

NATIPETS

MARCH 2024 | ISSUE 2



PETS: YOUR SECRET TO BETTER HEALTH

TERRIFIC PETS FOR TINY SPACES

PET HIGHLIGHT: FRIEDA

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOGWALKER

Happy Easter Everyone From NatiPets.com

NATIPETS

NATIPETS,
PO BOX 753, BATAVIA,
OHIO 45103
513-518-0262

PUBLISHER

Matt Tackett

PUBLISHER ASST

Shannon Tackett

WRITERS

Matt Tackett,
Sharon Boyles,
Kira Tackett, Et. Al.

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Brad Osborne

EDITOR

Sharon Boyles

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Our pets are not just animals, they are a part of our daily lives, the reason for our smiles, and essentially, a part of our family. They offer companionship and love, much like that of our children. There are so many reasons to own a pet and the benefits are endless.

They're Good For Your Health

Did you know that it has been scientifically proven that stroking an animal can greatly reduce your stress levels? If you spend around 15 minutes petting your favorite cat or dog, your body will release the following natural "feel good" hormones: oxytocin, prolactin and serotonin. It also lowers your cortisol, which is the body's natural stress hormone. Not only will this send your body into a relaxed state, but it can also lower your blood pressure by 10% too. If you own a dog, then you will have to walk it at least once or twice a day which means you will be getting vital fresh air and exercise while having the opportunity to connect with nature and bond with your four-legged friend.

They Give You Unconditional Love

Animals do not ask for much in life, and most just need a warm, safe and sheltered place to live, as well as adequate food, water and exercise. In return they will give you unconditional love, loyalty and companionship. Dogs are a little more well known to offer unconditional love; cats can be a little fickle! But having a furry friend means you will always have a little living being, waiting patiently for you at home and ready to welcome you with a wagging tail or a purr.

They Offer Emotional Support

It's incredible just how much support an animal can bring to your life. If you are particularly vulnerable or have special needs then there are certain dog breeds that are perfect at providing emotional and physical support. A dog or cat can help with loneliness, give you companionship and someone to talk to, and sit with you during the evenings. Pets can be lifesavers when it comes to depression and grief. They can give you a sense of purpose and a reason to get out of bed when you are feeling particularly depressed or anxious. Animals such as cats and dogs can have a deeply calming effect on humans and can often pick up on their owner's moods: snuggling up to you when you are feeling sad or licking your hands if they sense that you have anxiety. In summary, owning a pet will change your life and bring you so much joy and love. They help us gain a sense of responsibility, show us unconditional love, and are always there when we need them.

Until next time, Matt Tackett, Publisher

PETS: YOUR SECRET TO BETTER HEALTH

Sharon Boyles

Who doesn't love being greeted by a furry face at the door when coming home from work or listening to a kitty purring while enjoying a good book and a cup of tea? Who isn't fascinated by the meditative, intricate dance of fish or entertained by bunnies hopping and playing?

No matter which way you look at it, having a pet makes life infinitely more loving, fulfilling, and interesting. But did you know that being a pet parent can also improve your physical and mental health and help you enjoy a better quality of life? A pet is a wonderful addition to your life if:

- **You're Feeling Lonely.** If you're older, live alone, or aren't a social butterfly, having a furry friend in your life brings love and joy, and you won't be feeling lonely or depressed. It's hard to stay in a bad mood if you're out walking your dog in the sunlight, saying hello to people, or if you're laughing at your cat crazily chasing the laser dot

or meowing at birds and squirrels. Speaking of laughter, pet parents have been shown to laugh more often in their daily lives, which drastically improves mood, shifts perspective, and releases stress.

- **You're Stressed Out.** Spending quality time with your pet almost always decreases blood pressure and regulates heart rate and breathing. This allows your cardiovascular system to relax, which has both short-term and long-term benefits. Walking your dog or playing with your cat or small pet also gives you some fun physical exercise, which improves your conditioning and stamina. You'll also get a time-out to have some fun and catch a break from overthinking issues and problems. You'll return to your regularly-scheduled life renewed and refreshed.



- **You're Having a Bad Day (or Month... Or Year).** Pets are wonderful as a source of comfort, maybe even better than a pint of Ben and Jerry's and a hug! Maybe you had a hard day at work, but your dog is greeting you at the door with uncontained joy and excitement and unconditional love. Or you're feeling uncertain and fearful about a situation, but your cat is following you from room to room, letting you know you're not alone. If you're struggling with mental health issues, having a pet creates a comforting sense of security and routine, which can help alleviate distressing mental health symptoms. Listening to a purring cat has been shown to reduce cortisol levels and increase oxytocin levels, which has a calming effect on our minds and bodies.
- **You Think You're Too Old (or Too Young).** Kids who take care of an animal quickly learn responsibility and the importance of following through in taking care of a pet. Teens going through a rough patch can turn to a pet as a wonderful, nonjudgmental source of comfort and support. Older adults who have a pet often feel less lonely and enjoy a greater sense of purpose and connection in life. Animal-assisted therapy is now being used in care centers and nursing homes across the country, especially for Alzheimer's patients and people with autism. The presence of an animal brings hope, cheer, and joy to almost everyone!

We do our best to take care of our physical and mental health, but the addition of a pet (or two!) can be a wonderful, daily support to maintaining your personal wellbeing. Being a pet parent means you're never really alone and the unconditional love you receive will make you smile!



PET HIGHLIGHT

If you'd like to nominate your pet for our Pet of the Month feature, contact Sharon at pets@natipets.com.

"She's not going anywhere".
The rest is...history!

This month, FRIEDA is our Pet of the Month! Frieda is a brindle Boston Terrier, part Pit and Boxer, and she's almost 14 years old. Her pet mom is Karrie, and Karrie shares with us what's special about her pup:

NatiPets: Tell us about Frieda's personality and what she loves best.

Karrie: She has the very best temperament ever! She does not bark unless someone comes to the door, and then she only barks until I answer the door. She'll still have her "mohawk" up for a bit while she checks things out to

NatiPets: Tell us how you and Frieda met.

Karrie: In 2011, while my son was in high school, he really wanted a furry buddy. We went to a local foster/adoption agency. We learned a foster pup was being returned the next day, because at one year old she needed too much attention and would often run away from her new home. We learned she was previously adopted from a kill shelter, which is just unfathomable, because she is the most ideal furry friend. Our neighbors wanted to clone her!

We wanted to help and agreed to foster her, without meeting first. We were told that the wait could be anywhere from one week to one year. But after one week, the adoption agency called and said she was going to be transported to New York with lots of other small dogs, meeting halfway to trade places with some bigger dogs. They said we'd need to adopt her quickly if we wanted her. I asked my son about it, and he said,



Animal Crossword Puzzle

Guess the solutions to the clues and fill them in the grid.

ensure the visitor is truly OK. When she's outside, she doesn't bark at other dogs. She'll relax in the grass, sprawled out with her legs behind her, just waiting to see her furry friends and their humans. She loves attention and her neighborhood furry friends.

She must go on her nightly walk. She'll follow me around in the evening until I give up and put my shoes on... Then the excitement, oh my!

When she was 11, we moved to a new house. We started to notice that she wasn't even getting up to greet us when we came home. We thought she was just chilling out in her new comfy chair, but after about 6 months, while on a walk, we realized she was losing her hearing. We had let her go off-leash near the tree line, and she went trottin' down the street in front of us and paid no attention to us calling her. We actually lost track of her, which was scary. We went home and she was waiting for us.

After that, we put a re-chargeable light-up collar on her, even when we are home at night because she has about an acre in which to wander. It can be funny just to see her collar floating in the dark. It makes me sad, but I'm so glad we've figured out what works.

NatiPets: What makes Frieda special? How has she made a difference in your life?

Karrie: Initially she was my son's dog and slept in his bed every night...under the covers, because he liked it cold in his room. When he was away, I slept in his bed with her. When he moved away,

we had to create a new understanding... my bed was off limits. But she had a nice comfy bed next to mine, under a desk, so she felt cozier. She even had a doggy electric pad in the winter.

When my son moved out of state, he asked me to send her, when he got settled. We found that it would cost about the same as having a car shipped. She'd go in a personal van since I couldn't bear having her go as airline cargo. So then, it was official, she was mine. That was in 2013.

On our walks, Frieda helped me to meet more neighbors. She is very good at helping me to stop when I'm overdoing it at home. I sit on the stairs, and she hops on my lap. I fill up her 'Love Cup' for a few minutes, then we both carry on.

Those tough days when it seems impossible to get off the couch or out of bed, she has forced me to get moving, at least for a few minutes at a time. And she ensures that I eat when she does. I mustn't forget she is my taste-tester too!

I've taken lots of road trips and she's most often my sidekick. When she goes to boarding, she is ultra loved by the staff who tend to her.

She has her schedule. She'll promptly tuck herself into bed at 10 PM, after standing and waiting for me, often ensuring I turn in also and get adequate rest. She has a bed in each room of the house that I hang out in, so she can be where I am. She insists on this! If there were ever an ideal doggy, she is totally it! I love my Furry Girl!

DOWN

1. Animal often seen in fields
2. Marsupial mammal native to Australia
3. Slithery creature found in warm climates
6. A web-footed bird that lives in cold climates
7. Large striped feline
8. Odd-looking animal with fur and a bill
9. An animal that is sometimes referred to as a 'buck'
11. Mammal with long ears and a short tail
12. An animal that neighs and whinnies
17. A creature that makes a croaking sound
19. Eats leaves from trees

ACROSS

4. A carnivorous mammal that feeds on fish and other aquatic life
5. Bird that eats fruit and has a large bill
10. A big, grey, hoofed animal with a horn on its nose
13. An aquatic mammal that lives in the ocean and has flippers
14. A small, bushy-tailed rodent
15. Lives in groups called herds
16. A creature that moves slowly and has a shell on its back
18. Green or gray-colored lizard
20. A pet rodent with a short snout and short legs





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TERRIFIC PETS FOR TINY SPACES

Sharon Boyles

Maybe you live in an apartment and aren't allowed to have a dog or a cat, or maybe you tried having a St. Bernard in your tiny home, but it didn't quite work out. If this sounds like you, you're in luck because a small pet may be just right for you. Small pets take up less room, are quieter, and require less one-on-one attention than a dog or a cat. You don't have to worry about daily walks, the cat marking on the new rug, or the dog eating your homework.

There are a lot of options out there if you're considering a small pet!

Nano Aquariums

This is a fun option if you think you'd like to have fish. A nano aquarium is a tank that is 10 gallons or less (freshwater) and 35 gallons or less (saltwater), so it won't take up much room. Fish are easy to take care of once you've got the hang of it (be sure to research the type of fish you're getting to understand care needs), and quietly observing the fish swim and dart around is peaceful, soothing, and relaxing. Having fish has been shown to reduce stress and lower blood pressure. That's almost as good as doing yoga or meditating!

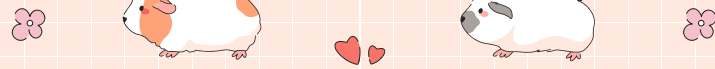
Lizards and Snakes

Don't shudder! Don't run away! Lizards and snakes actually make very good pets and, depending on the breed, they can be just as interactive and friendly as a cat or a dog. These reptiles are fairly easy to care for and do well in smaller tank sizes. One consideration for the squeamish is that lizards and snakes prefer fresh, live food, so keep that in mind before you adopt. As always, be sure to research care needs before bringing any pet home, so that your relationship is a happy, healthy, and joyful one for many years to come.

Hamsters and Gerbils

If a furry pal is more your style, one of these pocket pets are a great option. They require a low level of daily care, mostly feeding, keeping the cage clean, and making sure they have things to play with. Hamsters prefer to be housed separately, and gerbils prefer to be in pairs. Gerbils are interactive, while hamsters are nocturnal, so you may not see them as much. If you adopt a pair of gerbils, make sure they are of the same sex or you may have a surprise!





WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR PET PASSES AT HOME

By: Tammy Wynn
Owner and Founder of Angel's Paws

99.9% of pet parents would love it if their pet would just pass on their own. Unfortunately, it is only a small fraction of pets that do pass peacefully on their own.

This is one of those heart wrenching situations that can catch you completely off guard. Unaware that your pet is on the final leg of their journey, the idea of aftercare may not have even entered your mind. Information provided here is intended to help you think through important aspects of your wishes.

When your pet passes my first piece of advice is to slow down. Your mind tends to begin racing and chaos starts to kick in. This does not have to be the case. Death is a natural part of life and something we do not have to fear. This is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the beautiful opportunity you had to be in relationship with this beautiful soul. Historically, even for people, deaths happened at home rather than in hospitals. This gave the family a healthy way to come to terms with the loss of the loved one in the privacy of home. You can now have this gift. By calming your mind and settling yourself for a moment, you give yourself the time needed to catch up and process what has happened and be able to actually "think." Things to think through once your pet passes at home....

1. What are your wishes regarding aftercare? The most common options are cremation or home burial (where permitted.)
2. If you opt for cremation there are different types of cremation. The most common types are:
 - a. **Private cremation** means your pet is the only one in the crematory and you get your pets ashes back.
 - b. **Witness cremation** means your pet is privately cremated and you can see your pet going into the crematory and in some cases you may be able to place your pet in the crematory yourself.
 - c. **Communal cremation** means your pet is cremated communally with other pets in the same chamber and you do not get your pets ashes back. Generally the crematory handles the disposition of the ashes.
3. Who needs to say goodbye to your pet? Other family members, children, and very importantly, other sibling pets. Allowing time for others who were in relationship with your pet to see them prior to proceeding with aftercare, is extremely important in healing. It gives everyone a chance to understand what happened, pay their respects, say their goodbyes and have closure. I have found that many people are unsure if they should let the other pets have access to their deceased pet or not. My answer is certainly make this available to the sibling pets. Sibling pets often spend more time with each other than we the pet parents do.

A pet's nose has 40 times more receptors than the human nose. Because of their acute instincts, they usually know their sibling pet is sick long before the diagnostics confirm it for us humans. So when a pet disappears out the door (either to go to the vets office for euthanasia, or slipped out of the house immediately upon passing at home) the sibling pets are left in a state of confusion about what happened. Where did they go? Often, they will start a frantic search on about day three when the pet does not reappear. They know their sibling was sick but then they don't know what happened.

Rabbits

Rabbits are cuddly, social animals that can be almost as much fun as a cat or dog. Keep in mind that rabbits do require a somewhat larger habitat plus daily exercise in order to thrive. They also require daily care, such as cleaning the cage, feeding, and daily fresh fruits and veggies. They will also need chew toys, to keep their teeth trim. You can train a bunny to use a litter box so there aren't any worries while they're out hopping around, but make sure your home is bunny proof, because they do love to nibble and chew!

Hermit Crabs

A hermit crab will fit easily into a small space and your daily routine, especially if you don't have a whole lot of time to care for a pet. Hermit crabs are easy and fun pets. All you'll need is an aquarium tank that is at least 5-10 gallons and play sand, Eco Earth, and other items to create a habitat. Keep in mind that hermit crabs do best in groups of three. Daily care is minimal, however keep in mind that their habitat should be kept around 72 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and they'll need 8-12 hours of LED or fluorescent light to be happy and thriving. Hermit crabs don't often mate in captivity, but it is possible, so make sure you're getting a same-sex trio.

Have fun looking around, do your research before making a decision, and enjoy your new friend!



4. Depending on how your pet passed away at home can play into a variety of considerations. For example, a traumatic accident where there are extensive external injuries to the pet's body would be handled differently than a traumatic accident with internal injuries where the pet's body is still intact. This will impact how you handle the following...

a. Tending to the pet's body. It is not uncommon for people to want to keep their pet at home for 12-24 hours of visitation and to come to terms with the loss. That is perfectly fine. The body will not start decomposing immediately. We do suggest placing a potty pad under them as their bowels and bladder may release as their body fully relaxes. We also suggest wrapping them in a blanket and position them in their bed (if possible) or a box, with a pillow under their head helping them to maintain a position where their nose is pointed up. Sometimes bodily fluids leak from the nose and gravity can be a tremendous help just by pointing the nose toward the ceiling.

b. The visitation described #3 may also need to be altered or carefully thought through depending on how the pet is able to be presented to others.

5. Where to keep your pet during this period is another consideration. It is not necessary to put your pet in a garbage bag or in the freezer during

the brief window you have your pet at home after they pass. Keeping them in a cool dry place is best. They can stay right inside your house or you can place them in your garage during cool or cold seasons. Having them accessible for you to see and pet during this time can be very therapeutic as you are coming to terms. Putting them in an area where the sibling pets can come and go for their own self-directed visitation can also be therapeutic for them.

6. Angel's Paws would be honored to help at this special time.

Hopefully this little article will help you when the time comes to transition your pet out of your home and into their final arrangements whether that be cremation or home burial. You want to be sure you have had an opportunity to say everything you want to say to your pet and let them know that you did your very best for them and that you will never forget the unconditional love they showed you.



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"The way we received Minnie's cremains in the privacy of the chapel where we could say goodbye and grieve was touching. Angel's Paws has such a deep understanding of how much we love our companion animals." — Suellen F.

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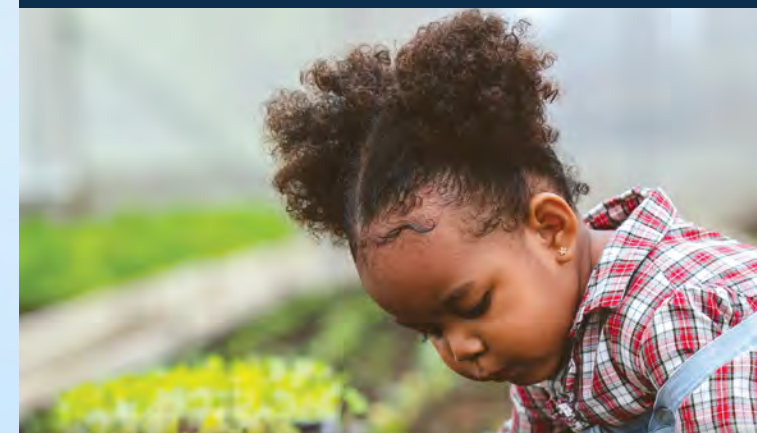
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CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOGWALKER



Sharon Boyles

Since the pandemic, more and more people are working from home, but many people still need a dogwalker. If you're working from home but can't take the time or if you're at the office all day or if you're older or have health issues, hiring a dogwalker can be a blessing and a vital part of your dog's care.

It's important for your pup to have regular walks. Regular walking gives your dog a necessary change of scenery and something new and exciting to do, which relieves boredom. Most dogs have a lot of energy, so regular walking will keep your dog calm and balanced and help prevent those not-so-fun things like frustration barking and howling, favorite pair of shoes getting chewed up, or

coming home to a dog who shredded the couch and is trying to blame the cat.

When it comes to dogwalkers, there are lots and lots of options out there! How do you choose a good one?

The first thing you'll want to look for is someone who is reliable, reputable, and professional. Talk to your neighbors, friends, or family to see if they have someone they can recommend. Look online for walkers in your area or check on social media. When you've found a likely candidate, do a little research. Do they have a website or a presence on social media? What are their reviews like? Are they willing to provide a reference from a current or past client?

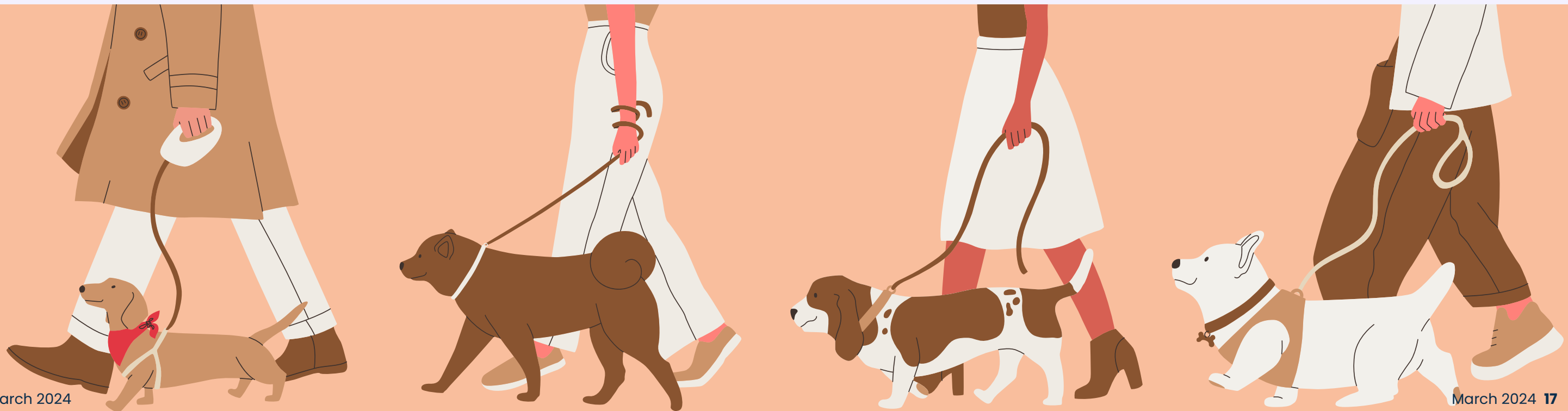
You'll next want to schedule a Meet and Greet with your candidate. Pay attention to how the person interacts with your dog and how your dog responds to this person. If it's love at first sight, great! You've got a match! If your dog seems hesitant, or if the dogwalker is eyeing your 80-pound St. Bernard with a nervous eye, then maybe it's not such a great match. Don't forget to pay attention to how you feel about this person. What is your gut saying? If you feel nervous, uneasy, or hesitant for any reason, pay attention to that. Keep looking, you'll find your person!

If you think you've found the right person to care for your pup, you'll want to ask some important questions. What experience do they have with your dog's weight, breed, age, size, or temperament? If you have more than one pup, how are they at walking the dogs together? Ask them to describe their technique for walking a dog. Are they going to be texting or checking Facebook while your dog wanders ahead on a 15-foot leash, or are they

focused and attentive to your dog and the surroundings? Things happen quickly, and you want to make sure your dog is safe from things like off-leash dogs, cars, sudden bolting after a squirrel or bunny, or something in the grass that your dog thinks is mighty tasty but probably isn't so great later on. You might want to ask your potential walker if they are bonded, licensed, or insured, since this person will be in your home while you're away.

When you've found your person, be sure to give them important, relevant information about your dog. A good dogwalker will already be asking these questions, but if they don't, be sure to follow up. It's very important for them to know if your dog has any injuries, allergies, mobility issues, and personality quirks, not only to keep your pup safe, but also to keep the dogwalker safe.

Taking these steps will help you make a good choice about caring for your beloved pup and result in a happier and more relaxed dog, and a happier you!



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LOCAL SPOTLIGHT



Hello! My name is Tess Sandker and I am the owner of Pretty Paws. I have always had a loving heart for animals, but I found my passion caring for pets while I worked at a Veterinarian's office during College. While I am currently a High School teacher, I have always wanted to build something of my own, something that represents me! Establishing Pretty Paws has allowed me to expand my love and talents into something more. Thankfully, my husband and 4 children are my biggest supporters.

Pretty Paws currently offers nail trims, nail filing/grinding, ear cleanings, bathing, grooming, and blow outs to help with deshedding. Appointments are scheduled one at a time, making sure your pet gets all the attention without the extra distraction or wait time. Your pet will get taken care of by me personally every single time. The bond and relationship with your pet is important and a crucial part of making your pet truly feel, "at home".

I have 2 dogs of my own; a Great Dane named Peach and a Husky mix named Champ. I have always cared for their basic needs from nail trims, ear cleans, bathing and grooming. When family members began asking me for help with their pets, I got the idea of offering services to others in the community who wanted a family friendly experience in a comfortable and welcoming environment. Hence, Pretty Paws.



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RESCUE HIGHLIGHT: Animal Rescue Fund

ARF-What we are about

ARF's website:
animalrescuefundamelia.com

Animal Rescue Fund, Inc. (ARF) is a non-profit, incorporated 501(c)(3) charitable organization chartered in February of 1980 that operates a no-kill shelter for homeless animals at 85 Lucy Run Road, Amelia, OH 45102.

We always have a wide variety of wonderful kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs who need loving forever homes. Our staff works with our animals every day to exercise them and help socialize them. If you are looking for a loyal companion who will give you unconditional love and always be happy to see you, your best friend could be here waiting for you! Our cats and kittens are also available for adoption at the PetsMart in Eastgate and Pet Supplies Plus on Beechmont Avenue in Cherry Grove. All of our animals are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations before being placed. We place between 800 to 1,000 animals a year.

ARF takes in neglected, abused, stray, retired breeders, and animals from hoarding situations. ARF also takes in animals from kill shelters to help animals that would otherwise be euthanized.

Local law enforcement agencies know they can call ARF any time, any day, any weather to rescue an animal in need. Many of ARF's intakes require emergency medical procedures and lengthy rehabilitation before being placed in loving homes.

ARF's animals can be viewed on Petfinder, ARF's FaceBook page, and ARF'S website. The pages are updated regularly.

Please stop by to visit our animals and consider giving one of them a loving forever home. They certainly deserve it! We are open Tuesday-Saturday from 11am - 4pm. If you have questions, please call us at 513-753-9252.

If you cannot adopt an animal, please consider giving a tax-deductible cash donation to help with the costs of caring for and spaying/neutering the animals. We receive no funds from the government. Donations may be mailed to Animal Rescue Fund, P. O. Box 464, Amelia, Ohio 45102, or use our "Donation Button" (paypal, credit card link) on the Home Page of our website (animalrescuefundamelia.com). You will receive a receipt for tax purposes. We also need volunteers who help us in a variety of different ways.

ARF BINGO

ARF runs a Bingo 3 nights a week, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings to help support the shelter. The Bingo Hall is located at 1785 E. Ohio Pike, Amelia, Ohio, 45102. The doors open at 5:00 and bingo begins at 7:00. Instant tickets are available to play all evening. Bring some friends and join in the fun while helping the animals.

Thanks for helping to support homeless animals! To prevent more homeless animals, PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE AND SPAY/NEUTER YOUR PETS!!

Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever.

-Karen Davison

LOCAL RESCUES

Save the Animals Foundation

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(513) 561-7823

Cincinnati Animal CARE / Hamilton

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3949 Colerain Ave
(513) 541-7387

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The Ohio Pet Sanctuary

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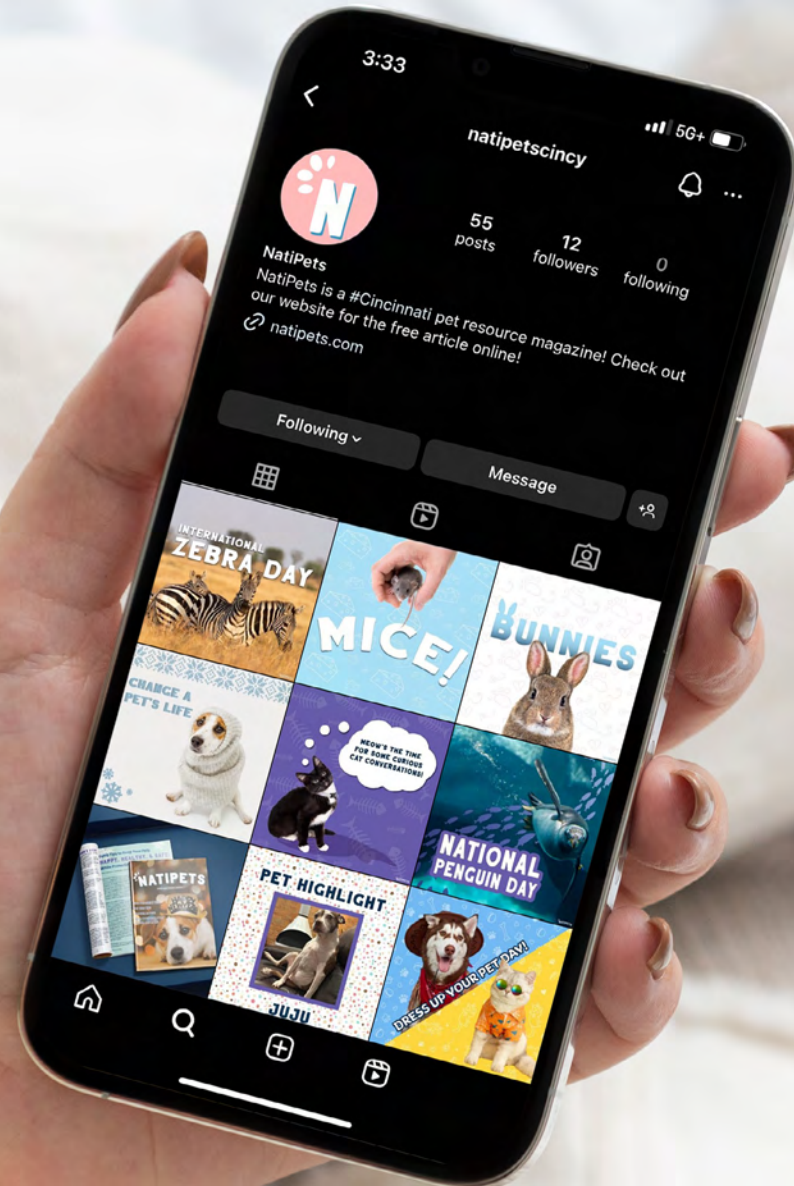
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ECO FRIENDLY PET CARE

Sustainable Choices for a Greener Planet

Kira Tackett

Within a world that grows increasingly concerned about environmental sustainability, pet owners are joining the movement to reduce their carbon footprint. It's not just about recycling or conserving energy; it's also about making eco-conscious choices when it comes to our furry companions. From the food they eat to the toys they play with and the way we dispose of their waste, there are numerous opportunities to adopt more environmentally friendly pet care practices. In this article, we will explore the world of eco-friendly pet care, highlighting products and practices that promote sustainability and help us reduce the environmental impact of pet ownership. A journey to investigate environmentally friendly pet care products and practices that promote sustainability and reduce the carbon footprint of pet ownership.

Feeding our beloved pets is a daily ritual that touches our hearts and fuels our companionship. However, what many pet owners may not realize is that the food we provide our four-legged friends can significantly impact our environment. The production of traditional pet food, with its reliance on resource-intensive meat production, transportation, and excessive packaging, can leave a substantial carbon footprint. Fortunately, a wave of eco-conscious pet owners is seeking out sustainable pet food choices, revolutionizing the way

we nourish our pets while reducing our environmental impact.

Choosing locally sourced and organic pet food is another way to make a substantial impact on the sustainability of your pet's diet. When pet food ingredients are locally sourced, the carbon emissions associated with transportation are reduced. Moreover, organic ingredients are cultivated without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, which can harm the environment.

Local and organic ingredients in pet food offer a wealth of benefits. They support local farmers, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from long-distance transportation, and help preserve biodiversity by promoting sustainable farming practices. Additionally, these ingredients often contain fewer additives and chemicals, promoting the health of your pet. Furthermore, opt for pet foods that come in eco-friendly packaging – seek out brands that use recyclable or compostable materials to reduce waste.

In a world that sometimes values disposability over durability, eco-conscious pet owners are embracing the concept of durable, long-lasting pet toys and accessories. The notion of quality over quantity is gaining momentum, and it's a win-win for both pets and the environment. Choosing high-quality toys

that are built to withstand rough play not only saves money in the long run but also reduces the need for frequent replacements. This longevity decreases the overall demand for toys, ultimately reducing waste and conserving resources. Durable toys can become cherished possessions for your pets, imbued with memories of playtime and bonding.

For the creatively inclined, making your own pet toys can be a fulfilling and sustainable endeavor. It's a chance to upcycle and repurpose everyday items, turning them into sources of joy for your pets. Old clothing can be transformed into tug ropes, and cardboard boxes can become hide-and-seek dens. Not only do these DIY projects reduce waste, but they also allow you to customize toys to your pet's unique preferences. Craft time can be a delightful way to bond with your pets, and their enthusiasm for your creations is a reward in itself. Furthermore, in the world of pet accessories, DIY projects offer the opportunity to create items such as pet beds or feeding stations using repurposed materials. Not only does this reduce the demand for new products, but it also allows you to add a personal touch to your pet's environment.

In conclusion, eco-friendly pet care is not only about reducing the carbon footprint of pet ownership but also about ensuring a better, healthier future for our pets and the planet. By making environmentally conscious choices in the way we feed, entertain, and care for our pets, we can contribute to a greener and more sustainable world. So, let's continue to make responsible choices for our furry friends and our planet's future!



PRODUCT NEWS

CHEWY IS OPENING VET CARE PRACTICES

Chewy is launching pet health practices under the brand name Chewy Vet Care. The first practice will open in South Florida early next year with additional locations launching throughout 2024, and offer services including routine appointments, urgent care and surgery, company officials said. The practices will be powered by Chewy's custom-built open platform that can seamlessly be applied to Chewy Vet Care or third-party partner practices.

"We partnered with hundreds of veterinarians and customers to design an in-practice and post-visit experience which we believe will be unlike anything in the market, and appreciated by both communities," said Mita Malhotra, president of Chewy Health. "Our practices contain thoughtfully designed spaces for the comfort and privacy

of our customers and care team. Chewy Vet Care will be powered by our proprietary, easy-to-use modern technology, to deliver a seamless and memorable experience, which we have delivered for over a decade in our core businesses. Expanding into veterinary care is the natural next step in Chewy's evolution and we are excited to bring our customer-forward thinking to our veterinarians and practice team."

Chewy is committed to making Chewy Vet Care the best place to work for veterinary care team members, officials said. Practices are designed to be more operationally efficient with a workplace culture that is emotionally fulfilling for veterinary team members and is supported by an infrastructure that emphasizes well-being, career advancement, work-life balance and the ability to practice the highest quality of medicine, officials added.

"Chewy Vet Care is inspired and designed by a team of veterinary experts to combine personal, patient-centered medicine with the latest technology in an environment where customers will love to take their pets, and care teams will love to practice," said Dr. Benjamin Carter, chief medical officer at Chewy Vet Care. "We are confident we can drive positive change by addressing critical pain points straining the veterinary industry, such as burnout and lack of flexibility, while providing the convenient, transparent and trustworthy access to care that today's discerning pet parents appreciate."

Chewy Vet Care joins the portfolio of Chewy Health offerings, which include a pet pharmacy; a tele-triage service, Connect with a Vet; a suite of pet-first insurance and wellness plans, CarePlus; market-leading e-commerce offerings, including a deep assortment of health products ranging from veterinary diet foods to supplements; and 24/7 customer service that offers personalization and consistency at every interaction.





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