PET PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS LOCATED INSIDE!

Valentine's Day Gift Ideas for Animal Lovers

❏ In lieu of stuffed animals, these community and conservation inspired ideas may be well received.

A stuffed teddy bear, a heart-shaped box of chocolate and a bouquet of red roses have long been staples of Valentine's Day giving. While these can make fine gifts, this year those who want to shake things up a bit can offer alternatives that cater to their loved one's ideals. In lieu of stuffed animals, these community and conservation inspired ideas may be well received.

Adopt an animal

Collecting stuffed animals may be a replacement for wanting a pet of one's own. If the conditions for getting a pet are favorable, meaning recipients have the money, space and time to properly care for a pet, then couples can extend their love to a companion animal. This is one gift that shouldn't be a surprise, as it is a commitment that requires both people be on board. Visit animal shelters together to choose your pet.

Support a conservation group

If animal adoption is not the right step at this time, offer a romantic partner a stake in the welfare of an animal facing endangered or critical status through symbolic adoption. Various organizations enable people to make donations toward the conservation of animals in the wild. Support large cats, birds of prey, and others through a charity such as the World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation and Defenders of Wildlife.

Take a trip

Visit animals in the wild by planning a trip to a national park in North America or other areas around the world. If schedules or finances prohibit a trip at this time, purchase entry tickets to a conservation center or nearby zoo that specializes in certain breeds of animals. Even local wildlife rehabilitation hospitals may offer tours or enable people to foster injured or orphaned animals.

Plan a day around wildlife

Make this Valentine's Day memorable with an entire day immersed in nature and wildlife. Plan a hike through a nature preserve; pack a picnic to enjoy midday. Make a donation in a spouse or partner's honor at a park that he or she holds dear. Consider sponsorship with a plaque on a bench or fund educational classes at a learning center. The recipient will enjoy seeing his or her name displayed.

Donate toys

In lieu of gifting a stuffed animal to a romantic partner, consider purchasing stuffed animals or toys and donating to a favorite charity, like a children's hospital in his or her honor. Deliver those items in person and spread a little extra love on Valentine's Day.

Animal lovers may appreciate Valentine's Day gifts that highlight their passion for domesticated pets and wildlife.

Animal Cruelty Hotline/APNM: 1-877-548-6263

Animal Poison Control Center/ASPCA: 1-888-426-4435

City of Clovis Animal Control/Shelter: 1-575-769-7893

City of Portales Animal Control/Shelter: 1-575-356-4404

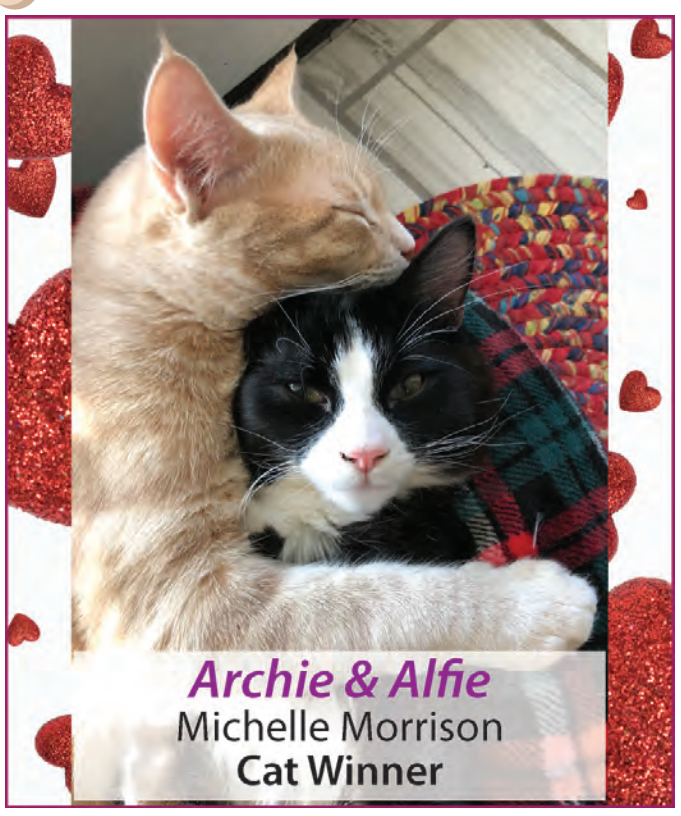
Dog Fighting Hotline/Humane Society of the U.S.: 1-877-847-4787

Emergency Vet/After Hours - Clovis Veterinary Hospital: 1-575-769-2249

High Plains Humane Society: 1-575-693-7973

FOR A LIST OF LOCAL ANIMAL RESCUES WHERE YOU CAN MAKE DONATIONS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL CENTERS & SHELTERS LISTED ABOVE.

Pet Photo Contest Winners



Archie & Alfie
Michelle Morrison
Cat Winner

Nizmo
Omar Jr. Rodriguez
Staff Pick

Sabella
Judith Encinias
Dog Winner

Honorable Mentions

Jax
Courtney Pantone

Bandit
Adreeanna Garcia

Stinkers
Kelsey Johns

Toby
Judith Encinias

Jackson
Jeff Lynn

Molly
Susan Sandoval

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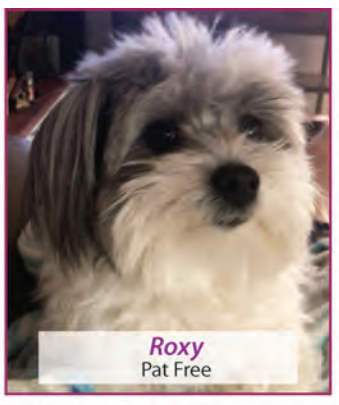

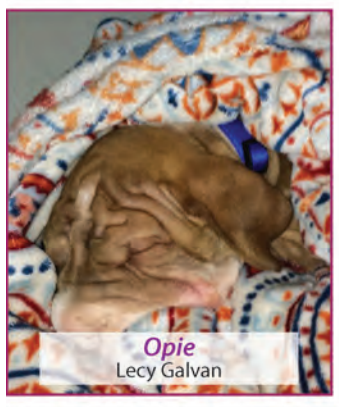

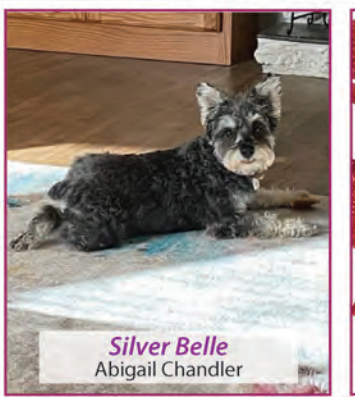

My Fuzzy Valentine

Loving Your Pets After They Pass

Faithful Friends Pet Crematory opened its doors in 2018. When owner, Kathy Elliott, found out her beloved dog, Oreo, was taken to Roswell for cremation, she decided that Clovis needed their own facility. Soon after, the doors of Faithful Friends were opened and has been serving the needs of pet owners in Clovis, Portales, West Texas and surrounding areas ever since.

"I understand how incredibly difficult it is to lose your furry family member. We at Faithful Friends try to provide comfort to the owners as we care for their pets after they have passed. We treat their animals as if they were our own. It's one of the few things we can do to help after a pet dies."- Kathy Elliott

Faithful Friends has provided cremation services from 200 lb. dogs to small parakeets. Our services can be individualized to fit each pet owner. We even offer pick-up services from homes, from Vet offices or wherever the need may be. Our website is faithfulfriendsclovis.com and shows the various options that are available to you.

If you ever need our services, our direct number is 575-404-9600. Give us a call and we will do everything we can to ease your grief. We wish blessings on your fur babies, but are here whenever they cross the rainbow bridge.

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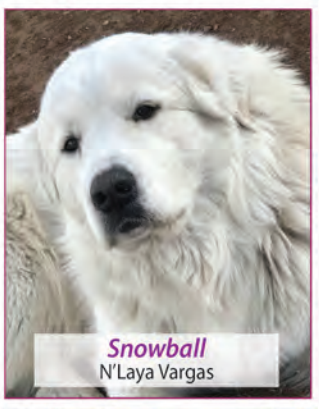

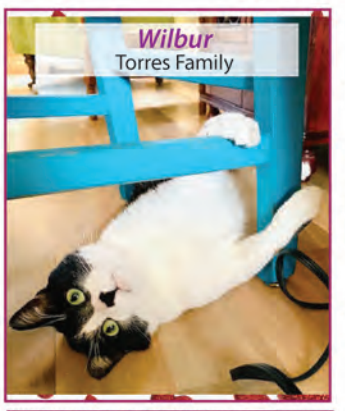

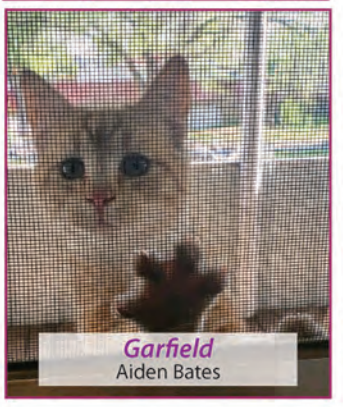

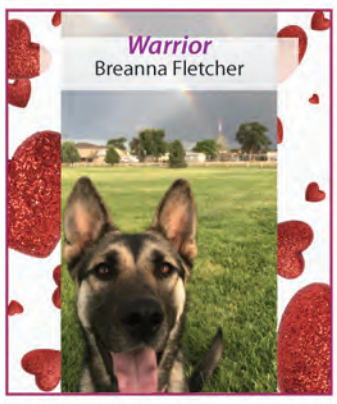

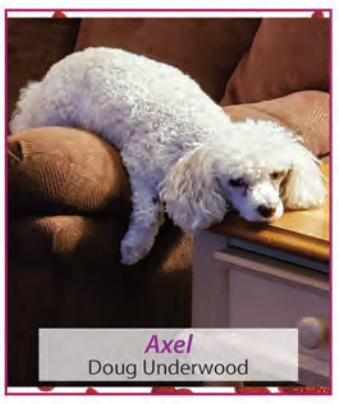

Thank You to All of Our Pet Parents Who Shared Their Fuzzy Valentine with Us!

What to Expect when Adopting a Shelter Dog

❏ Prospective pup parents should be aware that there can be a transitional period as dogs acclimate to their new homes. Understanding what to expect the first few weeks and months can be helpful.

Millions of dogs reside in shelters or in foster homes just waiting for someone to make them permanent members of their family. The ASPCA says there are nearly four million dogs in shelters across America. Bringing home a puppy or an older dog can be an exciting, selfless endeavor.

Shelter dogs have the capacity to be loving, devoted pets. Unfortunately, many such dogs have been dealt difficult hands, ending up in shelters through no fault of their own.

Prospective pup parents should be aware that there can be a transitional period as dogs acclimate to their new homes. Understanding what to expect the first few weeks and months can be helpful.

• Creatures of habit: Dogs are creatures of habit and feel most comfortable when they know what to expect. Moving from a shelter into a home can be a big change. Shelter dogs will need time to understand the workings of a household. By remaining consistent and patient, dog owners can help their pooches acclimate to their new surroundings. Feed the dog at the same time and place each day. Take the dog for a walk the same time each day with the same route. Knowing what to expect can be calming for the dog.

• Housetraining regression: New puppies likely do not fully know the rules of housetraining, but even older dogs who may have been housetrained can regress in a new environment. Pet parents may have to go back to basics and reinforce housetraining lessons.

• Shyness and anxiety: It's impossible to know what dogs went through before landing in a shelter. Shelter workers may have conducted certain tests, such as food aggression or resource guarding, but that only paints part of the picture. It will take time for the dog to trust and understand, and dogs may be timid and experience anxiety for a brief period. Some may even act out by exhibiting damaging behavior.

• Safe space: The experts at Hill's Pets advise employing a crate that can serve as a den for the dog. It not only is an area that can keep the dog out of trouble as he or she learns the rules of the house, but it also can serve as a safe haven that is familiar and comforting.

• Training classes: Enroll in training classes so that the pup begins to learn commands. Obedience training also helps keep the animal safe.

• Vet care: Make an appointment to have the shelter dog checked over by a vet as soon as possible. This helps everyone get on a vaccination schedule and can pinpoint illnesses or behavior problems. Many shelter dogs have common communicable illnesses like kennel cough or worms that require prompt treatment.

Shelter dogs can become warm and loving pets with the right care and a little patience.