

HOME, WORK, MONEY

If you love making new four-legged friends...

**RUN A B&B FOR DOGS**



More than 10,000 people have registered with DogVacay.com to host dogs in their home, giving animal lovers a way to make extra cash without the

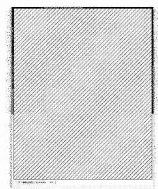
stress of recruiting clients, getting insurance, or chasing payments. The website handles it all for a small commission. "I've gotten to know so many different dogs—some of them even sleep in my bed with me," says Roxanne Moran, 57, of Los Angeles. "It's the only job where your colleagues love you every day!" Plus, you earn the gratitude of families who know Spot is well cared for while they're away.

**HOW TO:** You can create a profile and set your rate on DogVacay.com—where the average is \$28 per night—or Rover.com. Moran earned \$18,000 last year.

# Fun ways to make extra \$\$

Ease money worries—the number one cause of stress in America—with these creative ways to score cash doing things you already love. By **Emma Johnson**

**W**hen bills are stressing you out, you can lose more than just sleep—in extreme cases, worrying about money can take a toll on your ability to make smart decisions, says one new study. And even when you're in the black, who couldn't use a few extra bucks to finance that weekend away or those jujitsu lessons your kids are craving? These women found clever ways to boost their bottom line without taking time away from their families or piling on more pressure at work. See if one of their so-much-fun-I'd-do-it-for-free gigs could work for you.





If you love to tell people what you think...

**REVIEW NEW PRODUCTS**

Have strong opinions on whether your moisturizer is dewy enough or those new granola bars are too sweet? The people who sell them want to know, and they'll pay you to test and review products in your own home before they hit the market. "I signed up to be a product tester five years ago," says Louida Martin, 30, a receptionist in Atlanta. "The first thing they sent me was coffee, which I drink every morning anyway. I tried two brands for two weeks and earned \$150, so I was hooked! My daughters get so excited every time a new package arrives in the mail, and it's great knowing my voice is being heard. When I'm in a store and see a product I tested on the shelves, I think, *Wow, I helped make that happen.*"

**HOW TO:** Fees vary, but you can make from \$3 to \$150 per assignment—and you usually get to keep the products. Martin averages about \$100 per month. Check out SurveySpot.com, MySurvey.com, and ValuedOpinions.com to see if you qualify to be a tester.



If you're trying to drop a few pounds...

**BET ON YOURSELF**

Several legitimate websites let you wager on your weight loss—and win money when you achieve your goal. It works. Dieters who could win cash lost three times as much as those who were doing it for free, according to a recent study. "I joined Weight Watchers, and as an extra incentive, I set weight-loss goals on HealthyWage.com," says Shelley Bair, 42, a banker in Duncombe, IA. "Whenever I was tempted to hit the Dairy Queen, I'd think, *I don't want to lose money for that!* I lost 100 pounds in two years."

**HOW TO:** As with any wager, you could lose—but a typical successful HealthyWage.com participant bets \$150 and doubles her money. Bair took home \$900.



If you spend a lot of time behind the wheel...

**DRESS UP YOUR CAR**

Ads are everywhere you look these days, from the side of a building to the screen on your cell phone, so why not decorate your ride with one? You can earn a monthly fee by allowing a company to wrap your car with a vinyl ad. "I had my new Mazda wrapped with a beach-themed promotion for Sandals Resorts," says Ellen Paderson, 59, of South Easton, MA. "It helps my travel business, and I love it—it's such a fun car and everyone in town knows it. Strangers approach me all the time to chat about my car. I guess everyone is happy to see a picture of people having fun on a beach, especially when it's really cold out!"

**HOW TO:** If you have a relatively new car, a clean driving record, and you drive for a certain number of set miles each day, create a profile on DrivenMediaOnline.com to see if you'll be matched with a company. Depending on the company and the ad, it's possible for you to earn up to \$400 a month—Paderson usually makes around \$175 a month. But beware of scams: Don't trust a site that asks you to pay up front to be listed on its car-wrap database.



If you love to shop...

**GO UNDERCOVER AT YOUR LOCAL STORES**

As a mystery shopper, you get paid by retailers to check out their stores and report back on details such as the friendliness of the salespeople and the neatness of the displays.

"It's really fun," says Lisa Duncan, 30, from Vallejo, CA. "I once brought my 11-year-old goddaughter to a job at Sears. She was so helpful I wound up giving her the fee! I can work as much as I want, and I've earned more than \$16,000, enough to pay for most of my upcoming wedding."

**HOW TO:** Fees range from \$7 to \$40 per job. Check out Gigwalk, an app that uses a GPS to alert you to opportunities in your area, or go to MysteryShop.org for more information and a list of reputable companies.

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