

Sharie Acheson 'The Pet Lover's Realtor'

By Leila Meyer

People with pets know that when it comes to buying or selling a home, being a pet guardian can sometimes make the process more difficult. Many condominiums have restrictions on the number or size of pets allowed, dog guardians need homes with access to dog-friendly areas for exercise and people with disabilities who have companion animals often have special needs. When selling a home, having an animal present can sometimes discourage potential buyers, and there's always the worry that people viewing the home will let your pets out accidentally.

These are just some of the reasons why pet guardians in the Calgary real estate market turn to Sharie Acheson, known as "The Pet Lover's Realtor."

Sharie has been a realtor for 12 years. She earned her Bachelor of Commerce degree in accounting and became a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). She then worked for many years as a controller in the home construction, development and renovation business. After almost 20 years, she was ready for a change and decided to apply her business and housing-industry knowledge to real estate and combine it with her life-long love of animals.

Sharie was raised on a farm, where her menagerie of rescued animals was extensive. "Growing up as a farmer, I understand the industry," she says, "but I believe we all have a responsibility for how animals are treated. We have to work together to improve animals' lives."

Sharie provides services beyond those of a usual realtor. "I assist clients with disabilities who have companion animals. I find homes for people with specific circumstances, such as finding condominiums that will allow certain types of pets or pets at all. I also help people find homes with proximity to dog parks."

As for clients who are selling their home, Sharie says, "If they can't take their dog out, often I will do that. I take them for a walk while the other realtor is showing the place. I ensure that people are aware that there are pets on the property and that they don't let them out." Those extra services can offer peace of mind to pet guardians in the real estate market.

Sharie also emphasizes the importance of rescuing homeless pets. To help these animals in need, she says, "I provide a gift certificate for a rescue

animal with every transaction or referral so people can rescue a pet and I will pay for it, as long as it's a rescue organization. I support as many of them as I can."

These extra services Sharie offers have given her a strong following. "There is a strong loyalty in people who are pet enthusiasts. They have returned to me as clients over and over and have referred me to their friends and relatives as a caring professional realtor," she says. "I am working hard to be the top realtor this year at HomeLife Cityscape Real Estate."

