

[News](#) ▾

[Sports](#) ▾

[County Budget Stories](#) ▾

[Cappies -- High School Theater](#) ▾

[Faith](#) ▾

[Health](#) ▾

[E-Section](#) ▾

[Real Estate](#) ▾

[Alexandria Schools](#) ▾

[Crime](#) ▾

[Alexandria Opinion](#) ▾

[Election 2007](#) ▾

[Newcomers' Guide](#) ▾

[Pain Doctor's Trial](#) ▾

[Pigskin Preview 2007](#) ▾

[101 Ways to Have Fun](#) ▾

[Community](#) ▾

[Living Legends](#) ▾

[Keeping Shop](#) ▾

[September 11th](#) ▾

[Top 100 Athletes](#) ▾

[2006-2007 Hoops Scouting Report](#) ▾

[VA. Tech: Close to Home](#) ▾

[Classified Advertising](#) ▾

[Alexandria Gazette Packet](#) ▾

[Arlington Connection](#) ▾

[Burke Connection](#) ▾

[Centre View](#) ▾

[Election Guide 2007](#) ▾

[Fairfax Connection](#) ▾

[Fairfax Station-Clifton](#) ▾

[Great Falls Connection](#) ▾

[Herndon Connection](#) ▾

[Laurel Hill Connection](#) ▾

[Loudoun Connection](#) ▾

[McLean Connection](#) ▾

Getting To Know ...

Elizabeth Skordinski, dog walker and pet lover.

March 13, 2008

Elizabeth Skordinski loves all breeds of dogs. Her love of animals prompted her to quit a corporate job and start her own dog-walking business serving Fairfax and Clifton. The James Madison University graduate now relishes her title of "Professional Dog Walker, Pet Sitter, Pet Taxi Driver, and Pooper Scooper clean up."

"From a 120-pound Mastiff that I pet sit to an 8-pound Chihuahua, they are all super," said Skordinski, whose own dog, Taylor, she considers her "child."

Skordinski has some experience with entrepreneurship, having started a babysitting business at age 12. In the next few years, she hopes to see her business grow in Fairfax County, she said. She would also like to visit Italy and start a family. A fan of "The Golden Girls," Skordinski also enjoys spending time with her family, collecting butterfly decorations, the Outer Banks and eating out at Coastal Flats, Sweet Water Tavern and Tony's Pizzeria.

How did you decide to start your own dog-walking business? I decided to start my own dog-walking business because I was working 60-70 hours a week in the corporate world and got burned out. I woke up one day and said to myself I can't do this commute, this job, this life anymore. I started to think about my passion and what I truly love to do. How could I make money doing what I love? I love animals and got the "aha" moment to start my own dog walking and pet sitting business. I am so enthusiastic about animals and I spring out of bed in the morning knowing I have sweet "babies" to care for. I got my Web site www.doodlebugdogwalker.com that very day, gave my two-weeks notice to my corporate job and didn't look back. Doodlebug Dog Walker is truly my dream job.

Is there any advice you can give to those thinking of becoming first-time pet owners? First-time pet owners should do research carefully. A dog is a big commitment. They are like little people. I would recommend adopting a dog, as there are so many in shelters right now. Someone could find a dog or puppy at www.petfinders.com or at my Web site to find a local shelter. Once you go to look at dogs, look into a dog's eyes because you can tell a lot. Our dog, Taylor, was from the Pet's Smart Adoption Day and we got him because he had the most affectionate eyes. Finally, I think dogs are a lot like their owner. Some dogs are hyper, some dogs are quiet, some dogs are dominant, some dogs are snugglers. You want to find the dog that best suits your personality. Follow your gut when you meet the dog.

What is the most challenging part of running a dog-walking business? Rewarding? The most challenging part of running Doodlebug Dog Walker is picking up 13 sets of waste that dogs make a day. Although that still doesn't compare to working a 9-to-5 J.O.B. I am a good Girl Scout and am always prepared. The most rewarding part of Doodlebug Dog Walker is seeing dogs grow up. I love to see when a dog gets potty-trained, learns something new, and smiles. It brightens my day when a dog is as excited to see me as I am to see them. I also give every dog I walk a nickname from me and they get so jazzed when I call them by it. The reward of this business is daily.



Elizabeth Skordinski and dog Taylor

[Printable Version](#)



[Mount Vernon Gazette](#) ▫

[Potomac Almanac](#) ▫

– Lea Mae Rice

[Reston Connection](#) ▫

[Springfield Connection](#) ▫

[Vienna/Oakton Connection](#) ▫



© 2003 Connection Newspapers. All Rights Reserved.

[Contact Us — Editorial](#) | [Employment Advertising](#) | [Contact Us — Advertising](#) | [Classified Advertising](#)