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March 20, 2007

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Sunday, February 04, 2007

### Love of animals sparks idea for career change

By Jason Hancock  
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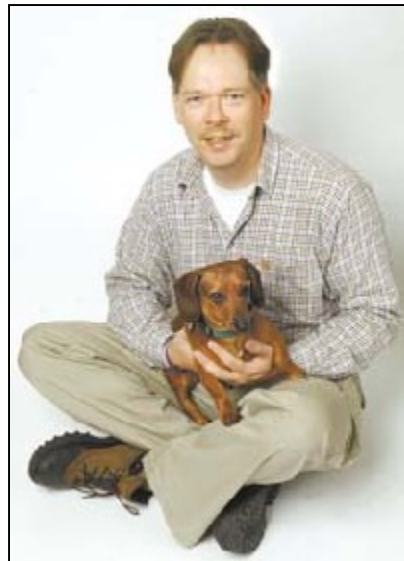


Photo by Duane Tinkey

**Launch Info**  
**Name** Trustworthy Pet and residence Service  
**Address:** P.O. Box 13234, Des Moines, Iowa 50301  
**Telephone:** 681-4708

Christoph Wolf didn't want to be a typical pet sitter.

"When you think of a pet sitter, you get the image of a neighborhood kid walking your dog," he said. "I want to offer a more comprehensive service."

That's why Wolf started Trustworthy Pet and Residence Service, a business that does a little more than just pet sitting.

"It's a new generation of sophisticated pet service," he said.

For a fee, starting at \$12 for a single cat, Wolf can offer services that range from simply cleaning a litter box or walking a dog three times a day all the way to administering a weight reduction and exercise program for pets.

"I will take your dog out for hikes up to three hours at nearby parks," he said. "We offer lots of different services."

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Wolf is licensed, bonded and insured through the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. He said clients can rest assured that their pet will be in good hands.



"I love animals," he said. "They are the real customers. I want to make them happy, and that's how I will get people to use the service again and again."

If a business meeting is running late and you can't get home to let Fido outside, customers with keys on file can call Wolf and he will be at their home within 30 minutes, he said.

Before the business became his full-time job in November, Wolf was a claims adjuster at Allied Insurance. He said his background gives him another perk to offer customers.

"If you're out of town and something happens to your home, I can file claims, take photos and provide access to police or claims adjusters," he said. "You won't have to rush home and lose vacation time or leave a business meeting."

Wolf also offers overnight stays for pets with special needs.

"You don't have to impose on anyone to take care of your pet, and your pet doesn't suffer from being in a kennel," he said. "You can have peace of mind and your pet will remain comfortable in its own home."

Wolf said using a pet sitter, especially one that is licensed, reduces exposure to illness or injuries caused by other animals in a boarding facility or kennel environment.

"I just love animals, and I knew I wanted to do something with animals," he said. "I'm 41 years old, and I know this is what I want to be doing for the rest of my life."

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