

Hunters Creek to Independence Creek



kayaks for floating down the Pecos, motorized mules to explore the property, and ponds stocked for fishing. The original game room and spring-fed swimming pool have also been restored to offer relaxation and refreshment on cloudless summer days.

Nan and Joe Chandler and their four children are 8-year residents of Hunters Creek, where the hustle and bustle can sometimes seem overwhelming. It's easy to feel disconnected from your family when life in the city is so hectic, but Chandler Ranch is the perfect destination for guests to disconnect from the world and reconnect with their families.

A no-fuss weekend includes plenty of old-fashioned fun, brilliant starry nights, the simple pleasure of skipping a rock across the pond and relaxing under the shade of an ancient oak. While you're there, pick up a good book (we recommend *On Independence Creek* by Charlena Chandler), be captivated by the history of the family and entertained by the anecdotes of their friends. So, drop the electronics. Enjoy your family in the great outdoors. Come for the relaxation and the natural beauty. Be part of the history. Make your reservation at www.ChandlerRanch.com.

Chandler Ranch was founded in 1912 and has been privately owned for over 100 years. The land sits at the confluence of Independence Creek and the Pecos River, 30 miles south of Sheffield, and just a short drive off of the I-10 stretch through west Texas. Typically an arid region, the Chandler Ranch is blessed to have numerous springs and ponds in addition to the beautiful flowing creek and the river, its eastern border.

After operating for many years as a traditional sheep and cattle ranch, a severe Texas drought then wreaked havoc upon the ranching industry. Ever tenacious, the Chandlers established a golf and fishing club beginning in the 1950s and forever changed the course of their family history. Chandler Ranch was a thriving and prosperous enterprise for many years but was eventually closed to the public. Some twenty years later, inspired by a dream to rebuild the business, great-grandson Joe Chandler began doing just that.

Today, Chandler Ranch boasts three fully and expertly renovated cabins with modern luxuries, a full-time country cook and managerial staff to assist guests, canoes and

House-sitting 101

By: Maureen Allen

Going away on vacation can often be more stressful than relaxing...

after all, a vacation is supposed to help you unwind and have fun. Too often you've got a million things to worry about, and to top it all off, what are you going to do with the dog? A growing trend in pet care is steering away from boarding facilities or that high school kid down the street coming over a couple times a day. A house sitter is the perfect solution for when you travel.

Studies show that removing your pets from their normal environment while you're away causes stress, anxiety, and often times they're returned to you physically ill. Now, a house sitter will take care of your pets, they also take care of all the little things that might happen during your vacation. They provide more value than simply picking up the newspaper every morning and feeding Fido. Having your house lived in will also help keep your house safe from thieves. Now, when you're in the market for a house sitter, there are a few things to keep in mind.

There is a difference between a pet sitter and a house sitter.

If you want someone to come in and check on your pet periodically throughout the day, a pet sitter is your best bet. A house sitter will live there the same way you would. Their car will be parked in the driveway, the TV will be on, newspaper, mail, and packages will be picked up, you'll get text notifications throughout your stay away. You'll rest easy knowing that everything back home is safe and sound.

You'll want to do some research when you hire

someone to live in your house while you're away. Of course, you'll want someone experienced and trustworthy. There are many people out there that claim to be a house sitter, but they don't really know the business. Most true house sitters operate on word of mouth alone which can make them hard to find - so plan ahead! A good housesitter will have references, paperwork, and they'll be able to explain why certain information might be necessary. Talk to your community and see what's out there. If you can't get one in time for your trip, consider finding someone new.

Some great house sitters are graduate students, recent college grads, or free lancers. Just make sure you have ground rules laid out and all information clearly communicated. Let's face it, you're bringing someone into your home for an extended period of time. It's important to trust them and to have some understanding. Whether it's a small incident like a chipped coffee mug, or a trip to the vets office, trust is a huge part of your agreement. If you don't feel comfortable with this person, then go with your gut. If you're interested in learning more about these services, contact us and we'll be happy to give you more detailed information.