



Guide to Adopting a Shelter Dog

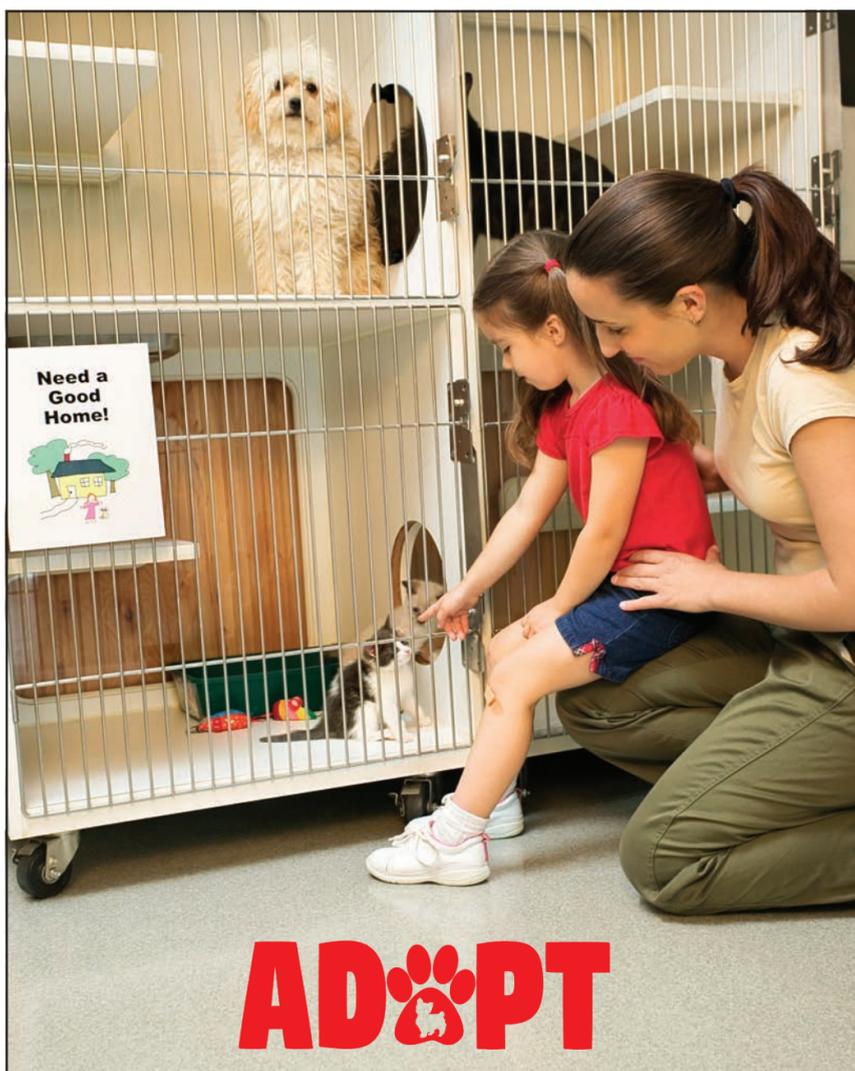
Those who still have room and love to share can put these tips to use as they look for a furry friend to call their own.

Pet adoption rates soared during the COVID-19 pandemic. The desire to adopt was so significant that animal shelters around the country nearly emptied. According to Dr. Elizabeth Berliner, an associate clinical professor and the director of the Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at Cornell University, as many as one in five pet-owning homes adopted a new pet during the pandemic.

Animal shelters are once again reaching capacity. As with many industries, there simply isn’t enough staff to care for all the animals. Furthermore, animal adoption saturation over the past year may have contributed to fewer people seeking new pets. Those who still have room and love to share can put these tips to use as they look for a furry friend to call their own.

Do your research

Ensuring your pup can seamlessly transition from the shelter to your home requires some pre-adoption legwork. This animal will be occupying a spot in your home and heart for 10 years or more if all goes well. The size of the dog, age, anticipated energy levels, exercise needs, shedding capacity, and overall personality can affect how well the dog fits in. Research breeds and try to find one that suits your household and lifestyle before visiting the shelter.



Start local first

Don’t discount local groups when searching for pets. Many small rescues can’t afford the time or money to maintain a website or constant social media presence. But they make up for that by being hands-on when matching pets with people.

Be sure everyone is on board

It’s important that all members of the household and family need to share the same enthusiasm for the idea of getting an adopted pet. Weigh everyone’s opinions, but expect that certain people will take on more responsibility for the pet than others.

Consider your finances

Although adopting a dog is initially less expensive than buying, there’s still the adoption fee to consider and other costs that come with dog ownership. Routine vet visits, emergency medical situations, food, grooming, training classes, toys, and other needs should also be considered. The American Kennel Club previously found the average annual costs for dog ownership is around \$2,500. One-time or irregular costs, such as a crate, spaying/neutering or emergency vet care, cost an average of \$2,100. However, these rates vary depending on where you live.

Is space available?

Dogs need space. While a chihuahua may need less space than a Great Dane, make sure you have adequate room in a home, apartment and backyard for the breed you are considering.

The day a dog is welcomed into the family is a joyous occasion. That joy only increases when prospective dog owners do their homework and find a dog that will fit right in with their families.

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.

Feline facts to purr over

Shelters often are the first stop for people who want to become pet parents. The ASPCA says around 6.5 million companion animals enter shelters each year, and 3.2 million of them are cats. Although shelters do their best to get these animals into new, loving homes, the Humane Society of the United States says roughly three million cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters each year. Sadly, 80 percent of those animals are healthy, treatable and adoptable.

Learning what makes cats tick and their particular needs can help prospective pet parents decide if cats are right for them. It also helps to identify feline behaviors that can be problematic or may require correction when cats come into a home.

The following are some facts about cats, courtesy of MSN, Fact Retriever and Purina food company.

- Food-motivated cats likely will not be tempted by sweet treats. Stick to savory options. Unlike dogs, cats do not have taste receptors for sweet flavors.
- Lions may be kings of the jungle, but domesticated cats are kings among pets. They often

beat out dogs as the most popular pet in North America.

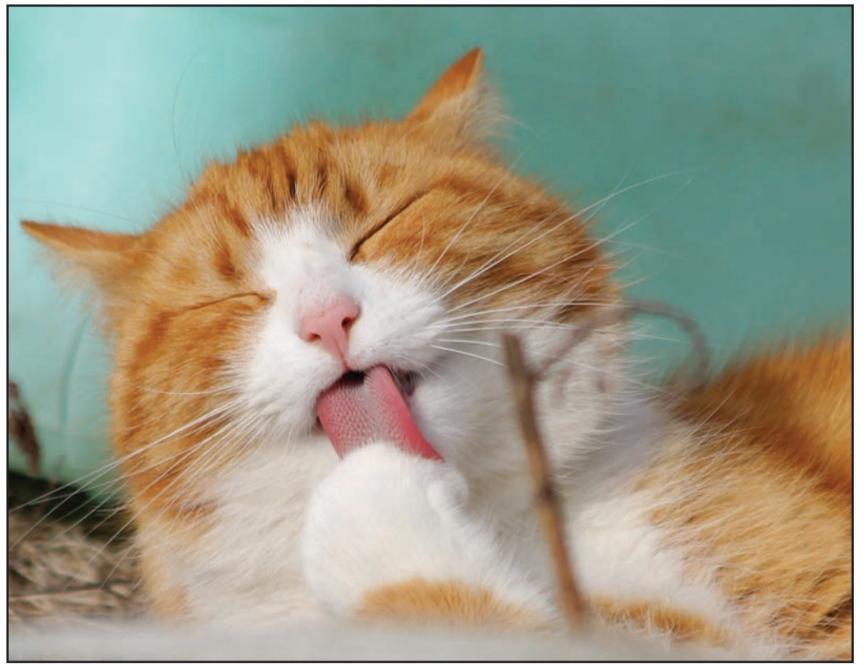
- Cats are very good at hearing sounds and their eyesight is exceptional as well. Cats have 32 ear muscles that allow for “directional hearing.” Comparatively, humans only have six ear muscles. Interestingly, cats also can rotate their ears 180 degrees.

· Developmentally speaking, the first year of a cat’s life is approximately equal to the first 15 years of a human’s. After its second year, a cat is the equivalent of 25 in human years.

· Domesticated cats can spend about 70 percent of their day sleeping and relaxing. Another 15 percent is spent grooming and cleaning.

· Cats do not have nine lives. However, they have something called a “righting reflex.” The eyes and balance organs in the inner ear tell cats where they are in space so they can land on their feet. This is what helps them survive falls - some from more than 32 stories high.

· The meow sound is not something cats innately produce to interact with other cats. Rather, cats began to meow to communicate with humans.



· Spayed and neutered cats live longer than non-fixed cats, likely because they do not get lost or injured trying to mate.

· Declawing cats is illegal in at least 22 countries, but not the United States. Cats scratch at items, so they may need scratching posts and other outlets for this behavior.

· Cats will rub against people not only to be affectionate but also to mark out territory with scent glands around their faces.

· Cat litters can be between one and nine kittens, so it is important to neuter them to prevent overpopulation.

· Cats can often jump up to five to seven times as high as their own heights.

· Even though cats have traditionally been depicted as drinking milk, dairy can actually give them an upset stomach and gas. Provide water for your feline friends instead.

· Research shows that cats know and recognize their names, but often they do not come when called. This is a dismissive move and not because cats do not recognize when they’re being called.

Cats make for fascinating pets and are loved by people for a myriad of reasons.

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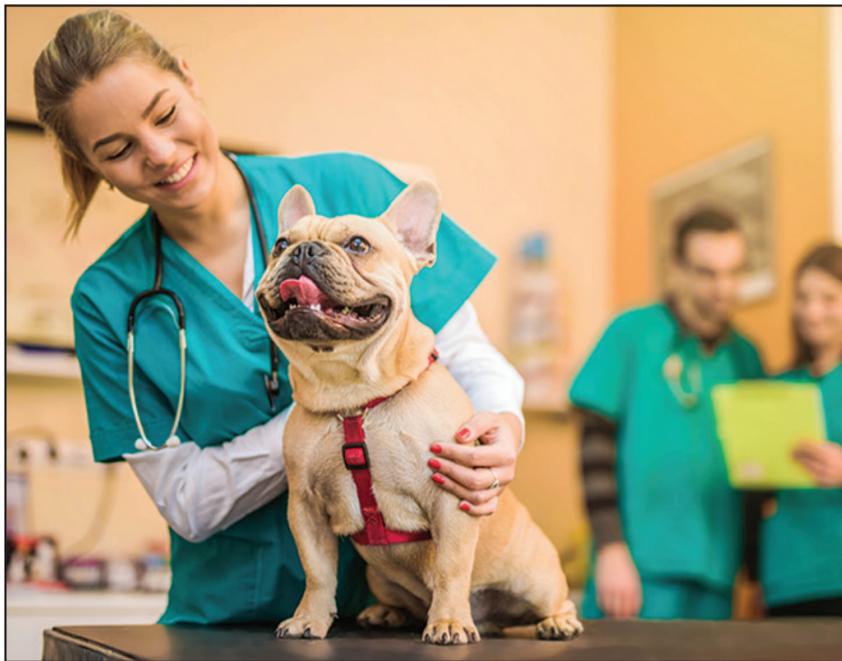
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5 benefits to spaying/neutering

One of the most important aspects of welcoming a pet into a home is to be a responsible part owner. Responsible pet ownership involves providing for the animal's physical and emotional needs, making sure to keep the pet out of danger and providing love, affection and training.

Responsible pet ownership also includes a commitment to maintaining a reasonable pet population. Due to unchecked breeding, shelters are bursting at the seams with animals who have been found stray or were turned over by owners who are unable to care for them. The ASPCA says millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays every year. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters.

Neutering, also known as spaying and neutering, can help keep animal numbers in check. American Humane says spaying is a general term used to describe the ovariectomy of a female animal. Neutering is a general term used to describe the castration of a male animal. However, neutering is often used in reference to both genders. Veterinarians perform these



surgeries, which often result in the same-day release of pets if there have been no complications.

Many shelters require adoptable animals be neutered before they can be released to a new family. Pet owners can work with veterinarians to determine the best age for sterilization.

There are many great reasons to neuter pets that go beyond reducing overpopulation.

Improves animal health

Spaying can help prevent uterine infections and breast

cancer in female pets. Additionally, neutering males can prevent testicular cancer.

Reduces unwanted marking/mating behavior

Female pets advertise that they are ready to reproduce by leaving scents (urinating), barking, meowing, and being more agitated during breeding season. Spaying can reduce these inclinations.

Reduces the need to roam

Male animals will travel near or far to find a female. Once on the

prowl, the animal runs the risks of injury from altercations with other animals as well as traffic. Such animals also may get lost.

Responsible breeding

American Humane says 25 percent of shelter dogs are purebreds. Responsible purebred breeders have homes lined up before they breed. There's no need to mate purebreds simply for the sake of continuing the lineage.

Improved behavior

The ASPCA has discovered that a male pet might be less likely to mount other pets, people and inanimate objects after he's neutered. Some aggression problems may be avoided by early neutering as well.

Neutering is a smart choice. After the surgery takes place, give the pet a quiet, safe place to recover and inhibit jumping or running for a few weeks. Also, try to keep him or her from licking the wounds. When the vet gives a clean bill of health, pets can resume living full, happy lives.

Loving Your Family Pets After They Pass

Oreo was a special dog. My son and I went to the Clovis Animal Shelter and picked her out of a cage when she was about 2 months old. She was black and white (obviously) and had spots and wiry hair that stood up on the top of her head. She was an adorable puppy as most are, but later, she was an amazing dog. She blended right in with the family – all six of us.

As the boys aged, so did Oreo. I seemed like just a blink and she was

over 10 years old. She became ill and we were faced with her death. I wanted to keep her ashes, and was sent out of town for cremation.

It was Oreo's death that made me realize the need for a local pet cremation service. Soon after, Faithful Friends Pet Crematory in Clovis began business to help local animal lovers deal with the grief they have over losing a pet. Owing a pet crematory isn't a glamorous business, but it is

rewarding to be able to help people when they are devastated by a pet's death. We have a pickup service by calling 575-404-9600, or owners can meet us at our facility on Pleasant Hill Highway. Our prices are even posted on our website at faithfulfriendsclovis.com, so everything is transparent.

I hope you don't need our service any time soon. But when you do, we are here to give your furbaby the final care they deserve.

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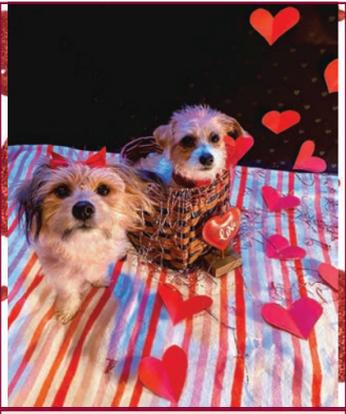


Ruger
Whitney Hanson



Aspen
Jean Rucker

PET PHOTO CONTEST FINALISTS



Hazel & Harry
Lauren & Maximus



Kaliki
Travis & Liz Reynolds



Vado
Jenny Essary



Rosie
Katie Padilla



Squirrel
Roberto Chavez



Cantis & Shelby
Rose Hidalgo Medlin



Maizey
Molly Martin



Rusty Ray
Pedro & Sabrina Villanueva



Jolene
Noelle Bartl

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

BEST DRESSED PETS



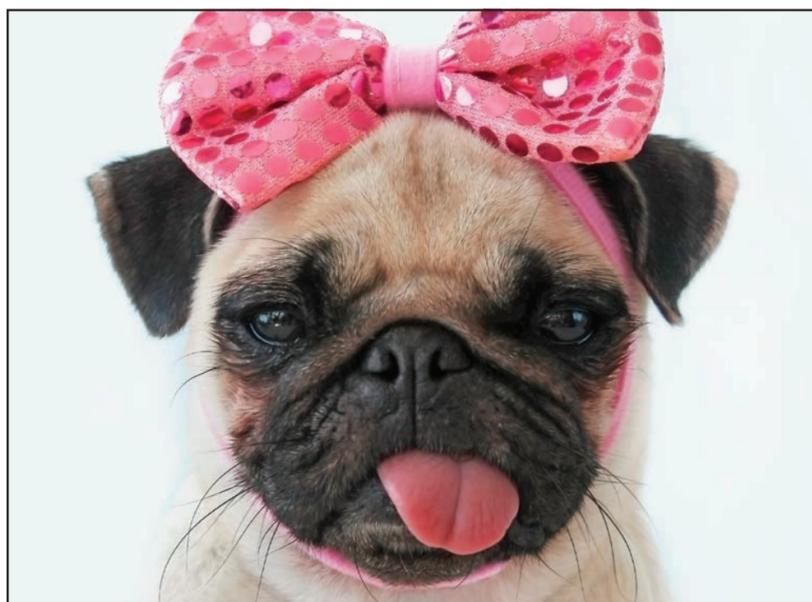
Shopping for a well-dressed dog

Extend your love even further to ensure your furry friends put their most fashionable paws forward.

Dog lovers go to great lengths to ensure their pets have everything to keep them healthy, safe and comfortable. Many dog owners extend their love even further to ensure their furry friends put fashionable paws forward.

The American Pet Products Association says that total pet industry expenditures reached more than \$95.7 billion in 2019, and the spending continues to grow. In fact, pet spending is remarkably resistant to economic downturns, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. While food, grooming, vet care, and more are included in the list of necessary items people buy for their dogs, clothing - a nonessential item - has grown in popularity.

The National Retail Federation states around 27.7 million Americans dress their furry friends in costumes for Halloween and other holidays. But buying clothes for everyday occasions also has become the norm for many pet parents, as dog apparel does everything from making poodles look fashionable to protecting them from inclement weather.



When shopping and dressing dogs, consider these tips.

Be certain of measurements

Measure a dog from neck to tail, as this is how many manufacturers size their apparel. Going by the measurement is more accurate than estimating whether a dog is small, medium or large on breed charts.

Avoid overbuying for a puppy

Like children, puppies grow quickly. Those who stocked up

on outfits while the dog was very young may find that their dogs quickly outgrow their stylish wardrobes. Stick to a few items at a time until the dog has aged and stopped growing.

Select machine-washable or eco-friendly pieces

Dogs tend to get dirty and their clothes likely will as well. Look for clothing items that can be put into the washing machine and withstand frequent laundering.

Skip the zippers

Zippers can catch on fur or skin, making dogs reluctant to wear clothes. Look for buttons, snaps or other closures instead of zippers.

Choose comfortable and breathable fabrics

Breathable cotton can keep dogs comfortable, but it may not be the best insulator or moisture-wicking fabric. Select clothing that is based on desired use, and try to choose high-quality materials for comfort and durability.

Avoid obstructions

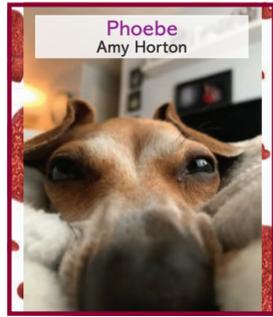
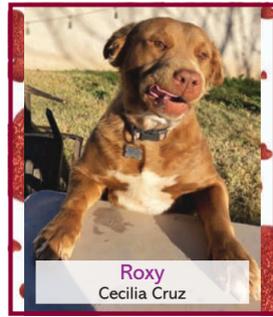
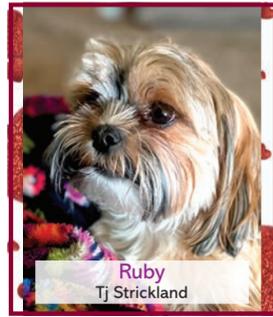
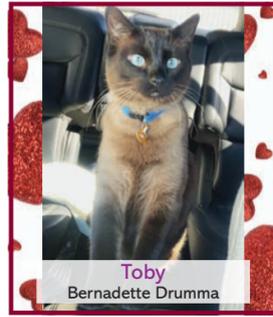
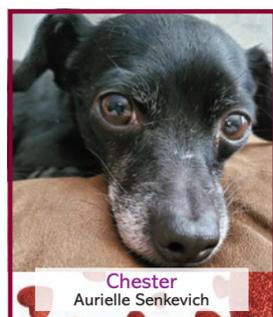
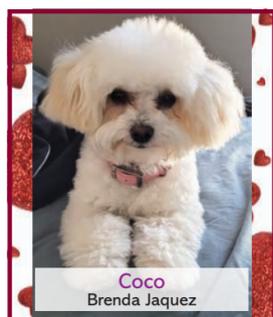
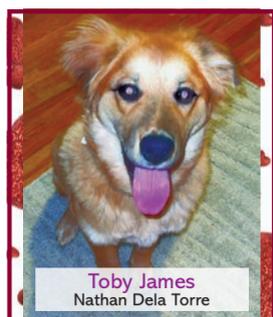
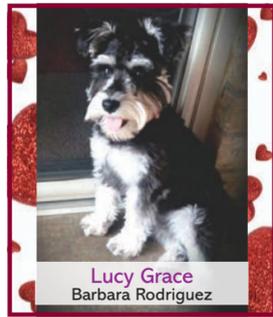
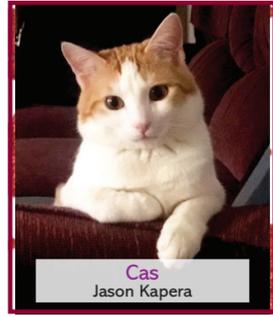
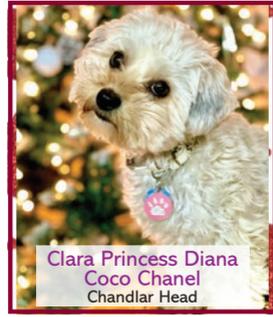
Select well-fitting pieces that are neither too tight nor too loose. This way dogs can move around unencumbered and will not trip, fall or tumble.

Keep disposition in mind

Some dogs tolerate clothing well, while others may bite and pull at garments. Do not force dogs to wear something if they're resistant.

Pet clothing can be stylish, make a statement or protect dogs from the elements. Keep comfort, budget and sizing in mind when shopping.

PAWSOME PARTICIPANTS

 Maytor Roxann Gutierrez	 Merlyn Sheri Carpenter	 Miss Fawn & Mr. Coal Sheila Smith	 Myles Misty Lozano	 Precious Veronica Gutierrez	 Oliver Rosemary Hammond
 Phoebe Amy Horton	 Robin Susana Hernandez	 Roxy Cecilia Cruz	 Roxy Kathy & Abriella Sosa	 Ruby Tj Strickland	 Ruffy Lyla Willoughby
 Sandy Theresa Robertson	 Sassy Desiree Castillo	 Toby Bernadette Drumma	 Shai Laura Yzagurrie	 Sophie Sugar Tishia Ambroziak	 Stark Samantha Martinez
 Chester Aurielle Senkevich	 Coco Brenda Jaquez	 Taos Branson Willoughby	 Toby James Nathan Dela Torre	 Willow Konnie Kanmore	 Yeti Spaghetti Lauren & Maximus
 Daisy Tina Dziuk	 Lucy Grace Barbara Rodriguez	 Maggie Gina Rubio	 Max Aurielle Senkevich	 Ana Theresa Apodaca	 Baby Girl Julie See
 Heathcliff Christopher Baca	 Black Jack Lisa Loucks	 Bo Tori Robinson	 Buster Louise Davis	 Cleo Kristyn Perez	 Cody Nancy Barrow
 Jax Tori R. Muscato	 Kitsune Jessica Yi	 Leia Vicki Reyes	 Lily Grant McGee	 Hazel & Pinky Rosa Lopez	 Maggie & Sadie Ellen McRaven-Haakm
 Coco Laura Fernandez	 Coco Sara Varney	 Dakota Lori Torres	 Dantae Cecilia Cruz	 Diesel David & Kimberly Andersen	 Diesel Oscar Orozco
 Buddy Rebecca Holt	 Cas Jason Kapera	 Charlie Kathy & Abriella Sosa	 Choco Flan Marissa Gonzales Cabrera	 Clara Princess Diana Coco Chanel Chandler Head	 Coco Brenda Jaquez

PAWSOME PARTICIPANTS



Training and taming pet birds

Opinions vary as to which birds may be the most amenable to bonding, but many birds make great companions.



Interacting with a companion animal is one of the joys of pet ownership. While certain pets seem more naturally inclined toward interaction than others, such as cats and dogs, many pets can be made more social with the right training.

Many people love having tame and trained birds as pets. Opinions vary as to which birds may be the most amenable to bonding, but there are many species of birds that make great companions.

First-time bird owners are often advised to start with a young bird, as it is often easier to tame and train a young animal than one

who is older. Certain pet stores or bird specialty retailers will hand-raise the birds from babies so they become acclimated with humans very early on.

Taming is largely about trust. Therefore, it may need to begin slowly. Gradually go from simply being in the company of the bird to allowing it to grow accustomed to your hand in the cage. Eventually, after you and the bird are comfortable with each other, allow it to sit on your finger or shoulder. According to Rob Marshall, an Australian avian veterinarian, as a bird comes to trust, he or she will also allow touch from the top of his head to

the back of the neck. Repeated handling can build up a healthy attachment to humans.

According to the experts at VCA Hospitals, do not overdo your avian acclimation or training when the bird is first brought home. He or she may need to settle in to its new home. Everything is new, and new sights, sounds and smells can be stressful. Once the bird has acclimated, aim for taming sessions between 15 and 20 minutes per day. Also, allow the bird to have some alone time to entertain itself; otherwise, you may end up with an overly attached bird.

Birds can bite, and when they do, it is important to remain calm. Keeping fingers together and curled inward can make them harder to grab. A short, downward shift of the hand if the bird is sitting on it and a firm verbal “no” may prevent the bird from biting. Never hit a bird as discipline.

Having a bird’s flight wings clipped is usually recommended when letting the bird loose in a home and during training. This also may help the bird be more dependent on you and more trusting of your handling.

PAWSOME PARTICIPANTS



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.

GET READY... IT'S HAPPENING

LET THE NEWS

Madness

20 22

BEGIN!

BRACKET MANIA IS COMING

Pairings and seedings for this year's tournament will be announced by the NCAA on Sunday, March 13th. Contest entry form and bracket will publish on Wednesday, March 16th.

THERE WILL BE THREE LOCAL WINNERS!