



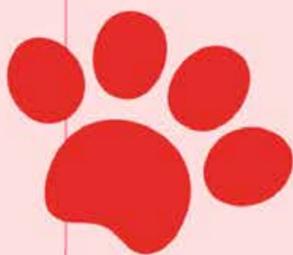
PET PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS LOCATED INSIDE!



MY FUZZY VALENTINE



2023



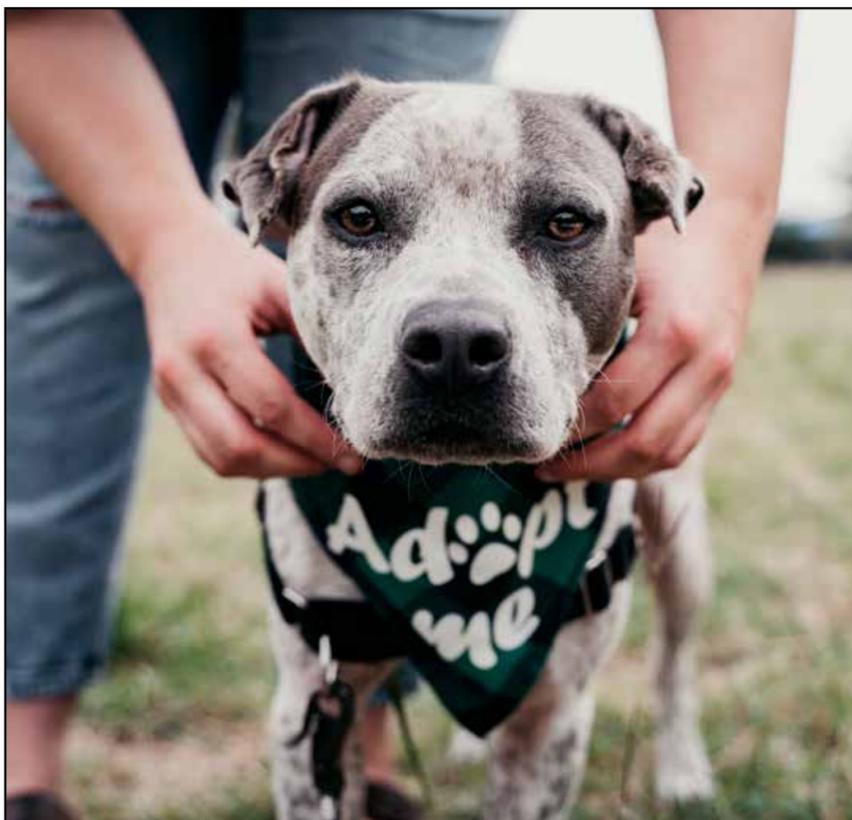
Adoption gives dogs a new 'leash' on life

❑ Adopting a dog can be a great way to add to the family and provide a loving animal with new beginnings.

“Adopt don’t shop” is a mantra utilized by many organizations devoted to finding loving homes for shelter animals. With thousands of dogs, cats and other companion animals residing in shelters or being fostered until they can find their forever homes, rescue organizations urge the pet-loving public to adopt rather than purchase dogs from private breeders.

Individuals who choose to adopt a dog from a private rescue, humane society, animal shelter, or another welfare group would be wise to follow some guidelines that can help individuals and families find the best matches with their new pets.

“It’s important to be honest with the rescue group regarding, not only what you’re looking for in a dog, such as disposition, energy level, age, and size, but to describe the overall household dynamic,” advises Toni Diamond, founder of Diamond Dogs Rescue, Inc. (www.diamonddogsrescueinc.com), a foster-based rescue with resources in New Jersey and Massachusetts. “This way the rescue can match your needs with the dogs they have available to



ensure the best opportunity the placed pet will remain in your home.”

Here are some other tips to consider if you’re thinking of adopting a pet.

· Think about fostering first. If you’re on the fence about whether to take in a dog right now, fostering

offers a way to gauge how life can change with a dog in the household. Fostering a dog can free up resources and enable rescues to help other dogs. Many “foster fails” are dogs that foster families adopted themselves because they couldn’t bear to give the dogs up.

· Expect to be vetted. Rescue groups generally do some type of adopter check, which includes an application questionnaire, and may want to visit your home to be sure that it is safe and comfortable for the dog. Expect an adoption fee, as this helps defray the cost of sheltering animals.

· Don’t feel limited by geography. Rescues handle dogs from across the country. Some may even be willing to facilitate travel from one area to another. If you see a dog online that seems to be a perfect fit but is a good distance away, contact the rescue to see what can be done.

· Be patient and open-minded. Rescued animals often have been jostled around a bit, moving from place to place. Expect a transition period for the shell-shocked animal to settle down before judging his or her true personality. It’s possible for rescued dogs to have accidents in a home, act out or be hesitant around people while they learn to trust their new owners.

Adopting a dog can be a great way to add to the family and provide a loving animal with new beginnings.

Animal Cruelty Hotline/APNM: 1.877.548.6263

Animal Poison Control Center/ASPCA: 1.888.426.4435

City of Clovis Animal Control/Shelter: 575.769.7893

City of Portales Animal Control/Shelter: 575.356.4404

Dog Fighting Hotline/Humane Society of the U.S.: 1.877.847.4787

Emergency Vet/After Hours - Clovis Veterinary Hospital: 575.769.2249

High Plains Humane Society: 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.

Caring for Your Senior Pet

As our best friends age, they require more attention and help.

Pets are living longer than ever, but that comes with an increase in our responsibilities, too. Credit for these lengthier lifespans goes to improved veterinary care, smarter dietary choices and better living conditions. Our pets richly deserve all of this special attention. But owners should prepare themselves for the budget pressures that inevitably follow as our furry friends age.

The Age Range

Small dogs and cats are generally considered to be geriatric when they reach the age of seven. Larger breeds of dogs usually have shorter life spans, so their geriatric age is moved up to six. Beginning around then, pets are at greater risk of cancer, kidney or urinary tract issues, heart and liver disease, diabetes, joint and bone problems, senility and general weakness.

Special Concerns

Senior pets also become more susceptible to quality-of-life issues



that are commonly associated with their older owners, like obesity, arthritis and dental problems. Pets naturally slow down some as they age. So be on the look out for sharp declines in mobility, as that may be a sign of issues like arthritis or deteriorating joints. Pay close attention to trouble they may have with using stairs, or an inability to get

comfortable when trying to lay down. Becoming more sedentary often leads to weight problems, and that has also be linked to various negative health outcomes including heart disease and diabetes.

Changing Needs

Your pet's needs will continue to change as they age. Weather

conditions may play an increasing role in what they do outside, since the risk of injury increases. Be aware of extremes in heat or cold, since older pets will be more sensitive to them. Lowered metabolism may require tweaks to their diet. A certain amount of exercise is required to help with weight gain, and to combat heart disease. Just be careful not to overdo it.

Behavioral Issues

Older pets who become disoriented may be suffering from a kind of cognitive dysfunction that's similar to Alzheimer's. The American Veterinary Medical Association also warns pet owners to watch for a decrease in thirst or appetite, since those are warning signs for larger problems in the pancreas or stomach. If wounds are slow to heal, that could indicate immune-system issues and cancer.

Honoring your family pets after they pass

Pets. They come in all sizes, shapes, and species. But the one thing they all have in common is that they are deeply loved by their owners. The passion pet owners have to their fur baby, or feather baby, or even scale baby is second only to their own offspring. I know this because I've seen the deep loss in the faces and voices of grown adults who have had a pet die.

As owner of Faithful Friends Pet Crematory in Clovis NM, I can tell you it doesn't matter what kind of animal you love, when they pass away, it hurts. I clearly remember an elderly gentleman from Portales who called me on a Sunday morning because his kitty had died. He was crying and I just listened and then he said, "this is stupid, it was only a cat". I replied, "No, she wasn't, she was a family member that you

loved, and now we will help you honor her in her death."

And this is why I opened Faithful Friends. I know the deep loss we all feel when that dreaded day comes. Dogs, cats, guinea pigs, snakes, parakeets, and even a goat have been brought to us. Like I said, pets come in all shapes. Our website is faithfulfriendsclovis.com. That has all the details people ask for, including prices. But in a nutshell, we provide pick-up from your home, or any area vet as far as Sudan and Hereford if you need. You do need to request Faithful Friends at your vet, or your pet will likely go to Lubbock for cremation.

Once you've chosen to have your fur baby cremated, you have 3 options: private, semi-private, or communal services. The first two guarantee that

you will get only your pet's ashes back in a wooden urn with a brass nameplate. We use bins to ensure that animal's remains are not intermingled. (I know there are horror stories about not getting your pet back, but that's not how we operate.) The ashes are in a plastic bag inside a little urn that you can open if you want to scatter any ashes or just keep them intact.

Just thinking about losing your pet is difficult. But when Brownie, or Sam, or Pumpkin passes over the rainbow bridge, know that we are here to honor their love they have freely offered you. Faithful Friends Pet Crematory is on Pleasant Hill Highway. Call us at 575-404-9600 and we will do our best to assist you with your grief.

In the meantime, love 'em as much as they love you.
- Kathy Elliott

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Storage solutions for pet supplies

Pet owners soon learn that having a pet means carving out a portion of home real estate for all of the supplies necessary for keeping companion animals healthy and comfortable. From food to toys to bedding, many pets require a laundry list of items.

Developing a storage strategy means keeping items within reach but potentially out of sight. These suggestions can help individuals calm pet-related clutter.

Food storage

Many dry pet foods are sold in bulk, which can be convenient for pet parents. Buying in quantity not only reduces the number of shopping trips, it also can help keep per-unit costs down.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration notes that proper storage of pet food and treats helps maintain the products' nutritional value and prevents spoilage. It also can keep pets from getting into their food and eating too much. Purchase a food grade and BPA-free plastic storage container that can accommodate the volume of food and has an airtight lid to maintain freshness. If you are pouring the food directly into the container,

save the product UPC code, brand name, lot number, and "best by" date from the packaging in case you need to file a complaint about the food.

Small containers can be used for treats or other edible items. Store all food in a cool, dry place.

Toys and more

Investing in some similarly sized clear storage containers makes it easy to wrangle all of the accessories that come with pet ownership. Label the containers and fill them with the items you need, such as rubber balls, pet waste bags, coiled leashes or collars, squeaking toys, grooming brushes and combs, extra bird cuttlebones, fish nets, warming stones, or whatever other supplies are needed for pets large and small. Devote a shelf or shelves in a storage closet for these items so they're always readily available.

Medications

Store medications separately from products used for children and adults in the house. Keep medications original packages so labels can be referred to as needed. Place them in a sealed



container so they're not easily opened by children or pets.

Toys in use

Many dogs and cats (or other small animals allowed to roam the house) will want access to their favorite toys. An easy solution is a ground-level basket that is slipped under a side table in the living room or den. It's easily accessible but kept out of sight. Clean-up means a quick sweep of toys that quickly can be tossed in the basket.

Bedding

Depending on the animal, bedding may mean a cozy stuffed fabric bed or a pile of shaved cedar. Both can be bulky. A designated spot for storage helps keep the home organized, and dog and cat beds can be coordinated to the color scheme of the house so they blend in.

Pets require many different supplies that, when properly stored, will not seem like they're intruding on pet owners' space.

A big personality in a small package

Birds can bring energy and excitement into a home when they are kept as pets. Their musical tunes and sweet chirps add something special, particularly for people looking for a pet that doesn't require the same level of care as say a cat or a dog.

Small birds, such as parakeets (budgies) and cockatiels long have been popular pets. But in recent years another type of bird has risen in popularity: the parrotlet. As the name implies, parrotlets are the smallest birds in the parrot family. Even though they are small in size, they are big on personality. In fact, parrotlets may act like they are full-sized parrots. Individuals who long have had the desire to own a parrot, but do not have the room nor the experience for such a bird often find a parrotlet is a great compromise. The following information can help pet owners get to know parrotlets a little better.

Handling is key

Parrotlets need to be socialized to blend into the household. Daily handling by multiple people is recommended so that they do not become one-person birds. All parrots have the potential to nip at people's fingers, and handling while setting boundaries can enhance their tameness.



Spunky personality

Parrotlets are outgoing, curious, playful, fearless, and enjoy human companionship. They may chirp at their owners when they're not the center of attention, and they can be trained to spend time outside of the cage. Parrotlets have the potential to get into all kinds of mischief, so they need to be watched and have frequent interaction, including new toys to challenge them.

Vocal, but not too vocal

Apartment dwellers should rest assured that while parrotlets may be quite the chatterboxes,

their vocal abilities are not so loud as to be problematic. Parrotlets do not scream. ParrotSecrets.com says that parrotlets frequently learn to talk, but with patience. A parrotlet has around a 300-word threshold, according to the pet resource PetKeen.

Expect some favoritism

While parrotlets can get along with many people in the family, they tend to gravitate toward a favorite. That person will receive the bulk of the bird's affection. Parrotlets can be stubborn and sometimes sassy. Again, to reduce problematic biting, strong boundaries and training are necessary.

Typical bird care

Parrotlets, like other small birds, should stay in an environment with a consistent temperature and away from drafts. Cages should not be placed in direct sunlight, and the birds do better in square or rectangular cages. Seed for small birds as well as fresh vegetable and fruit offerings are tolerated. Check with a veterinarian or bird expert as to which fresh foods are acceptable.

Parrotlets are feisty birds that can bring some extra personality into any home.

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The NEWS

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BRACKET MANIA IS COMING

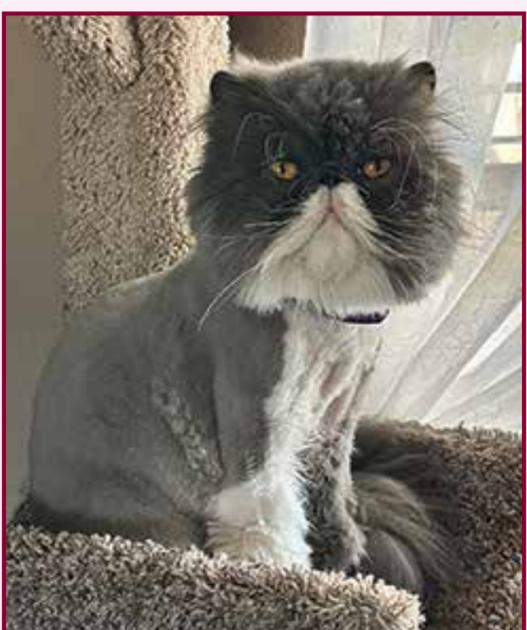
Pairings and seedings for this year's tournament will be announced by the NCAA on Sunday, March 12th. Contest entry form and bracket will publish on Wednesday, March 15th.

ENTER YOUR BRACKET
THERE WILL BE THREE LOCAL WINNERS!

PET PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



Chewbacca Lizard
Joaquin Gutierrez



Voldemort
Deidre Woods



Kali
Kylee Taylor

PET PHOTO CONTEST FINALISTS



Molly
Alena Domanski



Muck
Jennifer Villalovos



Sallie Mae
Carlos Rueda



Snappy Rae
Beth Hayes



Ricky
Travis & Liz Reynolds



Barnaby
Aimee Zurich



Bandito
Ashley Garza



Zazu
Katie Chaparro



Buttons
Beverly Brewer



Milo
Lauren Boone

The Eastern New Mexico News would like to thank all of our pet parents who shared their fuzzy Valentine with us!

PAWSOME PARTICIPANTS



Maz
Matthew & Megan Thomas



MoMo
Atanacio Villegas



Nina
Victoria Gonzales



Oso
Saylor Garza



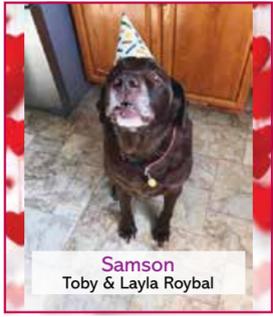
Ralphie
Andrew Sosa



Rhett
Tammy Newby



Roxy
Kathy & Abriella Sosa



Samson
Toby & Layla Roybal



Sassy & Killa
Carol Nichols



Sherman
Christina Tatum



Shonee
Richard Nichols



Tesla
Saylor Garcia



Wilbur
Natalie Rueda



Wilson
Elizabeth Stockstill



Xena
Ray & Virginia Herrera



Achillies
Sam Romero



Alley
Debbie Arington



Angel
Joan Ackey



Azul
Veronica Montano



Bella
Teresa Buckley



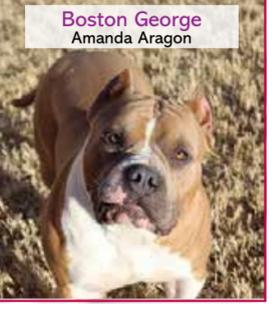
Bentley
Angelica Martinez



Biggie
Ramona Bradley



Bolo
Diana Romero



Boston George
Amanda Aragon



Buster
Samuel Cordova



Callie
Veronica Montano



Chico Del Rey
Esther Garcia



Coco
Debbie Arington



Dutch
Veronica Montano



Elvis & Presley
Sandra Reyna



Fredo
Joe Chaparro



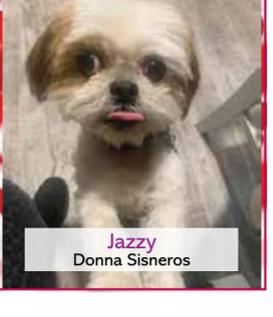
Gillian & Jacques
Leslie Aubé



Jack
Stephanie Jones



Jax
Candace Martin



Jazzy
Donna Sisneros



Jersey
Stephanie Jones



JinJy
Haylee Gum



Jordan
Roxanne Tenorio



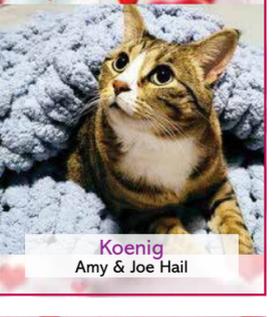
Jude
Stephanie Jones



KK
Diana Romero



Koda
Shantell Gutierrez



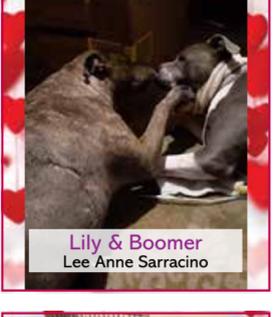
Koenig
Amy & Joe Hail



Layla
Peggie Moreno



Layla & Sadie
Richard Gutierrez



Lily & Boomer
Lee Anne Sarracino



Lucky
Lakrisha Munoz



Luna
Cristy Vann



Lyla
Shantell Gutierrez



Manchester
Amanda Aragon



Oakley Rae
Pam Fireston



Odonis
Nicole Richardson



Pepper
Peggie Moreno



Quinton
Donna Sisneros



Richard Gonzales

PAWSOME PARTICIPANTS



Did you know?

Pet ownership is rewarding in various ways, and those rewards could be one reason why pet owners are welcoming additional pets into their homes, even if only temporarily. According to the 2021-2022 biennial APPA National Pet Owners Survey by the American Pet Products Association, 11 percent of pet owners also foster pets. The selfless act of fostering saves the lives of an untold number of animals each year, as shelters confronting overcrowding may not have the resources necessary to keep pets healthy until they find an adoptive parent. For example, the ASPCA notes that neonatal (zero to four weeks) and pee-wee (four to eight weeks) kittens are extremely vulnerable and do not often survive without round-the-clock care. Overburdened shelters with limited resources are not always capable of providing such care. In such instances, shelter-sponsored fostering programs teach foster caregivers how to care for kittens so they can survive the first eight weeks and stay healthy enough to be spayed or neutered and ultimately adopted.

CARROT & CATNIP CAT TREATS

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons oil (coconut or olive oil)
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon dried catnip
- 3/4 cup finely shredded carrot
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- Cold water as needed

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In medium bowl add oil and mix in 1 cup of the flour until sandy mixture
- Stir in catnip and carrots.
- Mix in egg. Add a little water if the mixture looks too dry.
- Sprinkle flat surface with a little additional flour and roll or pat out dough to 1/4 inch thickness.
- Prick dough all over with a fork. Use pizza wheel to cut dough into 1/2 inch squares.
- Arrange squares on prepared baking sheet.
- Bake for about 12 minutes or until starting to brown.
- Cool on baking sheet.
- Store in airtight container for several days or freeze for longer storage. (If baked to a softer texture store in refrigerator.)



HOMEMADE DOG TREATS

Ingredients

- 1 cup grated carrots
- 1 cup quick cooking oats
- 1/2 cup grated apple
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 2 eggs

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Mix carrots, oats, and apple together in a large bowl. Whisk nut butter and eggs until thoroughly combined in a second bowl. Pour into the oat mixture and stir thoroughly.
3. Drop 1 1/2 tablespoonfuls of batter onto the prepared baking sheets. Flatten each treat with your hands until they are 1/2 inch thick.
4. Bake until the treats are firm to the touch, 15 to 20 minutes. Allow to cool completely.

Tips and tricks for traveling with dogs

After years living under the cloud of a pandemic that limited where they could travel, many people have a strong desire to head off for parts unknown. As individuals and families ponder business trips or vacations, they may think about bringing a beloved pet along.

According to a AAA/Best Western survey, 85 percent of dog owners travel with their dogs. The most popular vacations to let pooches tag along include going to the beach, camping and hiking. As a greater number of people are engaging in more activities with their pets, businesses in the travel and hospitality sector are taking notice and have become more accommodating to four-legged guests. However, there's still plenty to learn when taking a dog along as a travel companion. Explore these dog travel tips.

Invest in a crate. Even if the dog does not need a crate at home, it's best to have one for travel. Crates often are required for airline travel and can keep dogs safer in cars. Many hotels also require that dogs be crated in the rooms to keep them out of trouble and prevent damage. A crate should be large enough that the dog can stand, turn and lie down, according to the American Kennel Club.

Carry copies of pet-related

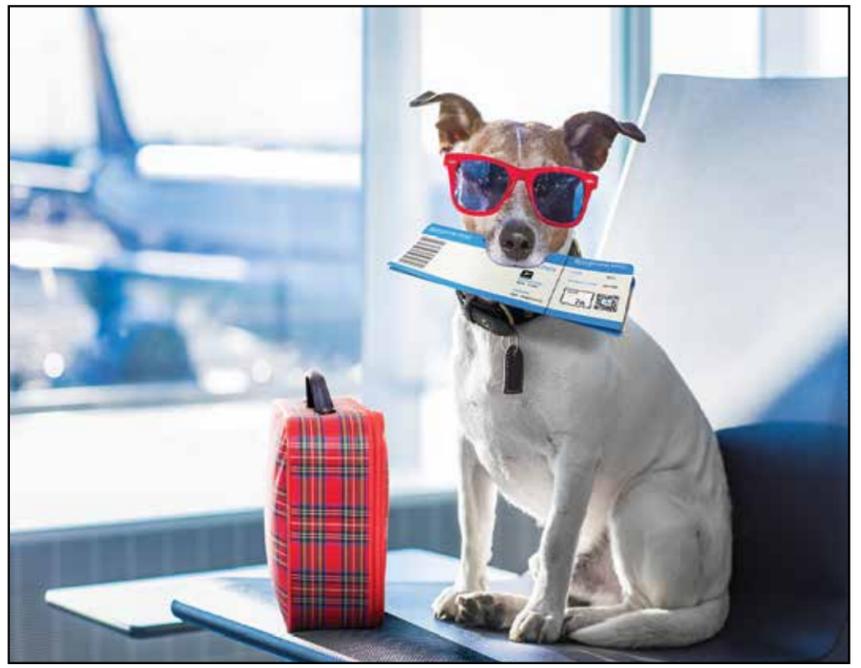
documents. It's important to prove that the dog is healthy and current on vaccinations. Officials may ask to see documentation when traveling abroad. Some travelers also may want to investigate pet passports. The USA does not require a pet passport, but the European Union pioneered pet passports to enable animals to move more freely throughout its member nations.

Plan a short excursion first. If you have never traveled with a dog before, make the first trip a short one, such as an overnight or two-day stay. This way, if the trip turns into a fiasco, checkout isn't a week away. Shorter trips also help people figure out what works and what will need to change the next time.

Expect some fees. Most hotels charge a fee for doggy clients. A fee of \$25 to \$50 is pretty standard. There also may be a designated pet floor to minimize the chances that guests without pets will be forced to interact with animals.

Normal behavior may go out the window. A dog who is calm at home may be out of sorts while traveling. It's not uncommon for a dog unphased by people at home to suddenly be anxious and bark at sounds in a hotel hallway.

Look into pet-friendly



restaurants. Smarter Travel says that some hotels won't allow a guest to keep the dog alone in the room. That means meal time can be tricky. Find restaurants nearby that allow pets. Many that have outdoor seating may enable a leashed pet to stay near the seating perimeter.

Bring water from home. When packing food, pack a few gallons of water as well, even though it can be cumbersome. Some dogs with delicate digestive systems may be upset by drinking the local water. A case of diarrhea is

compounded further by having to make it into an elevator and outside the hotel in time.

Tire the dog out. Exercised dogs tend to be well-behaved dogs. Make time to go on long walks, visit a dog park or engage in other activities that will make the pup tired so it's less likely to cause problems at the hotel.

Learn the ropes of traveling with a dog to increase the opportunities for having lots of fun with Fido in tow.

Characteristics of popular dog breeds

Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers are two of the most popular dog breeds in North America. Each year, the American Kennel Club releases its top breeds. In 2022, the Lab and Golden held the first and third spots, respectively (the French Bulldog was second).

Why are people drawn to certain dog breeds more than others? The reasons may vary, and include anything from familiarity with a certain breed to the desire to have a dog that performs a certain role - like a herding dog for livestock. Some simply may like the way a dog looks.

Many people select dogs based on perceived personality traits, which are believed to be breed-specific. Although genetics can go a long way toward a dog's disposition, how the animal was bred and raised also affects its personality. That said, the following are traits that tend to be common among some specific breeds, courtesy of the AKC.

Labrador Retriever

The Labrador is one of the most popular dogs and often recommended for families. It's known to be active, friendly and outgoing. Labs have high energy, so they're not going to be content to sit indoors all day. They also are eager to please their owners, which makes them easy to train.

French Bulldog

The French bulldog is playful, smart and adaptable. It tends to be affectionate with family and good with other dogs and young children. The dog has moderate energy levels and is more happy to lounge than a Lab. A French bulldog tends to be open to strangers.

Beagle

Beagles are merry, friendly and curious. While not completely independent, they don't need to be constantly tended to in order to be content. Good with other dogs and children, beagles also make fine family pets. One thing to consider is beagles can be quite vocal, so howling and barking can become an issue.

Boxer

Fun-loving and bright, Boxers have gained popularity in recent years. Good with kids and affectionate, boxers are a little more skeptical of other dogs. Although they are open to strangers, they tend to be watchdogs and protective in nature.

Akita

Loyal and courageous are traits assigned to the dignified Akita. Akitas are large animals that require ample training. Akitas can adapt to family life and are moderately affectionate with family and kids, but are often best-suited to being the only dog in the house. They're quite reserved and vigilant watchdogs.

4 quirks common to cats

Prospective cat owners can expect to encounter these quirks as they prepare to welcome a cat into the family.

Cat owners tend to be deeply devoted to their feline friends. Many factors inspire such devotion, not the least of which is the many quirky character traits cats possess.

Individuals considering adopting a kitten for the first time or even seasoned cat lovers may not know what to expect when bringing a feline home for the first time. That's because no two cats are the same. However, quirksness comes with the territory when welcoming a cat into a home.

1. Kneading: Sometimes referred to as "making biscuits," kneading may concern first-time cat owners, even though it shouldn't. Kneading occurs when cats push out and pull in their front paws against a particular surface, such as a piece of furniture. The action resembles kneading dough and is a good sign that a cat is comfortable in its surroundings.

2. Walking in circles: Cats may walk in circles for various reasons. The online cats resource Faqcats.com notes that some cats circle their owners in excitement when their human companions return home from work or other errands. However, cats may walk in circles to show dominance or because they're in pain or suffering from an illness such as vestibular disease. Vestibular disease affects the inner ear of cats, particularly older ones. Cats also may walk in circles while suffering from ear infections, hypertension or head injuries. So cat owners who suspect their cat isn't walking in circles out of excitement to see

them should bring those concerns to the attention of their veterinarians.

3. Hunting: Cats can be fascinating creatures to observe, and that includes their fondness for hunting, even if they've already eaten or know where their food is. The online cat resource Catster.com indicates that cats' eyes are designed to detect movement, so it shouldn't be a surprise or a cause for concern if they're suddenly stimulated by something that moves and go into hunting mode.

4. Staring at blank walls: One of the more curious and common quirks cats exhibit is the tendency to stare at walls for lengthy periods of time. Cats naturally have a wider peripheral vision than humans, so it's possible that a cat staring at a seemingly blank wall is actually seeing something on its periphery that its owner can't see. Cats also can hear better than their human companions, so they might be staring at a wall because they can hear something their owner can't. Cats also might stare at a wall where they had seen something earlier, such as a shadow, and are now awaiting its return. Some older cats may stare at walls out of confusion, which is a potential warning sign of cat dementia. However, in most instances there's nothing abnormal about a cat staring at a wall for a lengthy period of time.

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