

# Bart & Gabriel Pet Sitting Winter News

## Winter Activities for Dogs & Cats

Submitted by Natasha on Wed, 2015-01-06

Updated unavailability dates for 2015  
and winter tips for your pets!  
From Bart & Gabriel Pet Sitting



### Winter Activities for Dogs

Many of you made New Year's resolutions to get active with your pet — but that can be tough when it's too cold to spend much time outside.

Tough, but not impossible! Here are some easy ways you and your dog can have fun and get moving ... indoors.

- Fetch: Toss your dog a ball and have him bring it back to you. Just remember to put your grandmother's vase away first.
- Laser pointer: Yes, these are generally for cats, but some dogs go wild for them. Just point it at the floor, move the light around and watch as your dog chases it.
- Hide and seek: Position yourself and a pal at two different points in your home, preferably with something like a staircase between you. Then take turns calling your dog and rewarding him with a treat when he finds you. Each time your dog goes to one person, the other person changes location so your dog has to search for you again.
- Searching game: Hide treats or favorite (i.e. smelly) toys around the house, then tell your dog to find them.
- Chasing bubbles: A lot of dogs (and cats too!) love chomping on bubbles. Set up near a fan for extra fun — just be sure to use pet-friendly bubbles (available in many pet-supply stores).

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### *Important Unavailability Reminders*

#### Unavailability Dates for 2015

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

## **Got cabin fever?**

Here are some ways your dog can get indoor exercise outside of your home.

- Agility class: For extra fun, enroll your dog in an indoor agility class. Your local shelter may offer one, or know of a place that does.
- Your local pet-supply store: Bring your dog with you the next time you run to Petco or other pet-friendly store. Not only will this give your dog some interesting sights and smells, it'll help him burn the calories off from all the extra winter treats.
- Remember, no matter how much indoor-activity your dog gets, he still needs to go for his daily walk, however brief, for his mental health and socialization fix.

Source: <https://www.petfinder.com/dogs/living-with-your-dog/winter-activities-for-dogs/>

## **Fun Activities for Cats**

Free-ranging and feral cats lead complex and busy lives. They maintain large territories that often contain a variety of habitats (forest, farmland, urban gardens, etc.). They explore, they hunt, they scavenge for food, and they might interact with other cats. In contrast, household cats, especially those who live exclusively indoors, have little to do and boredom may set in.

Even if you don't think that your cat seems bored, there are a number of good reasons to provide enrichment opportunities for your feline friend.

- Cats that lack enrichment can be aggressive in play, both with people and with other animals in the household.
- Young cats without planned enrichment opportunities often pester their pet parents for play at inappropriate hours of the day and night. They may also interact destructively with furniture, plants or other objects in the house.
- Cats lacking enrichment can become reclusive and are more likely to retreat from new people or objects that enter their homes than cats who are frequently exposed to a variety new sights and sounds.
- Cats lacking regular play may be more attracted to perches by windows. When

Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

**Please note: additional dates may be added at any time. During these dates service will be limited, and advance notice is required. Please be sure to let us know well in advance if you'll need service on these dates so we can make all the possible arrangements.**

[Click here to send me an e-mail!](#)

### [Contact us now!](#)

If you anticipate needing pet care on these dates (*daily walks included*), please let me know as soon as possible, I will do my best to help you find a one-time substitute from the professional pet sitter network I belong to. We all are very busy so please plan ahead. I and my pet sitter colleagues deeply appreciate it!



*The Latest Pet*

*Parents Newsletter*

*is Here!*

**facebook**

Name:

**Bart & Gabriel Pet Sitting LLC**

Status:

**Below are listed the limited availability dates...**



Fans:  
**211**

looking outside, they may overreact to the presence of outdoor cats they can see and become very distressed.

Enrichment opportunities can easily be provided for cats. Here are some ideas to try:

Provide a variety of toys for your cat. Some cats prefer toys that they can throw around themselves.

Other cats prefer toys that require owner participation, such as those you wiggle and dangle. Stimulating play for a cat involves opportunities to "hunt," so move toys in such a way that they mimic the movements of a rodent or bird. Introduce new toys periodically to keep your cat from becoming bored with her toys.

Provide objects for your cat to explore, such as cardboard boxes, paper shopping bags, packing paper and toys that encourage her to investigate various holes with her paws. A dripping water tap can provide hours of fun! An aquarium with real fish or even a bowl of fake fish that move around can fascinate your cat. Rotate playtime objects frequently so that your cat doesn't become bored.

Some cats appreciate the commercially available "cat videos." The most popular ones contain close-ups of birds and small rodents. Many cats can watch the same videotape for hours each day, tracking the animals' movements, growling or chirruping and swatting at the screen. Your cat might even enjoy watching a lava lamp! (Take care that she can't burn herself if she touches the lamp.)

Cats love to watch birds, squirrels and other small animals. Position bird and squirrel feeders outside windows where your cat can observe animals coming and going during the day. If you live in an apartment, you can attach bird feeders directly to the outside of your windows.

Provide several small meals per day rather than one or two large meals. Also avoid "free feeding" (keeping your cat's bowl full all the time). If your schedule doesn't permit giving multiple meals, you can purchase a feeder with a built-in timer, designed to open according to a preset schedule.

Teach your cat to walk on a leash with a harness, such as the Gentle Leader® Come with Me Kitty™ Harness and Bungee Leash. Going on leashed walks is a safe way to take your indoor cat on outdoor adventures. To be safe, make sure your cat always wears ID tags on her collar when walking outside.

If you have the space, build an enclosed outdoor area where your cat can spend time when the weather is nice. Cats will spend hours watching leaves blow in the wind, birds flying and squirrels scampering around. If you can't have an outdoor enclosure, try creating a window perch where your cat can easily sit and look out the window.

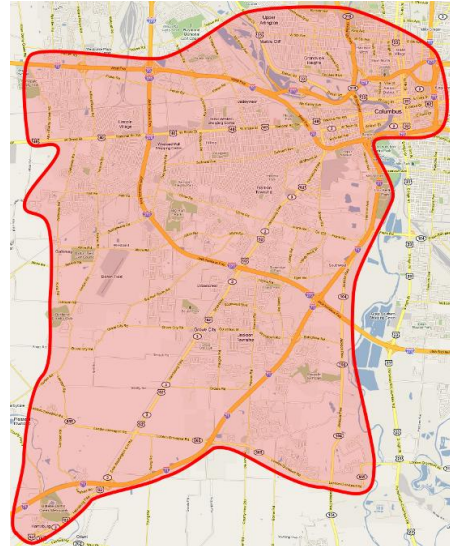
Training your cat can give her a great mental workout. Just like dogs, cats can learn a number of useful behaviors and fun tricks, like sit, come when called and shake.

Source: <http://pets.webmd.com/cats/enriching-your-cats-life?page=1>

## AREAS WE SERVE

Grove City, Hilltop, German Village,  
Grandview, Downtown, Campus, Short  
North

43123, 43223, 43206, 43215, 43201, 43212,  
43222, 43204, 43228





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