



# Spring/Summer News, 2022

Dear Pet Owners,

As I write this, I celebrate seven years operating Acton Critter Sitters. Times have been challenging these past few years, but we continue to provide care for pets of all kinds because of your ongoing loyalty and flexibility. **THANK YOU**. We hope you will take a few minutes to read through this year's *Spring/Summer News*. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office.

## Inflation Impacting Our Rates



Effective July 1, 2022, the base rate for all services will increase by \$1, and live-in care by \$5. Travel to and from pets' homes is a major expense for our sitters, and we have no choice but to raise rates to help offset the impact of rising gas prices and remain a viable business. Spread across all services, we hope the impact to you will be minimal. Services added to an existing service, such as administering medicine, additional pets, etc. will not increase. You can find our rate sheets on our website:

[actoncritisitters.com](http://actoncritisitters.com)

## Hints for Effective Scheduling



While we are committed to caring for your pets 365 days a year, we are also resource-constrained like many businesses these days. To ensure that you can get the service you need, please plan ahead as much as possible:

- Request services as soon as you know that you need them.
- Services requested through the portal's scheduling tool receive first priority.
- Please reserve text messaging for short-notice requests and high-priority issues.
- Schedules for the following day are completed by 6 PM the prior evening, and weekend schedules on Thursday evening. Requests that come in after those times are filled on an "as available" basis and the time(s) you request may not be available.
- Email is checked only sporadically on evenings and weekends. For last-minute requests or changes, please TEXT 978-674-9604. We will do our best -- but cannot guarantee -- last-minute service requests.
- Summer boarding and live-in care is limited, in high demand, and nearly full for the summer. Again, please request services as soon as possible. A list of other local service providers is available on our website: [actoncritisitters.com](http://actoncritisitters.com)

## Tick Time!!



The warm weather is here, and the ticks are out and about 😞.

- If your pets aren't protected against heartworm and ticks all year long, now is the time to start treatment. Consult with your veterinarian on what would work best for you and your pet.
- To help prevent Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses, conduct frequent tick checks on your pets... and yourself!
- For information about ticks and Lyme disease, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/index.html>.

## HOT STUFF!!



Warm weather can be dangerous for pets if you don't take proper precautions.

- **Never, never, ever** leave a pet in a car in warm weather, not even for short periods.
- When temperatures soar, avoid walking dogs on hot pavement which can burn their paws.
- Keep pets hydrated and avoid walking dogs during the hottest time of day.
- Be aware of foods commonly found at barbecues, that can be poisonous to your pets.
- Check out the [ASPCA's Hot Weather Safety Tips](#) for more information.

## Big Leaps forward for Acton's Dog Park



With a \$25K design grant, \$13K in private donations and a \$25K construction match provided by the Town, things are starting to take shape for Acton's dog park, to be centrally located at 348 Main Street. But there are a few open issues to be decided before design and construction can start:

Acton's Recreation Commission is spearheading a Master Plan project to ensure comprehensive design and parking for the three Main Street parcels, which will include the dog park, the Acton Housing Authority (AHA)'s housing development, and a seniors-oriented park in between the two. For information on these projects, email Acton's Recreation Commission at [rc@acton-ma.gov](mailto:rc@acton-ma.gov).

The Town of Acton and the AHA have jointly applied for a grant to extend the Main Street sewer line across Route 2 to service the AHA's housing development. Whether that development uses a sewer or septic system will impact the dog park design and construction, since the dog park would be built on top of the septic system's leach field. Grant awards will be announced by September 2022, and dog park design is expected to move rapidly come fall of this year.

While these two issues have paused significant design progress, Acton's Dog Park Committee and the Friends of Acton Community Dog Park continue the work needed to bring the dog park project to fruition, and the public is always welcome to attend meetings, make suggestions, or contribute time or energy. For more information, visit [actondogpark.weebly.com](http://actondogpark.weebly.com).

## It's all about Cats!



- June 4 is [National Hug Your Cat Day](#), and the entire month of June is [National Hug Your Cat Month](#), so go ahead, give your kitty a loving cuddle whenever you think of it!
- The American Humane Society celebrates [Adopt-A-Cat Month](#)® each June – a month that also marks the height of “kitten season,” when large litters of kittens are born and often end up in animal shelters. There are a number of local shelters, such as the [Pat Brody Shelter for Cats](#), with little bundles of fur and fun just waiting to be placed in loving, forever homes.

## Want to be a Critter Sitter?



We anticipate adding to our staff this coming fall. We are looking for mature individuals who have experience with animals, hold a valid driver's license, and are looking to make a long-term commitment. We offer training, flexible hours, a supportive team, liability and worker's compensation insurance, and rewarding work with an opportunity to get outside and exercise... and get paid for it! Please visit [our website](#) for more information.

Enjoy your Spring and Summer. Thank you for being an Acton Critter Sitters customer!

*Clare, Katie, and all the Critter Sitters*