

Kritter Bytes



Our Mission: Provide the highest standard of loving care for your best friends in their own homes.

The Kritter Sitter is Sponsoring a Pet Parade at the 3rd Annual Best Friends Pet Expo!



The Best Friends Pet Expo is on Saturday, October 20, at The Green in Historic Downtown Dover. This is a free event that runs from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm, and includes LOTS of fun things for the entire family—especially the “furry kids”!

One of those fun things is The Kritter Sitter Pet Parade! That’s right! Our parade of furry friends is back by popular demand! Complete with prizes for best individual or best group costumes!

But you know what? We know not all pets are keen on costumes—so there are treats for **ALL** participants—no costume required! The parade will step off at 10:30 am.

played and voted on by Expo attendees. Winners will be announced—and prizes awarded!—at 1:30 pm.

But wait! There’s more!

(Continued on page 2)

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Inside this issue:

Best Friends Pet Expo (continued)	2
Here Come the Holidays!	2
Upcoming Rate Changes	3
We’re Hiring!	4
Employee Corner	4

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You can register for the parade at the Best Friends Pet Expo by printing the form and mailing it to the Delaware State News or signing up the day of the event. Just go to <https://delmarvaevents.net/e/bestfriendspetexpo> and scroll down to find the registration form.

There’s lots more fun to be had at the Expo, too! There’s a pet-themed Pumpkin Carving Contest—bring your pumpkins to the Governor’s Avenue Animal Hospital’s booth by 11:00, where they’ll be dis-



Pet Parade at Best Friends Pet Expo

(Continued from page 1)

The SPCA and First State Animal Center will be on-hand with lots of pets looking for forever homes. Stop by to visit the pets, talk with the organizations about the work they do and—if you can—donate to help support them.

There also will be obedience and grooming demonstrations, vendors offering pet-related products, and door prizes—stop by the Delaware State News Information tent to register for those.

La Baguette Bakery and Catering will be on-hand with food and beverages—you can work up quite

an appetite participating in a parade. And touring an Expo is thirsty work!

Make sure you also stop by and say hello to Auntie Ann's Twisty as well as Katherine Alt from 92.9 Tom FM!

Plan now to join The Kritter Sitter at the Expo—see lots of fun kritters parade through the streets, and have a great day with folks who enjoy kritters as much as you do!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1830681510558044/?ti=ic>

Ready or Not—Here Come the Holidays!

As pet owners know, getting ready for those holidays includes getting your pets ready, too! You don't want your own festivities to inadvertently put your fur family at risk. What's a responsible pet owner to do, to prepare?

Why, ask the experts, of course! Many organizations, including the ASPCA and the AVMA offer lots of holiday hints. Some of these are below, just to get you started; more are available on their websites—aspc.org and avma.org.

Holiday Finery and Festive Occasions

- ◆ Stick with a comfortable Halloween costume: Cute as some may be, they can bind or itch or chafe—or even just frighten—your furry parade partner or trick-or-treater.
- ◆ Be aware of your pets' responses to unfamiliar people and disruptions to their schedules. Provide a safe retreat from all the hullabaloo of trick-or-treaters or visitors they might find frightening—like small



children who lunge for Fluffy or shriek piercingly with delight at the sight of Spot.

- ◆ Mind your doors—ones left ajar might enable a frightened pet to escape to the "safety" of the great outdoors.
- ◆ Keep a close eye on those yule logs glowing in the fireplace and the enticing, flickering candles. Either can set a curious pet's fur—or, knocked over, the entire house—ablaze.
- ◆ Keep the New Year's Eve celebrations on the quiet side—or at least assure your pets are spared the din that can ensue come midnight. A peaceful night will get their New Year off to a much happier start!



Food

- ◆ Stick with pet treats—maybe stuffed into an indestructible chew toy, or hidden in pet-accessible places around the

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

house to reward your mighty hunter.

- ◆ There are a lot of foods to specifically avoid—however much begging you have to endure:
 - No raisins, grapes or onions for Fluffy or Spot—they're poisonous for pets.
 - And no turkey bones, of course!
 - No chocolate, fatty foods, anything containing the sweetener xylitol, or spicy foods—all can cause problems ranging from temporary digestive upset to very serious issues like pancreatitis.
- ◆ Keep plates of food well out of reach and secure trash cans—pets love some of these forbidden treats and can be quite enterprising in their efforts to access them.



- ◆ Keep the "adult beverages" secured, too—there's nothing amusing about an alcohol-impaired pet.

Plants

- ◆ Secure that tree! Those youtube videos of toppling Christmas trees are a lot more fun to view than to pick-up after in real life.
- ◆ Put only water—no additives—into the tree holder. Additives can be toxic to pets.
- ◆ Avoid toxic plants altogether, or assure they're well out of your pets' reach. Plants commonly leading to holiday vet visits include holly, mistletoe and amaryllis.

Decorations

- ◆ Lose the tinsel! Cats love that sparkly, stringy stuff—but it can all too easily be ingested, and require surgery to remove.
- ◆ Keep the breakable ornaments—and your pets!—safe: Display them out of reach of paws and maws; bits of shattered glass can be lethal.



- ◆ Watch the wires and batteries, too—chomped wires can deliver a painful (or even fatal) electrical shock, and punctured batteries can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus.

Holiday Travel

- ◆ Pack your pets' food, meds, toys, treats and first aid supplies.
- ◆ If you're traveling out-of-state or internationally, you'll also need a **health certificate from your vet**. Check websites for requirements regarding time frames for those certificates—they vary among states and countries.

The Kritter Sitter's OVERNIGHT RATE CHANGES January 2019

The Kritter Sitter's rate for an overnight visit is increasing to:

\$75 (overnight only)
(up to 4 pets)

\$85 (overnight + mid-day visit)
(up to 4 pets)

IF you are an existing client (prior to August 2018) AND

IF you schedule your 2019 overnights by December 31, 2018

You can lock in 2018 rates for these services.



While you're away, we'll stay!

Office hours: M-F: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Best contact is by e-mail: info@DEkittersitter.com
Phone: 302-387-1886

Client emergency only (MUST BE AN ESTABLISHED CLIENT): Text to:
302-270-1146 (Mandy) and
302-270-0963 (Deb)

We're on the web:
www.DEkittersitter.com
and on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/DEKritterSitter



The Kritter Sitter
is growing!

And **HIRING!**

We have openings for **caring, reliable staff** who are committed to providing **top-quality, loving care.**

Interested in joining our team, or know someone who is?

Contact our office via email at
info@dekittersitter.com

Stay tuned for an open house
interview opportunity!



Employee Corner

Hey, everyone—

Meet Pet Sitter Stephanie Norris!

Steph's a native Delawarean—and a life-long animal lover! When she was little, she lived in the country and adopted every stray cat that wandered into the yard.

As an adult, Steph has worked as a manager for an optometry practice; she's been with the same company for 26 years.

And, she delights in her "two wonderful children and a beautiful granddaughter."

Says Steph of her pet sitting job: "I know for most of our clients, pets are members of their families. I completely get it that pet "pawrents" can be very uneasy or worried about leaving their fur family members at home with a sitter. I take great pride in easing those doubts and fears, and am dedicated to providing the very best care for the pets left in my care."