

Publication: Houston Chronicle; Date: Apr 24, 2014; Section: Ultimate Bay Area; Page: Z62

FACES IN THE CROWD

# She quit corporate rat race to run with dogs

By Jamie Grabert

After years of working in a corporate setting, Sharon Hosea kicked off her heels and traded them for running shoes. Today, she is the owner of Clear Lake Pets, a pet-sitting service that she tailors to meet the needs of her clients.

She began this business after visiting with a friend in Boston who owned a similar company.

"I went to visit, and she took me to run dogs with her in the woods close to her home. I was struck by how great a job she had being outdoors, hanging out with a bunch of dogs. She told me maybe I should start my own pet-sitting business. I laughed out loud and told her I didn't think I could make a living taking care of animals. Turns out, I was

## ABOUT SHARON HOSEA

**AGE:** 55

**OCCUPATION:**

Professional pet sitter

**COMMUNITY**

**CONNECTION:** Clear Lake resident

**FAST FACT:** She entered a talent roundup with a group of friends in the '80s and made the semi-finals, so they got to perform at Gilley's in Pasadena.

wrong — you can. I have owned Clear Lake Pets for 13 years, and I could never imagine doing anything else."

Prior to starting her own business, Hosea, who grew up in Houston, attended the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where she earned her bachelor's degree in fitness and human performance in 1996. While attending col-

lege, she worked at the Johnson Space Center for a TV support contract. She worked there for 21 years and was laid off in 2001. In 2003, she earned her master's degree in criminology.

She has made a success of her unique business and enjoys knowing that people rely on her to provide comfort for their pets. She also likes the freedom she has owning her own business. She also has experienced healthy business growth and has hired a friend to work full-time alongside her.

"I have a lot of freedom and flexibility. I work a lot, but the days are never the same. Often, I start my day early but could be finished for the day by 1. I have the privilege of staying in some beautiful homes in the course of pet sit-

ting, and I realize how fortunate I am to have the trust of people to stay in their home for the express benefit of their pets and personal peace of mind. There is great comfort in knowing that people count on Clear Lake Pets from year to year."

While Hosea loves animals, she has other interests as well. She said her interests have changed with time. She said she has developed a love of golf, and while she said she is not very good at it herself, she enjoys watching it. She also loves to travel.

For more information on Clear Lake Pets, visit [www.clearlakepets.com](http://www.clearlakepets.com).

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