

Stay-at-Home Mom? Love Dogs? Dog Sitting Can Help Pay the Bills

After freshwater fish and cats, dogs come in third place on the most popular pet ownership list in the US. Somewhere between 75 million and 80 million dogs are pets in the United States. With roughly 1 in every 4 or 5 people in the United States owning a dog, you may have a friendly Fido in your home. If not, you probably have a friend or two that can never stop talking about their cuddly canine.

As a stay-at-home mom looking to earn some extra money, you can cash in on the fact that dogs are one of the most popular pets in the world. Dog owners may prefer someone to watch their animal during the day rather than let spot or fluffy chew on their furniture, bark and annoy the neighbors all day, or use the bathroom on their carpet.

This is where you step in to save the day with your stay-at-home mom dog sitting skills.

Obviously, this part-time moneymaker works better for everyone involved if you already have a dog yourself. Having experience in all things canine makes for an optimal situation. Additionally, if you have decades of knowledge and on-the-job training dealing with one particular breed, focusing your dog watching efforts on just that breed could mean charging more money than if you take in any and every mutt.

How to Find Dog Sitting Jobs

There are a number of ways you can get started. Advertising in the classified section of your local newspaper won't cost a lot of money, but you may not be

able to target the right audience. If you have a relationship with any pet stores, talk to the manager or employees there. Print some business cards and hand them out. The people who work at pet stores field multiple requests for people looking for someone to watch their dogs while they are at work.

Signing up at Rover.com could mean getting paid significantly more than if you just use word-of-mouth advertising. That website connects dog sitters with people looking for those types of services. Customers rate the sitters they hire, so if you do a great job with a few clients, you could attain a 5-star dog sitting rating. This means you receive top dollar for your services.

DogVacay.com is another website where you can sign up as a dog sitter. If getting paid to play with dogs as a stay-at-home mom is something that interests you, there are plenty of ways to do so. Whether you go the word-of-mouth advertising route or use one of the reputable services mentioned here, you can expect to make between a few hundred and several thousand dollars per year watching Fido while his owner is at work.