

What it means to take care of your senior pet

By Madison Willis

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The term "you can't teach an old dog new tricks," is old as time. But did you know that's just a myth?

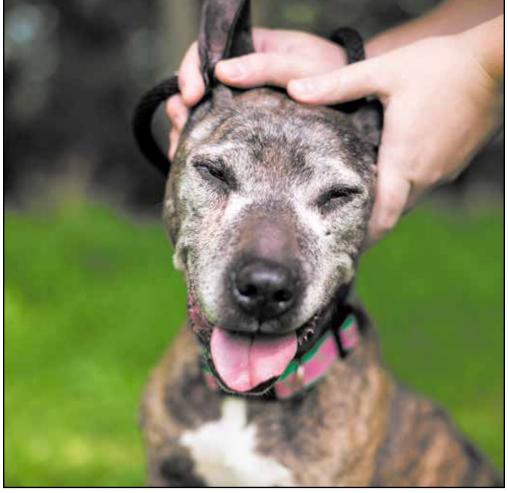
Dogs are innately good learners. Rather, adult dogs are often easier to train than puppies as they don't have excessive energy to burn. Older dogs tend to have more focus, making them quick learners to new routines.

It's never too late

Though poor health and age limitations can always be a challenge for both the dog and the owner, it is never too late to try to adjust some behaviors of your pet. Dogs are known to live within the moment, never worrying about the past or future. Giving owners the opportunity to resolve any annoying or destructive behaviors through consistent training.

Most dogs are curious by nature and often seek out new experiences. Dogs are constantly observing their environments and responding to what the world holds in store for them. The thirst of adventure never leaves an older dog.

Older dogs tend to enjoy bonding with their owner above all else, even if it's through training.



Tips and tricks

Every pet has their own limitations and behaviors, it is important to take the time to understand your pet to figure out what training is best for them.

Another thing to consider when training your older dog, is any physical limitations they may have.

Though dogs are great learners, if they have a hard time seeing or hearing you the lesson will be lost on them. Owners should always look for alternative ways to best influence their pet's behaviors.

Below are some things to consider when training:

•Have a strong sense of friendship

and trust.

- •Be patient with your pet and respect their limitations.
- •Training sessions should be repetitive and short.
- •Use compliments and treats to keep your pet motivated.

Below are some easy tricks to teach an older pet:

- •Shake or high five.
- •Speak.
- Stay.
- •Put away toys.
- •Kiss.

Learning is fun

The key thing in making any dog learn new tricks is keeping it fun and interactive. Training your furry companion can not only improve their behaviors, but also close the bond between pet and owner.

Tricks often provide mental stimulation for your canine friend, which can be beneficial for dogs who may be suffering from dementia. Always keep in mind to pick tricks and commands that are within your dog's physical capabilities.

And remember that you can always teach an old dog new tricks!

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.

Tips for avoiding any lost pets

illions of dogs, cats and other animals are beloved companions to individuals and families around the world. People often do all they can to keep their pets safe and healthy, which includes providing nutrition, shelter and medical care. They also need to takes steps to prevent pets from getting lost.

The American Humane Association estimates that more than 10 million dogs and cats are lost or stolen in the United States each year. One in three pets will become lost at some point during its life. Pets that go missing may end up in shelters and humane societies, potentially facing euthanization if not reunited with their owners. Pet parents can take various steps to safeguard their animals.

License your pet

Pets must be licensed in many towns and cities. Licensing establishes a legal attachment to a pet. In the event that an animal is stolen or becomes lost, having that pet license in place can be essential to recovery.

Microchip your pet

Another safeguard is to have pets microchipped. A microchip is very small, roughly the size of a grain of rice, and injected just under the skin of the animal. The chip's data can be read by a universal device that many shelters and veterinarians have in their offices. Pet owners should immediately update the contact information with the microchip company database any time



their address or phone number changes.

Get an ID tag and collar

Collars are more than just fashionable accessories for pets. Collars can be used to hang identification tags as well as tags indicating vaccination and whether the pet is licensed. Should a pet get out or break away from a leash while on a walk, the pet has a better chance of being quickly reunited with its owners if he or she can be identified.

Develop a relationship with the

Annual well visits are an important component pet health care. But they go beyond that. Vets who are familiar with pets and owners may be able to identify animals that come across lost pet channels. Furthermore, should a thief try to parade a pet around as his or her own, a vet familiar with a given animal can attest to the animal's true owner.

Be aware of loud noises and crowds

Some pets become skittish during harsh weather or noises, such as fireworks. Extra caution is needed during these times, or when company is over, as pets may seek to escape the noise. Keep the scared pet in a calm room or space away from the noise so they can't dart out the door and become lost.

Secure the yard

Check for points of egress that can make it easy for pets to slip away. This includes fence gates and spaces underneath the fence. Block exit locations as best as possible.

Spay or neuter the pet

Intact animals may be more likely to roam in search of mates. Spaying or neutering pets reduces that desire, resulting in pets who are more content to stay at home.

These are some effective ways to prevent pets from becoming lost.

Honoring your family pets after they pass

f you're reading this article, there is a very good chance you are a pet lover of some sort. Whether you are a dog person, or cat, or if you prefer birds or reptiles, each of us knows the love and companionship that comes with owning a pet.

Unfortunately, many of us have felt the horrible loss when our pets die. The grief is real. Faithful Friends Pet Crematory in Clovis offers loving attention and respect to your pets after they have passed. Many of our pet owners have said that having the option of cremation available locally has helped them with some of the toughest days of their lives.

Whether your pet dies at home or is put down at an area veterinarian's office, we can arrange a pick-up service to transport it to our facility on Pleasant Hill Highway. If you are working with a local vet, please tell them you prefer to use Faithful Friends, and then call us at 575-404-9600. We will coordinate with them and arrange transportation. Or you can bring your fur baby to us if you prefer.

We have three service options: private,

semi-private, or communal. The first two options ensure you will receive only your animal's ashes back in a wooden urn with a brass name plate. Faithful Friends Pet Crematory also has many custom urns and handmade mini urns if you want to keep them close to

On our website, FaithfulFriendsClovis. com, we have all the costs of the cremation options. The price depends on the weight of your animal and the service you choose. Our prices are less than most crematories because we want to ensure that all owners can honor their pets after their passing.

Your pets have been your loyal companions, and they deserve the absolute best. Call us at Faithful Friends in Clovis and let us help you honor your special family members. -

Kathy Elliott

Paws off! Practice pet poison prevention

ompanion animals typically do not understand that certain items in their environments can be harmful. Pets' innate curiosity coupled with unique aromas produced by common household items can put them in jeopardy of potentially deadly poisoning.

According to veterinary experts at WebMD Pet Health Center, an estimated 232,000 cases of pet poisoning occur annually in the United States. In March 2022, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline fielded 22 percent more calls stemming from incidents of pet toxicity than in 2021. The following are some steps pet owners can take to protect their companion animals against poisoning.

- Don't leave out human food. Dogs, cats and other animals may be lured by the sweet temptation of their owners' food. Many food scraps can be toxic to pets, including alcoholic beverages, chocolate, coffee beans, moldy foods, and raisins, among others. Keep the kitchen tidy and trash cans (indoor and outdoor) secured.
- Be careful with houseplants. While

they may look beautiful and filter indoor air, certain houseplants can be toxic to pets if ingested. Before bringing any new plants into your home, check the ASPCA Toxic and Non-Toxic Plant Guide. Lilies may be pretty, but they also are quite toxic. The smallest nibble can be fatal to cats.

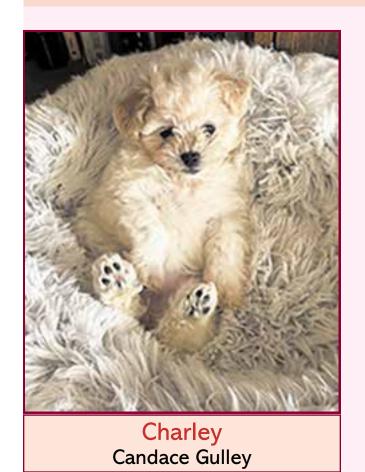
- Keep medications locked away. Be sure that over-the-counter and prescription medications are locked away and cannot be accessed by curious pets. Even seemingly mild medications, like human pain relievers, can be toxic to pets.
- Be safe when spring cleaning. Keep pets out of rooms when they are being cleaned by chemical products or when using insecticides. Wait a day or more before letting pets back into the area. Store products beyond a pet's reach when they're not in use.

With diligence, a significant percentage of pet poisonings can be prevented. Pet owners should do their homework about toxic items in and around their homes and do their best to keep pets safe.

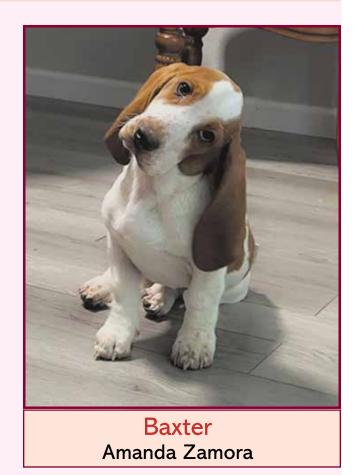




♥ PET PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS







♥ PET PHOTO CONTEST FINALISTS





Bebe Chelzie Sandoval



Carson Weese



Jacob Reyna





Kingston The Nunez Family



Iris Garcia



Cassey & Jae Williams



Cynthia Finn



Maisey Ramona Powell



Queso Hayden Peel



Lady Quinn Priscilla Ochoa



Lily-Jo Allison



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

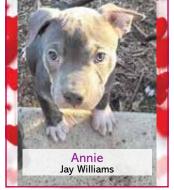


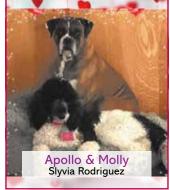


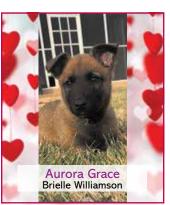


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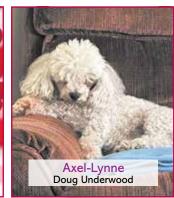




























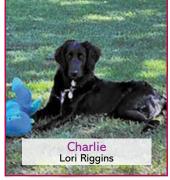


















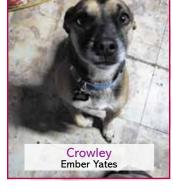




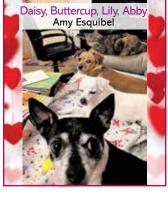












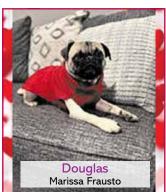


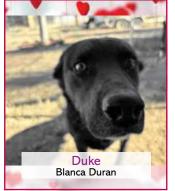






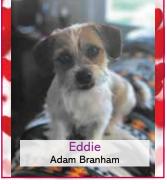
















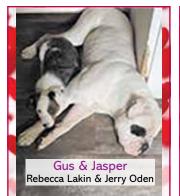


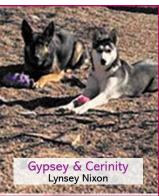






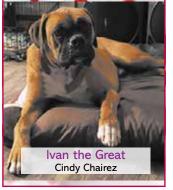












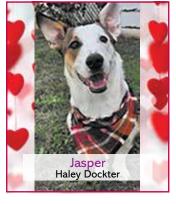




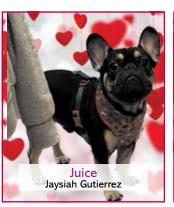


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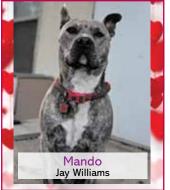


















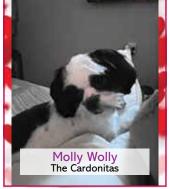


















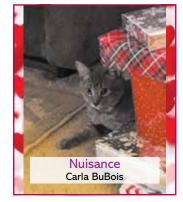






















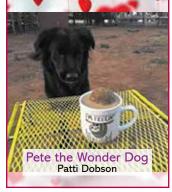


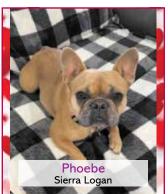
























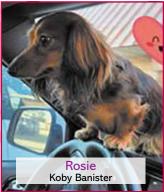












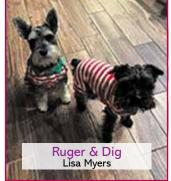




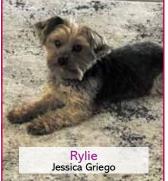




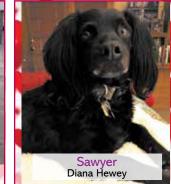


























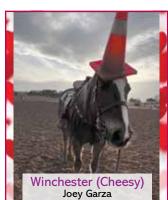




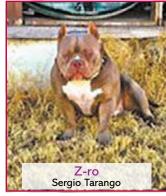
































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