

Enterprising pair watch after pets for busy people

By Patty McCormac
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OCEANSIDE — The key to a successful business is finding a niche and filling it. With that in mind, Jamie and Trisha Pearson founded Dog Gone Poop Patrol upon moving here from Indiana in 2006.

They had dreamed of living in Southern California and needed a way to make a living. After researching businesses with low start-up costs, they settled on the area of pet services.

"It seems that people in California are more infatuated with their pets than anywhere else, and we didn't see a lot of competition out here," Jamie said.

They began their poop patrol service in February 2006, using fliers to advertise. The business did not take off immediately, and Jamie was tempted try something else. But, they did not want to abandon their idea.

"We could feel it was going to be great," he said. "You could feel it in your gut."

It took about six months, but the client list started to build. Their first customer paid for three months in advance.

"We do the dirty work," was their original motto. And they did; they took care of poop patrol duty. But as planned, the business began

Dog Gone Pet Pros

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to morph into something more.

It now includes a whole range of pet-related services, which led to the business name being changed to Dog Gone Pet Pros.

In addition to pooper scooping, which they still do, the couple offer pet walking and pet running. They also offer a taxi service to take pets to the vet, the groomer or the dog park.

If an owner is away, pet sitting in the home is provided. Jamie and/or Trisha will even stay in the home with the pet if requested.

Jamie said their client list includes people who work long hours, the elderly and those who are away on vacation. While clients come and go, they have a steady list of about 25 customers that keep Jamie hopping.

Trisha is busy with her own production. She is about to give birth to the couple's first child.

The couple's long range goal is for the business to grow large enough to provide jobs for others, Jamie said.



Jamie Pearson, owner of Dog Gone Pet Pros, takes Jessie for a walk. Pearson and his wife, Trisha, started the business as pooper scoopers and have expanded into pet sitting and pet walking. Patty McCormac

"We treat every dog like it is our own," he said on a recent day while walking Jessie, an Australian shepherd.

They charge competitive rates

and are licensed and bonded.

"We offer quality work without a ridiculous price," Jamie said.

Patty McCormac is a freelance writer from Oceanside.