots of you have or are taking vacations this summer and this is keeping us busy. We are glad we get to spend time with your feather and furry family members. Our team loves to provide TLC to your pets. I even got to do some visits this summer as the calendar filled and we needed extra hands. Remember to book early as our calendars do get full!

That reminds me we need more staff! Do you know someone you think would make a great pet sitter? Please have them complete our "Join Our Team" form <http://guardianpetsitters.com/about-us/join-our-team/>. Tell them to mention your name. We will give a \$50.00 gift card to the referral that sends us the candidate we choose. We are looking in Far North Dallas, Plano, McKinney, Frisco, The Colony/Castle Hills area.

On August 9th we had a team of bowlers who participated in the SPAN Bowl-A-Thon and for those not bowling they were our cheerleaders. Our team was called "THE FURRTASTIC SQUAD" and we all had cat or dog ears and whiskers. We had a great time helping seniors and their pets. We are so glad we got to participate in this fundraiser.



August is here and schools will be starting soon. Summer vacations are winding down. It is time to think about your pets and what they will do this fall. What will they do when your children return to school and you are at work all day? You have several options to help your pets during the day when no one is home. Guardian Pet Sitters® provides mid-day visits for that extra TLC, potty break and play time. Contact us to get your furry family member on our mid-day schedule.

Our newsletter has great information on things you can do for your pets when school starts. Enjoy!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our service. We truly LOVE what we do!

Sharon and the Guardian Pet Sitters® Team

Back to School for Fido!

citizens and their beloved
pets.

Are you against the idea of senior citizens owning pets if their budgets are tight? Read our [full article](#) on how the senior citizens in your life can greatly benefit from having a pet in their life!



The back to school schedule change can be difficult for everyone -even the family dog. Our dogs are creatures of habit. Seriously. Any change in their life can wreak havoc on the entire household. Many times, the back to school schedule causes separation anxiety for our dogs. It's serious stuff. Think about it - your pets have had a lot of family time and companionship all summer long and the onset of back to school leaves your dog alone all day long...after sleeping all night long. Separation anxiety and boredom can result in destructive behavior while the family is away but there are some things you can do to help the family dog adjust to the new schedule and keep him physically and mentally stimulated. Here are some tips to get you started on a back to school plan for Fido.

1. **Keep some chew toys around.** Nyla bones are great because they are sturdy and provide your dog hours and hours of chewing enjoyment. The chewing will help release pent up anxiety.
2. **Keep your dog's mind stimulated.** There are many interactive toys on the market nowadays. Treat dispensers and puzzled feeders provide hours of fun for your dog. Other popular toys like bouncy balls or other rugged rubber balls are great too and have the added benefit of a little physical exercise too.
3. **Exercise your dog before you leave.** It sounds simple but many households are so hectic in the morning that Fido is the last one on everyone's mind. It's a wonder he gets fed. No, really. Get up an extra 15 minutes early and have a schedule for all family members to participate in exercising Fido in the morning. A little catch and walk will release energy that could become a problem later.
4. **Hire a pet sitter.** A mid-day visit from a pet sitter can give your dog something to look forward to and give him the opportunity to get some human contact in the form of games, hugs, kisses and exercise - not to mention a potty break.



For the complete [back to school plan](#), visit our blog.

Dog Bite Prevention Begins With You!

Dog Bite Prevention is serious business! A dog bite is not often deadly however an encounter with an aggressive or fearful dog can lead to disfigurement and life long trauma. [Armed with some information](#), you can help prevent dog bites.

First you should be aware of the body language associated with a dog that may be about to bite. If a dog is displaying any of these signs, it could be an indicator that he is about to become aggressive:

- Intense eye contact
- Showing the whites of his eyes
- Yawning
- Pinned back ears
- Raised fur on the back

Next, use these tips to help prevent dog bites. Educating yourself and your family about boundaries is key. Remember, it's not always the dog's fault. Interacting with animals takes responsibility and that begins with education.



- **Avoid disrupting a sleeping dog.** You know the old saying about that! Let them be! When sleeping, eating or playing they can be startled and their first instinct can

be to bite.

- Always ask if you can pet someone's dog. Never assume it is ok to just reach out. Many dogs have had bad experiences and don't take kindly to strangers. An owner may be trying to socialize that dog so be respectful.

-If a dog is sick or hurting, keep small children and strangers away from the dog. Respect his space. Think of how you snap at people when you don't feel good. Well, dogs do the same but sometimes they use their teeth when growling or other warnings don't keep people at a distance.

-Teach children the proper way to engage a dog. Hitting and pulling hair is never acceptable behavior.

View the [complete article](#) on our blog for more information on dog bite prevention.

Will You Be Prepared When Disaster Strikes?

As you get your kids ready for a successful school year ahead, it's a great time to revisit your emergency plan for your pets in the event of a disaster!

Here are some necessary components you must have on hand in the event a disaster should happen to strike. Remember, it's always better to be safe than sorry!



Available at [quakeKare, Inc.](#)

The Emergency Pack - find yourself a bag where you can store most of your needed items. Some things you should have in this bag are: medicines your pet may need, a leash and collar for each pet, a collapsible bowl for water, a brush and comb. You may want to ask your vet for a few emergency sedatives in case your pet is anxious during a disaster. Include up to date, clear photos of each pet. Add some of their favorite snacks. Those can be calming during an emergency.

The Carrier - ensure you have a carrier for each of your pets. One that is large enough to keep them comfortable in the event they need to stay in it for some time. Ensure you have a pillow and blanket and some toys for your pet. Keep them in the carrier in case you need to make a quick exit. Think about the type of carrier you have or will need to buy. One made of cardboard may not hold up well. It needs to withstand cold, rain and disaster type scenarios. Don't forget a disposable kitty litter box with litter. Your cat will need it!

The List - A list of crucial information could save your dog's life! You can find the complete list [right HERE!](#)