

# Something to Howl About: After Taking a Hike, WiKi Walks is Back

 [www.arlnow.com/2015/11/24/after-stint-in-the-corporate-world-arlington-resident-revives-dog-walking-business/](http://www.arlnow.com/2015/11/24/after-stint-in-the-corporate-world-arlington-resident-revives-dog-walking-business/)

## **WiKi Walks**

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After eight years of running his own business, Will Reintzell believed he was ready to take a new path. So the Arlington resident did what many of us would like to do: He chucked it all, shut it down and went to Spain for a well-deserved vacation.

When he got back he interviewed for a new position in a new industry — sales — and before long, given his background and genial nature, he landed an impressive job that, after thinking it over, he eventually declined.

“At the end of the day, I just wasn’t going to be happy,” he says, and for many Arlingtonians, his dissatisfaction is cause to rejoice.

[WiKi Walks](#) is back in business.

Will is the founder of WiKi Walks, a full-service dog walking/pet sitting service that he revived in early November. “I love dogs and I love owning my own company,” he says, explaining the return.

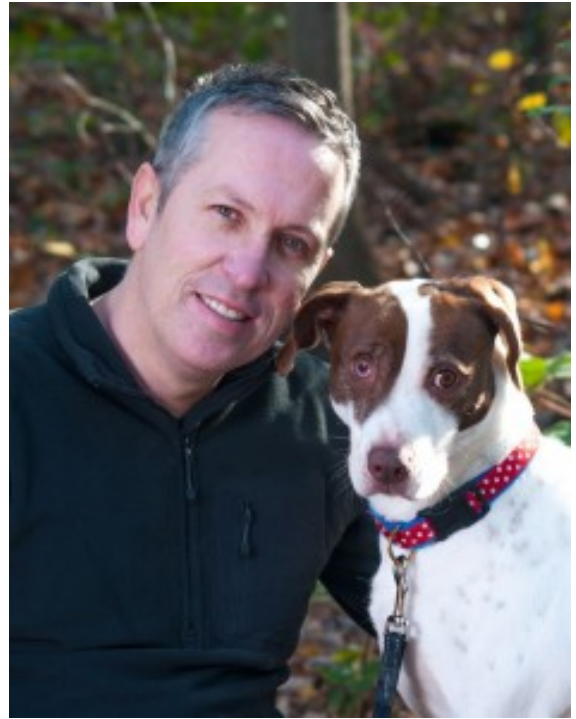
Not only is Will happier, so are some of his regular clients who were relieved to hear Will had picked up the leash again. Many signed up again as soon as they got the news.

“There are some dogs I’ve been walking for eight years, seven years, five years,” he says. “There is very little turnover. My clients are like family.”

Will Reintzell takes pride in keeping his schedule running like clockwork, knowing that not only do the clients count on him to save their canines from indoor accidents, but that the dogs themselves badly need the exercise dog walking affords. For many, it's the only on-their-feet outdoor activity they get during working hours.

"Most of my clients are professionals and they leave home at 7 or 8 in the morning and get home nine or ten hours later," he says. "It's understandable, but it's not healthy for a dog to have to 'hold it' for nine hours. And puppies need to go out more often, and older dogs need to go out more often. For the ones in the middle, walking is an activity and exercise that keeps them from getting overweight."

Once a day — or more, according to the contract executed after an initial consultation — Will ventures out in all manner of weather for a 20-minute sojourn with his client's best friend. The daily route is sometimes varied to keep it interesting for both parties — the walker and the walkee — and if something is amiss or the dog doesn't seem his or her usual self, Will emails the owner right away.



I asked Will how the name "WiKi Walks" came about "It's a portmanteau," he explains. The "Wi" is from Will and the "Ki" is from his fiancée Kim's name.

One last question: Does the dog walker own his own dog?

"I do, finally," he says. He and Kim inherited her late father's pointer, Ziva, named for the character on CBS's "NCIS." That's Ziva in the logo with Will.

And yes, he walks Ziva. Of course he walks Ziva.

"I love dogs and I love spending time with dogs," he says. "And at the end of the day I love my job."

*The preceding was a sponsored local business profile written by Buzz McClain for ARLnow.com.*