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# It's a dog's life and Kerry loves it

**A DOG-LOVING mum has set up a home pet care company after enduring the heartache of leaving her own pooch in kennels.**

Like many dog lovers, Kerry Wells was haunted by the shrill yapping of dogs as she drove away from the kennels where she had left her three-year-old Jack Russell, Harvey.

After spending much of her holiday worrying about him, Kerry (43) has now decided to create an alternative to kennels.

**Barking Mad** sees dogs temporarily housed in dog-loving homes across Peterborough and South Lincolnshire while their owners are away.

Kerry believes it will suit both dog owners and their pets, who have the chance to be pampered by other dog lovers before they are returned to their normal homes.

She said: "I've used kennels myself, but found they were really stressful for me and my dog.

"This service is perfect for all those people who don't want to use kennels.

by **JACK GROVE**  
BUSINESS REPORTER

"We have 15 homes for the dogs, which are mainly made up from older people who've had their own dog in the past.

"It's great for them because they get the chance to look after a dog for a week or so, but without the responsibility of having a dog permanently.

"It's just as much a holiday for the dogs as it is for the owners – they are probably pampered by their carers more than they would be at home.

"We also carefully vet all our dog carers to make sure they don't spend longer than three hours out of the house each day.

"We also check their homes and gardens to make sure they are secure and safe."

Kerry, of Shearer's Drive, Spalding, decided to begin the pet care franchise branch after leaving her job as a customer service assistant at Abbey National, where she worked in the Long Causeway branch, in Peterborough city centre, and then in Spalding for a total of 20 years.

She is now keen to recruit more foster homes across Peterborough and its surrounding towns and villages, as well as find more customers who are interested in the scheme, which is managed by a national franchise based in Lancashire.

With the support of her partner Duncan and daughter Caroline (12), she believes **Barking Mad** has the potential to be a real winner, and she has been encouraged by the interest shown in her first two months in business.

She added: "As a dog lover myself, I believe in the service 100 per cent.

"Everyone I speak to says it's a great idea, and I only wish I got into it before."

The service is available to anyone living in Peterborough, Stamford, Spalding, Boston and the surrounding areas.

■ Families, couples and individuals keen to become foster homes, should call Kerry on 01775 720382, or e-mail [kerry.wells@barkingmad.uk.com](mailto:kerry.wells@barkingmad.uk.com)

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**Kerry Wells, of pet care company Barking Mad, with her Jack Russell terrier Harvey.**