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## How do I register my online pet company?



James Caan

*Hi James*

**My friend and I want to set up an online shop selling pet supplies. We just have no idea about the legal side. Do we need to register our name as a company? Where can we get free advice?**

*Hazel & Julie, MDs of PawsPlaza*

Pet supplies is a great sector to be in. In the Den I invested in Sammy French's Fit Fur Life and she did very well selling dog treadmills.

You need to be careful – doing business with friends can jeopardise the

relationship. But it can be very rewarding and it helps to trust those you work with.

First, you must set up a limited liability company through Companies House by downloading a form from [www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk). The Companies House website or Business Link ([businesslink.gov.uk](http://businesslink.gov.uk)) has plenty of advice to guide you through the process.

You also must check your firm's name and your domain name are available on [www.godaddy.com](http://www.godaddy.com) or [www.123reg.com](http://www.123reg.com) – these can be used to register names as well.

Then you will need to agree with your friend how shares are split. I suggest you be very clear about what each of you is going to contribute and split the ownership accordingly.

You can find shareholder agreements at [www.biztree.com](http://www.biztree.com) and [www.contractstore.com](http://www.contractstore.com)

com – which charges a modest fee but saves legal costs.

Companies House will outline the various other documents you will need such as articles of association and lists of members. And you must nominate a company secretary and at least one director. The secretary files the annual return so is often the firm's accountant who performs this piece of administration.

You have to register for VAT if sales will exceed £71,000. It sounds onerous but there are plenty of resources to help and I wish you the best of luck.

■ *For the full article and news of James Caan's free app, go to [standard.co.uk](http://standard.co.uk). His new book, *Start Your Business in 7 Days*, is out now*