

10 Pet Businesses to Start Today

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The array of product and service businesses for pet owners is only limited by your imagination. Many people treat their pets like their children and, following that logic, most products that people want for themselves, they'll want for their pets.

Recent trends include organic foods, homeopathic products, and luxury accessories.

But, don't overlook traditional services and products for pets and their owners that will never go out of style. Entrepreneur magazine offered up the following ten "evergreen" pet businesses, excerpted from James Stephenson's books *202 Things You Can Make and Sell for Big Profits*, *202 Services You Can Sell for Big Profits*, and *Entrepreneur's Ultimate Start-Up Directory*. With ideas like these, you'll be catering to your furry, finned and feathered friends in no time.

Pooper-Scooper Service

Most services charge a flat monthly rate of between \$30 and \$60 to stop by customers' homes or businesses weekly to clean up their yards, which takes no more than 10 minutes per visit. Basic business needs include reliable transportation, a cell phone, garbage buckets, plastic bags, shovels, gloves and a good pair of rubber boots.

Pet Photography

Owners of dogs, cats, reptiles, horses, champion livestock, birds, and even fish can all be potential customers. Ways to be creative include pet costumes, themed backdrops, and videotaping services, complete with music, titles and special effects. Consider the possibility of transferring and selling these images transferred onto items like key tags, calendars, mugs, hats, T-shirts, etc.



Dog Clothing and Accessories

Americans spend more than **\$30 billion annually** on their pets. Designing, making and selling designer clothing for dogs and cats can reap big profits.

Pet Sitting

People are busy and travel a lot. Many can't stand the thought of boarding their pets in a kennel or their pet(s) may be an exotic animal that traditional pet boarding businesses don't take. Pet sitters are the answer.

Dog Day Care

Day-care facilities are for animals as well as people, believe it or not. Day care means just that; drop off in the morning and pick up in the evening or anytime during the day. Current rates are in the range of \$15 to \$25 per day, with discounts for weekly service.

Dog Obedience Training

Dog obedience training is HUGE...a multimillion-dollar industry and is growing by double digits. One-on-one or group training are options. Professional training and certification are advised. Current rates for in-home training are in the range of \$30 to \$50 per hour.



Dog Walking Service

This business can be started for less than \$100. Various styles of multi-lead dog walking collars and leashes are available that allow three or more dogs to be walked at the same time without major tangles.



Tropical Fish and Aquarium Rentals

Gigantic profits are being made in tropical fish and aquarium rental. Experts say you can set this type of business up for less than \$5,000. Potential clients include doctors, lawyers, restaurants and business offices.

Pet Toys

There are literally thousands of different pet toys on the market. Pet owners are always looking for new and different toys to shower on their pets. Keys are high quality and getting it to the right market.

Pet Breeder

Puppy mills (literally “factories” producing pets in deplorable conditions are NOT what is proposed. Quality breeders usually focus on a specific breed because they love that breed and truly care about giving them good homes. Considerations before starting include your qualifications, business location, registration, association memberships, and marketing skills and abilities.

Gourmet Pet Treats

The fastest growing segment of the pet foods industry—gourmet dog treats. Health conscious owners are watching their pets’ diets and keeping them fit and trim for long lives. All-natural biscuits can cost as much as ten times more than the everyday commercially produced biscuits.

