

# New animal care business takes the reins (and the leash)

Originally from Newfolds, Karen Busch started her deep love of animals at a young age with a cat, a dog, and a horse. However, with a D in 9th-grade Algebra, Karen steered away from vet school to English Education degrees (BS MS) from Bemidji State University.

A year and a half ago, Karen ended her teaching career of 25 years to care for her elderly parents in Mentor. Karen developed her idea into her business through two workshops at Northland Community College in Thief River Falls and weekly meetings with retired business owners through the national SCORE program in Grand Forks, ND.

At its core, Karen's business Paws Hoofs Claws provides the best care and exercise for small and large animals. The in-home visits and on the farm visits allows the animals to stay at their homes. With her recent clients, she visits for an hour at breakfast and an hour at supper for vacations or an hour at lunch for the work day. Karen provides basic care and exercise, like playing fetch, walking, running, and snuggling. For large animals, Karen provides help with seasonal animal work and daily animal chores for farmers in need of her assistance.

For both of the branches of her business, Karen has an orientation for each client, so she can meet the animals and their humans. Karen and the animal owners will discuss the work order and the contract, and they'll find common ground.

With her business, the clients will receive text photos of their animals during the visits, so they can relax on a

vacation or at work or in the hospital. In response to the text photos, a few of Karen's clients shared, "They are having fun," "I finally don't have to worry," "They look so happy," and "I'm so happy that you do both dogs and horses."

Karen plans to turn to the colleges and universities in the region (NCC, NTC, UND, BSU, UMC) to get additional help because the students' schedules are more flexible with their classes and their other part-time jobs, and they'd enjoy the escape with animals. At UMC, the programs of Animal Science and Pre-Vet will bring more college students who also have a passion for animals. Karen plans to research each employee with references, professors, criminal background checks, and drop-in assessments. "If someone has a passion for animals and wants a fun part-time job, please call, text, or email me, so we can discuss the opportunities," Karen says.

"My type of business hasn't exactly been available in the region, so pet owners have decided to ask a neighbor, friends, or family to help them; however, Paws Hoofs Claws is a great choice without any burden of other people in your lives," she continues. At the beginning of Karen's local business, she already has five repeat customers, who say they're completely satisfied with the quality of care and the price.

If you are ready to book a day, a weekend, or a week, you can contact Karen in a few ways: call or text her at 218 464-2154, email karen@pawshoofsclaws.com, check out her website at www.pawshoofsclaws.com, or like her on Facebook.