



Case Study: Holidays for Dogs

After looking after Peggy and Maureen – two dogs – on a casual basis, Shirley decided to set up her own Pet Sitting business to allow her to take on more pets when their owners went on holiday. Shirley then contacted her local authority who helped to advise her of additional items needed for her home – smoke detectors, a designated room for isolating a dog, sealed food containers, etc.

Holidays for Dogs has now been running for over 6 years. They are licensed for up to 4 dogs to stay in Shirley's home at any one time. Alongside her license she also obtained insurance to cover any pets she is boarding. She then joined NarpsUK.



“As I looked at their website it seemed to me that they had already compiled all of the necessary forms, and the answers to most of my questions were on the website!”

Shirley has always insisted that potential clients visit to see the facilities and so that she can get to meet them. She likes to ensure that both parties are happy before a booking is made.

“Do I take every dog? No I don't! If a dog has had no training, barks all of the time or is unlikely to get on with other dogs, my house is not suitable for them and there are other agencies who would be better suited to them. I offer a first class service and aim to give every dog plenty of attention and care and this cannot happen if one dog is being disruptive!”

This year is the first year that Shirley will be advertising locally to look to expand her client database and expand her business to the next level.



“If you are someone who wants to make a lot of money out of having dogs stay with you, good luck! It was incredibly hard work to set up the business and was a steep learning curve – now after 6 years of hands on experience, I enjoy having the dogs – most of whom I regard as old friends!”

Shirley has now found that running her business is more straight forward and having the support of the NarpsUK Forum and staff has helped her to overcome different obstacles along the way. She is now running a successful and busy Pet Sitting business, doing what she loves!