

# Barking Mad dog lover providing alternative to kennels



**ANIMAL CRACKERS:** Ann Lowes, from Barnard Castle, who is running a dog care business, which provides an alternative to keeping pets in kennels

AN animal lover from Teesdale has turned her passion into a career by starting a business which provides an alternative to dog kennels.

Ann Lowes, from Barnard Castle will be working with her 23-year-old daughter Clare as the North-East representatives for Barking Mad.

The idea behind the business is that host families

look after people's dog when they go away, instead of it being sent to kennels.

The pair will make sure hosts are suitable before matching them up with clients' dogs.

It is a new direction for Mrs Lowes, who has worked as a lab technician and a nurse before her latest venture.

"We've always been into animals. The whole family is,

and it shouldn't be a problem working with Clare because we get on very well," she said.

"When the opportunity came up to work with dogs and also be my own boss, I was really excited."

As well as being in charge of arranging temporary homes for dogs, Ann and Clare will also have to be on call 24 hours a day should anything go wrong.

"Everyone who I have spoken to about it says it's a great idea.

"When people go away, they don't like the idea of dog kennels. This is reassuring for them because they know their dogs are going to be cared for in a family home as an individual."

Mrs Lowes said she has plenty of potential customers

but is now looking for host families, who get paid to look after the pets.

"We choose the hosts very carefully. They've got to either have dogs or have experience of owning dogs."

Anyone interested in becoming a host or wanting to use the service is asked to call 01833-695153 or e-mail [ann.lowes@barkingmad.uk.com](mailto:ann.lowes@barkingmad.uk.com)