



## Spring has arrived! Let's put the spotlight on our pets

Welcome to the September issue of Mindahome's e-news.

Spring is here and it's time to dust off the winter blues and prepare for the busy house and pet sitting period brought by the end of the year!

Many home and pet owners will be considering care for their pets over the end of year holiday season, so we've included articles in this e-news edition that will help home and pet owners to prepare for time away from their treasured animal companions.

We've also covered the care of pets and how house and pet sitters are the best choice for pet care when owners have to travel.

And remember... school holidays are just around the corner. There are close to 100 house and pet sits listed online across Australia. So if you're wanting a last minute family getaway during the school holiday period, check out what's on offer and get in quick!

Just a friendly reminder that that home and pet owners can search for sitters for free via [mindahome.com.au](http://mindahome.com.au) and house and pet sitters can [register with Mindahome](#) to stay in as many homes or as few homes as you like each year.

Enjoy the first month of Spring and happy house and pet sitting!

Mindahome Team

## Announcing Mindahome website new features



We love member feedback as it helps us make improvements which provide a better user experience for everyone that visits and uses the Mindahome website. As a result of this, today we would like to tell you about some of the new features we have recently added.

**Home owners search:** The home owners list now has more search features. When browsing the owners list people can select "Advanced search" and can now choose a location or postcode within a state to see all the positions available in that location and nearby. They can also choose to see positions that have pets or whether they can bring their own with them.

**House sitters search:** The house sitters list can now be searched by regions within a state. When browsing the sitters list, after choosing a state, an extra search option titled 'Region' will appear on the right and a choice can be made from the regions within that state.

**Please note:** all sitters should update the 'Preferred locations' field on their 'User profile' page as now the locations for the morning 'new positions notification' is controlled by a new selection field found on your 'User details' page.

**Reusable standard replies to messages:** Pre configured 'Standard replies' have been added to the message sending text entry box. Now, instead of having to compose a reply every time you send a message, you can quickly choose from a couple that we have provided for you or compose one (or more) of your own which you can reuse and insert with just a click into messages you send.

**Message 'read' or 'not read yet' notices:** Members can now see if a message they send has been 'read' or is 'not read yet' by the other party. These notices can be found in the 'Message' conversations list beneath the message sent time.

**Message notifications:** Now only the first part of a message is included in the notification a member gets when they receive a message on the website. This way a member needs to visit the website to read the whole message and while there, along with the new 'Standard replies' feature, they can easily respond.

**Reminders:** When a member visits the website, if they have an unanswered message, there will be a notice at the top of their control panel telling them that they have a new message which needs a response. Home owners with active ads also have a notice reminding them to un-publish their ad if the position has been filled.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind house sitters to use your availability calendar and keep it up to date. It's frustrating for home owners to contact you thinking you are available for their dates only to be told that you are not available.

To see the new features on the Mindahome website please click the link on the right. If you have any questions about these changes please don't hesitate to contact us.

[Click here](#)



## Do you pass the pet test?

Most house and pet sits involve the care of a pet, but approaching an animal you haven't met before shouldn't be taken lightly. Consider the unique personalities and behaviours of different animals and develop a rapport to help foster a trusting pet sitting relationship.

[More info...](#)

## Upcoming Events

- Brisbane Festival (QLD, on until 27 September):** Enjoy this annual event that features more than 70 productions and 400 performances, plus a whole lot more to enjoy in the city.
- Floriade (ACT, 12 September – 11 October):** This is a must see event to attend in the nation's capital. It's truly a massive spring festival held with more than one million flowers in bloom, creating a vibrant display.
- OzAsia Festival (SA, 23 September - 4 October):** OzAsia Festival is a two-week event of theatre, dance, music, film, exhibitions and food. The Festival's program integrates Australian artists who identify with an Asian heritage with Asian artists.
- Melbourne Fringe Festival (VIC, 23 September – 4 October):** See around 4,000 artists and nearly 300 shows, from circus to visual arts, cabaret to dance, and theatre to comedy at this iconic festival in Melbourne.



## Preparing to leave your pet

Our furry, feathery, scaly and fluffy friends, can't always come with us when we travel. Allowing them to stay in their own home environment with a house and pet sitter can reduce the stress and anxiety they feel when they are away from you. But there are some things to prepare for before leaving your treasured pet. Check out our pet care checklist.

[More info...](#)



## Love is a four-legged word

[mindahome.com.au](http://mindahome.com.au)



## The #1 trait that house and pet sitters can offer your pet

Most house and pet sitters have an affinity for all types of animals. Here is just one of the main traits of house and pet sitters that makes them the ideal carer for your pet.

[More info...](#)



## Choosing a house and pet sitter for the health of your pet

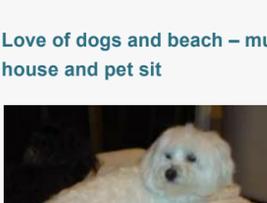
It's never easy for your pet to be away from you, but easing their stress can be helped by engaging the right house and pet sitter.

[More info...](#)

## This month's top spot for house and pet sitting

Here is another top spot for house and pet sitting just waiting for you to apply. If you're after something different, there's a wealth of opportunities on the horizon - [check them out online](#).

## Love of dogs and beach – must apply for this San Souci, NSW house and pet sit

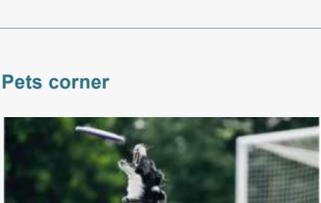


Enjoy a house and pet sit in this comfy little beach house, right in the middle of the cafes and shops and a two minute walk to the beach in San Souci, NSW. Two beautiful canines will be your animal companions during this house and pet sit and they adore companionship and lots of attention. With only the minimal watering of plants and the lawn and brining in of the mail, you can make the most of your time in this idyllic area, walking the dogs daily on the beach and offering lots of canine belly rubs and back scratches. Find out more about this [seven day house and pet sit from 21 to 28 September 2015 in San Souci, NSW](#).

[Click here](#)

Want your house and pet sitting position to be featured in our next e-news? Then drop us an email at [admin@mindahome.com.au](mailto:admin@mindahome.com.au).

## Pets corner



We all experience stress - humans and canines alike. Some dogs can develop signs of stress when home alone or when their owners are away. They could develop symptoms such as bloating, or dig, pace, chew, or bark excessively. Some animal researchers suggest that active play for 30 minutes or more can also stress our dogs for several days and that energetic ball play should be limited when arriving home for a time, because this is when our dogs are most excited to see us and their adrenaline will already be quite high. As dogs are social animals by nature, there is evidence to suggest that striking the balance between lots of excitement and activity with adequate down time is the key to reducing stress in your pet.

We hope you have found **Mindahome House and Pet Sitting's e-news** informative and interesting.

If there is something you would like us to cover in the e-news or if you have some general feedback, feel free to email us at [admin@mindahome.com.au](mailto:admin@mindahome.com.au).