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for a happy and
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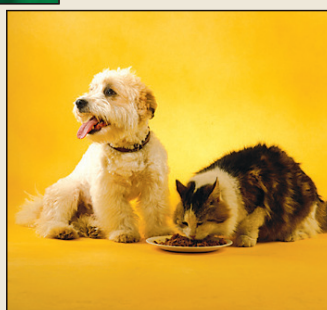
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Great tips for a healthy and happy kitten

New pets can make life at home more exciting. Cats are popular pets because of their curiosity, playfulness and size, which makes them great pets in private homes and apartments big and small.

Many people prefer cats because they tend to require less maintenance than dogs and felines are relatively self-sufficient. According to a 2014 survey from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, 37 percent of Canadian households included one or more cats. In the United States, the American Pet Products Association says that 30 to 37 percent of households have a cat, and more than 35 percent of cats are acquired as strays.

Kittens can be soft, fluffy and adorable to have around. However, to maintain a peaceful household and provide a safe environment for new felines, it's important for pet owners to follow some key tips.

• **Kittens should not be separated from their mother or siblings until they're at least 10 to 12 weeks of age**, provided the litter has had significant human contact, offers Blue Buffalo Pet Food's animal experts. If the kittens have not had much contact, it may be possible to bring them home earlier. The earlier cats are socialized, the easier the kitten-owner relationship and the less skittish the cat may be.

• **Cats require some necessities from the start.** These include feeding bowls, litter boxes or trays, toys, and scratching posts. Washable cat beds with warm blankets are also helpful. Position the litter tray in a corner away from food and water. The International Cat Care

group says that a new home can be intimidating, so it's best to introduce cats slowly to their new environments. Choose a room that's quiet where the kitten can adjust. Outfit the room with toys and a place to snuggle or hide, and remove any hazards or breakable items.

• **Gradually give the kitten time to venture out into the main living area to explore**, watching how it behaves. If the cat dashes nervously, it may need more time to acclimate. Some kittens take up to two weeks to fully relax in a home. People should be introduced one at a time.

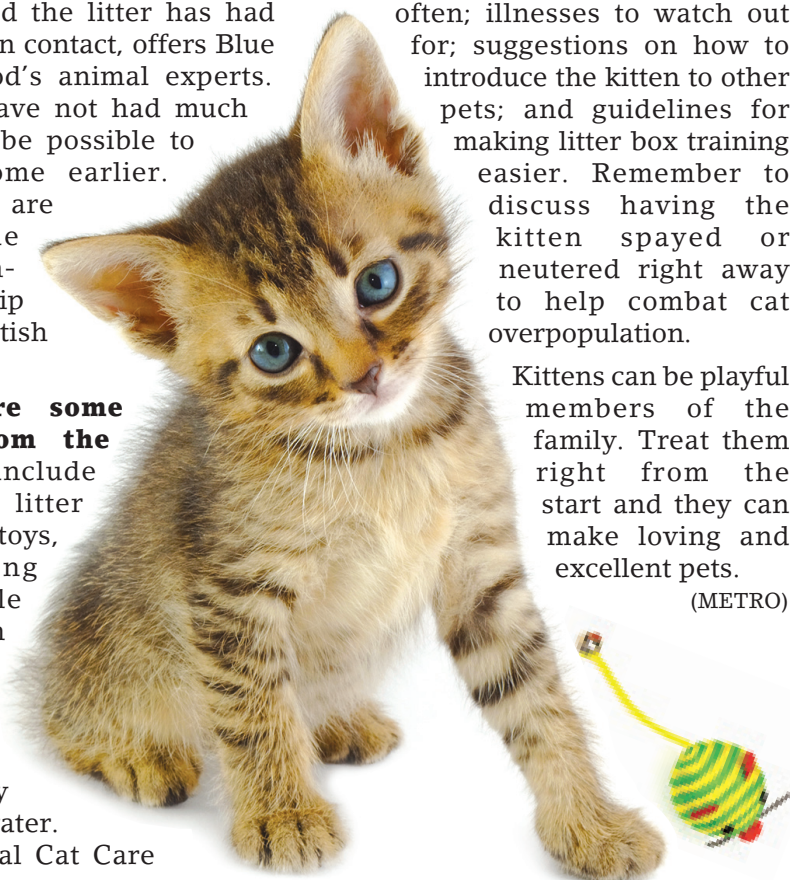
• **Handling and playing with kittens at least once per day** will help owners form strong emotional bonds with their cats. Children should be monitored upon introduction to the new kitten to make sure it's a positive experience for both the kitten and child.

• **Veterinarians can offer a wealth of information for new cat owners.**

Ask many questions, including which foods to feed them and how often; illnesses to watch out for; suggestions on how to introduce the kitten to other pets; and guidelines for making litter box training easier. Remember to discuss having the kitten spayed or neutered right away to help combat cat overpopulation.

Kittens can be playful members of the family. Treat them right from the start and they can make loving and excellent pets.

(METRO)





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How to Further Enrich an Animal's Life

*By Heather Gehrke, Executive Director
of Elmbrook Humane Society*

Proper nutrition and health care for our beloved pet is essential to keeping them physically healthy. This includes but is not limited to routine vaccinations and proper dental care, spaying/neutering, parasite and heartworm testing and treatment, and testing for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus to name a few. Having a relationship with a veterinarian who provides top notch care and one you trust is important.

However, did you know that making sure your animal is mentally and emotionally healthy is equally as important? By providing what is termed as 'enrichment', you enable your pets to demonstrate their species specific behavior, such as hunting and working, engaging in exercise, and controlling or choosing their environment which all in turn enhances their overall well-being.

Food and cognitive based enrichment is the most well-known and widely used form of enrichment. The goal of food and cognitive based enrichment is to prolong feeding time along with enhancing mental stimulation. Several times a week, providing your pet with a frozen food based KONG, slow feeder, almost empty peanut butter jar (dogs only), frozen tuna cubes, or boxes filled with food and other goodies supports their mental and emotional well-being. Although food based enrichment is not for every animal, most enjoy this option!

You can also utilize sensory enrichment, engaging one or more of the five senses including sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. Let's focus on one - smell. A common form of sensory enrichment includes nose work with dogs. Nose work consists of hiding your dog's favorite treats or food so they can work to find them. Another form of sensory enrichment that can be used for most pets is utilizing essential oils as room sprays. Make sure to research what essential oils each species enjoys and never spray essential oils directly on pets, rather use them as room sprays

in areas in which your pets spend the most time.

Specific to our feline friends, they not only enjoy but can benefit from having places to hide and perch as both allow them some control over their environment which directly supports their mental and emotional well-being. Cats seek out hiding places to feel safe which can directly reduce any fear or anxiety they may be feeling. Cats also like to be able to perch which also correlates to lowering fear and anxiety. Providing outlets to scratch also helps cats maintain good physical, emotional, and mental health. A sturdy, appropriate height (tall enough for your cat to achieve a full body stretch), sisal or carpeted scratching post is a great choice and a must have for many cats!

Finally, social enrichment is important for many animals. It is important to be tuned into your pet to make sure spending time with another animal is something they will enjoy, as not every animal enjoys play with another animal. If you are not sure, take your time with trying to figure this out. Or instead or in conjunction with social time with other animals for your pets, take some time every day to play or just simply be in the same space with your pet. It may not seem that this is helpful for your pet (especially shy and quiet pets) but most find comfort and reduced fear and anxiety levels when you are near.

Your #FriendsForLife staff at Elmbrook Humane Society is happy to help you with any questions you have about enrichment or any other animal related topics. Please call 262-782-9261 or email Elmbrookhs@ebhs.org with your inquiry.



Starter supplies for small pets

Cats and dogs may get much of the attention, but small pets can bring just as much to a household as their larger counterparts. Diminutive in size but not personality, hamsters, guinea pigs, ferrets, reptiles, mice, and more may be just the right fit for those who desire a pet, but may not have the space or money for large animals.

The American Pet Products Association's 2017-2018 National Pet Owners Survey found that 7.9 million households had birds, 6.7 million had various small animals, and 4.7 million included assorted reptiles. The pet sitter company PetBacker says 9 percent of Canadians own pets such as fish; birds; small mammals, such as hamsters; and reptiles. They may be smaller in size, but these pets still need a variety of gear.

• Environment

Most small pets will spend the majority of their time in a cage or a tank. In this environment, the pets will need bedding or some type of cage lining. Wood chips and shavings, shredded newspaper or hay are often used. Reptiles and amphibians may have special needs to help regulate temperature. Gravel, stones and rocks may be used. Always consult with a veterinarian or a pet supply expert regarding the correct set-up for a small pet's environment to ensure the animal's health and well-being.

• Toys and other gear

Small animals need items to provide mental stimulation and physical activity. These items do not need to be complicated or expensive. A gerbil or hamster may appreciate an empty toilet paper tube to run through. Some pets like to race around in plastic balls, while others will be satisfied digging and burrowing through bedding. Tube mazes or hiding places also may fit the bill. Birds like hanging mirrors and other colorful toys on which they can perch or peck.

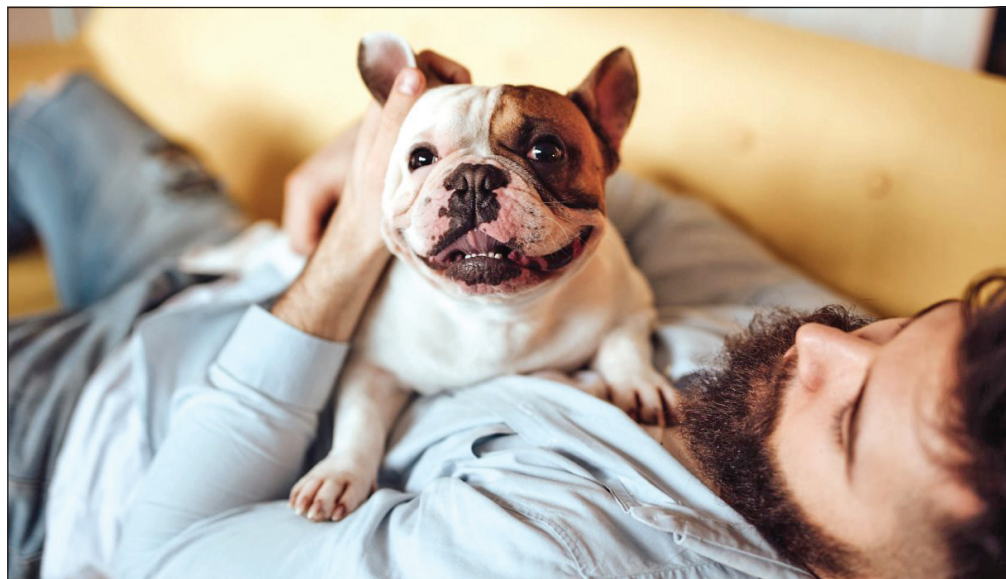
• Nutrition

Food is another consideration when starting out with small animals. They may not eat as much or as often as a dog or cat, but they, too, have specific dietary requirements. For example, Banfield Pet Hospital says overfeeding is a big issue with hamsters, so look for a quality hamster food and avoid snacks and treats. Hamsters tend to hoard food, so they may take food they really do not need. Certain lizards will eat mealworms, crickets or other insects. Research which fresh foods can be mixed with commercially produced foods for optimal health.

Feeding bowls, bottles or small dishes also will need to be purchased from your local pet retailer when addressing small pets' dietary needs.

Veterinarians are a great resource in regard to how to care for small pets.

3 signs of discomfort to watch for in your dog



Dogs are the best. The best welcome home greeters. The best snuggle buddies. And, the best road trip companions. But, just like humans, dogs have ruff days and health problems from aging and their active lives. They don't always know how to tell us where they hurt or why they are acting differently, but there are some signs that pet parents can watch for.

1. Less pep in their step. It's natural for dogs to be less active as they age, but with four legs and boundless curiosity, injuries can happen any time. If your fur family member isn't sprinting around the backyard like normal, or they're walking up or down stairs instead of running, they may be experiencing leg or paw discomfort. A prolonged change in the way they walk or run could be a sign of hip or joint discomfort indicating a chronic condition, according to veterinarian Elizabeth DeLomba. "Medium to large dog breeds in particular are prone to developing joint issues as they age," says Dr. DeLomba. "One of the first and best ways to manage these changes is with a daily joint supplement like GlycoFlex from VetriScience."

2. Missing your snuggle buddy. They're always curled up beside you during a Netflix binge or keeping your feet warm in bed every night. But, when your best snuggler starts being anti-social, it may be a sign that they

need something more than a cuddle. "A dog acting anti-social may be an indication of a physical problem or discomfort that they are trying to hide," says Dr. DeLomba. A dog acting sensitive to petting or a gentle touch may signal underlying issues.

3. What's that smell? Doggie kisses are also the best, but not so much with bad doggie breath. If your dog has consistently bad breath despite special treats and regular teeth cleanings, they may have a tooth or gum issue. Likewise, if your dog is needing to "go" more often, or you start finding accidents in the house, it may be an indication of a urinary issue or problem. If Fido isn't finishing meals or is not that interested in treats, that's another sign of possible gastrointestinal distress or other internal issues that may not be obvious physically but may be detected with blood work.

Talk to your veterinarian if your dog is demonstrating any of the above behaviors. Depending on the circumstance, your dog may benefit from a simple change such as a new diet or supplement regime. For serious issues, you should always contact your veterinarian, who may need to prescribe medication.

Our pets are with us for far too short a time. Watch for their signs of discomfort to keep them happy, healthy, and at your side for as long as possible. (BPT)



How to protect dogs from Lyme disease

Lyme disease is a potentially dangerous condition transmitted by the passing of bacteria from deer ticks to their unsuspecting hosts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Lyme disease also is a cause for concern in Canada, parts of Europe and Asia.

Tens of thousands of people are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year. But Lyme disease also affects animals, including popular house pets like dogs. Tufts University says that the Lyme bacterium can cause serious illness in some dogs. Lyme disease can be difficult to detect and cause serious and recurring health problems. That is why it is essential for pet parents make concerted efforts to reduce the risk that their dogs become infected.

The American Veterinary Medical Association says the best way to protect pets against Lyme disease is to emphasize prevention.

- **Speak with your veterinarian about a tick preventive product** that is right for your dog. These can include repellent collars, topical treatments and ingestible medications.

- **Vets may recommend vaccination against Lyme disease** if you live in an area that is home to high tick populations. Recommendations also may be based on your pet's lifestyle and

overall health, among other factors.

- **Address conditions in the yard that are conducive to ticks.** Mowing the lawn regularly is one way to make the backyard less attractive to ticks, as is removing leaf litter.

- **Keep a clean home and landscape.** Rodents and other wildlife can carry deer ticks. Securing trash cans, picking up food scraps, removing hiding spots and potential dens, and other strategies can keep these carriers away.

- **Conduct a daily tick check if your dog spends time outside.** Pay attention to bumps on the skin and part the fur so you can see where the coat meets the skin. Don't forget to look in the ears.

- **When possible, avoid areas where ticks may be found,** such as tall grasses, wooded areas and marshes. Stick to trails when spending time in wooded areas.

Dogs with Lyme disease may exhibit various symptoms. These include loss of appetite, fever, joint swelling, decreased activity, and lameness. Visit the vet promptly if symptoms occur and do not abate, or are causing considerable distress for your pet.

Lyme disease is a concern for pets. Avoidance, preventive measures and outdoor maintenance can help reduce the likelihood that pets will contract Lyme disease. (Metro)



Tips for a successful, lifelong pet adoption



Bringing home a new pet can be exciting and heartwarming. Before you get caught up in the excitement of adopting a pet, however, it's important to do a bit of homework and have conversations to ensure you're choosing a lifelong fit for your family.

When considering adopting, keep in mind that pets can provide as many benefits to you as you do them, such as helping to reduce stress, providing companionship, getting the daily recommended amount of physical activity and more. As you take your options into account, remember these guidelines from the experts at PetSmart Charities to prepare for a successful homecoming for your newest family member.

- **Life stages**

If you prefer a lower energy pet, seek a senior (age 7 or above) who may move a little slower. For higher energy, look for young puppies and kittens or active breeds such as Labradors, hounds, American terriers (commonly known as pit bulls) and mixed breeds.

For first-time pet owners, a healthy adult dog or cat can help teach new pet parents the joys of having a pet and may not require as much attention as a puppy or kitten.

Families with young children might consider a family-friendly breed or mixed breed such as a hound. Older kids may benefit from additional responsibilities such as walking the dog or cleaning the litter box.

- **Living environment**

In addition to the type and age of pet you adopt, you'll need to consider the space you have available to welcome your furry friend.

If you live in a home, consider fencing your yard for more relaxed playtime. If you live in an apartment, discuss any restrictions with your landlord and find out where the closest dog parks are to ensure your dog gets plenty of exercise.

Dogs need a place to call their own where they're contained overnight and while you're not home until they can be safely left to roam. Get a crate so your new pet can have an 'apartment' within your home.

You should always have more litter boxes than you do cats; for example, if you have one cat make sure you have at least two litter boxes. Litter boxes need to be scooped daily and completely changed weekly.

- **Veterinary care**

Most adoptions come with a free veterinary check-up within the first

week. Visit the veterinarian to have your pet's vaccine records reviewed and ensure you know the best options for food, exercise and preventative care.

You can prevent many common diseases by keeping your pet at a healthy weight, current on flea, tick and heartworm prevention, fully vaccinated and on a high-quality diet. Preventing diseases costs less money than treating them, so discuss any concerns you have with your veterinarian.

• **Financial considerations**

Most pets come with annual veterinary bills between \$200-500 and food bills between \$200-400.

Adopting a pet can provide cost savings, however, as fees at shelters and adoption events are typically lower than breeders and many of these pets are already spayed or neutered.

To ensure your pet is covered in case of emergencies, consider options like pet insurance or opening a designated savings account and depositing 5% of your pay each pay period. If you take out an insurance policy as soon as you adopt your pet, he or she will not have

any "pre-existing" conditions excluded from your insurance plan.

Find more tips for a successful pet adoption and locate upcoming adoption events in your community at petsmartcharities.org. (Family Features)



Did you know?

Dog strollers have surged in popularity in recent years, particularly as pets are allowed in locations that might have been off limits in years past. It's common to see pet owners scooting their prized pooches around in strollers once used exclusively for small children. Dog owners who have never owned a dog stroller before may wonder just how useful they can be. Some people have replaced traditional dog carriers with strollers, which tend to be more ergonomic and comfortable to use than carriers. Strollers can be a convenient means for taking dogs (typically smaller pups) to busy public locations or even to work. Strollers also can keep dogs out of the elements when the weather can be difficult for them to handle. Older dogs with mobility issues can benefit from strollers because they still enable the dogs to get fresh air without tiring them out. Also, people who own multiple dogs may find strollers make it easy to take multiple pooches out and about. Strollers also let small dogs rest while other dogs gets more exercise walking alongside the stroller. Dog strollers come in a range of sizes and can be purchased where most pet supplies are sold. (Metro)



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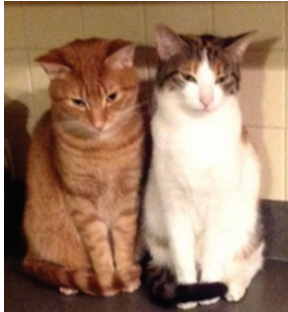


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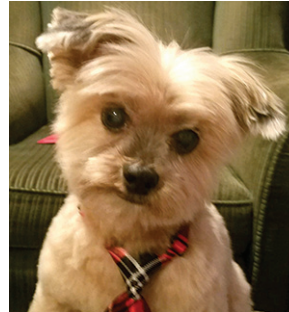
Rosie
Waukesha



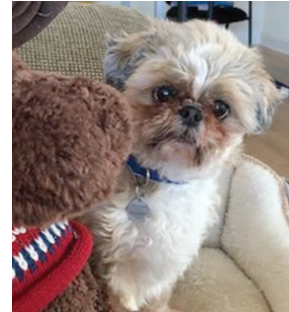
Cosmo (L) & Tansy (R)
Waukesha



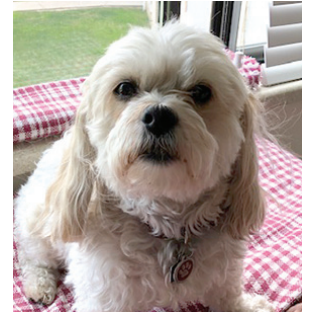
Abby
New Berlin



Smokey
Waukesha



Noonan
Okauchee



Carson
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Gizmo
Waukesha



Chewy
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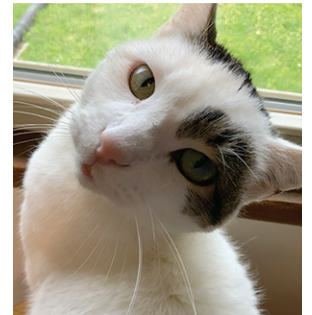
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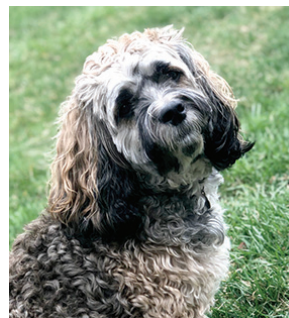
Leo
Mukwonago



Penny Jean
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Pickles
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Monkey
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Casper
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Mufasa the Serval
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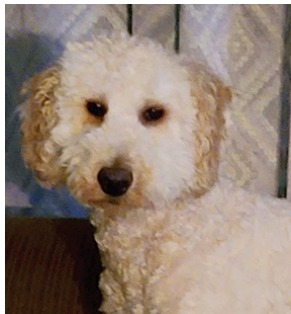
Dolly
Waukesha



Holly
Waukesha



Willow
Waukesha



Millie
Pewaukee



Ernie
Waukesha



Piper
Eagle



Luna
Eagle



Ash
Eagle



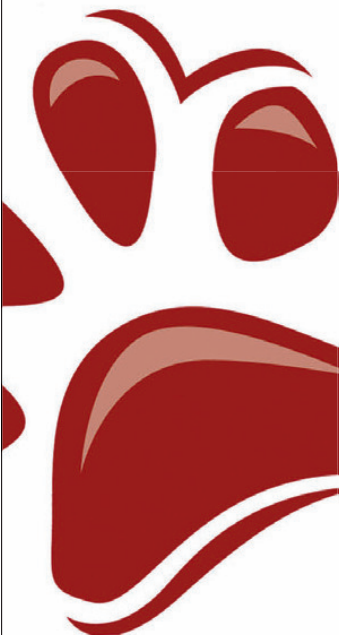
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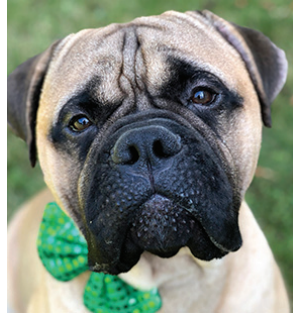
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Town of Delafield



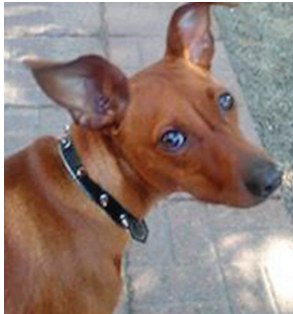
Baxter
Waukesha



Teddy - formerly from
Waukesha, lives in Madison



Ludlow
Waukesha



Dude
Waukesha



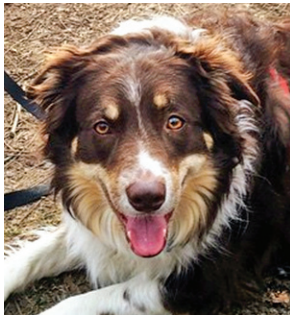
Violet
New Berlin



Charlie Dahl
Waukesha



Zoe
De Pere



Nessie
Waukesha County



Owen
Waukesha County



Gertrude McFuzz
Ottawa, near Dousman



Chloe (R) and Doc (L)
Ottawa, near Dousman



Stella
North Prairie

6 ways to keep an active puppy out of trouble



physical activity for their dogs. Activity to burn off excess energy is vital.

2. Offer mentally stimulating activities. Problem-solving toys and challenges can keep puppies focused on healthy skills that build cognition to exercise the brain. Hide-and-seek, fetch and food-reward games can be great ways to exercise puppies' brains.

3. Keep an eye out. Puppies like to explore the world around them, and that can mean chewing, digging, soiling, and other negative behaviors. The advice site Daily Puppy recommends that owners watch their puppies and keep them in their sight as much as possible. Crating is an effective way to keep puppies out of trouble when owners cannot offer constant supervision. Crates can be safe havens when treated in the right manner.

4. Puppy-proof the home. Look around the house for possible hazards. Move trash into hard-to-reach areas, erect gates to block restricted spaces, address cords and other electrical hazards, and clear counters or tables of easy-to-reach food scraps.

5. Use positive reinforcement. Rewarding dogs when they do the right thing rather than punishing them when they behave badly helps puppies learn manners and how to become good members of the family, offers the AKC. Teaching is also a way to offer exercise and stimulate dogs' minds.

6. Understand the breed. Some dogs are bred for their unique behaviors. For example, a bird dog like an English setter may seek out prey in the yard. Certain concessions may need to be made to keep puppies comfortable. Offering alternative activities that tie into this natural instinct also can work.

Keeping puppies out of trouble can take work, but as they become full-grown dogs, they will learn and negative behaviors will be abandoned.

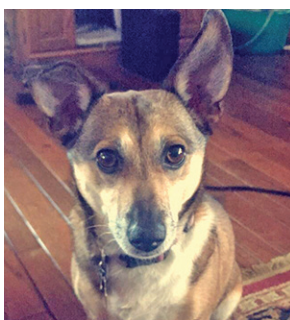
(Metro)

It's hard to resist the beckoning big eyes, soft fur and lovable kisses of a puppy. When that tail begins wagging, it can be easy to forget how much attention and work puppies require.

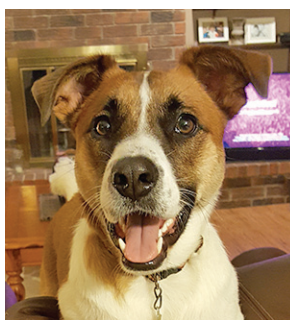
Puppies love to learn about the world and are naturally curious and energetic. Puppies also can become easily bored and mischievous if not given chances to expend their energy.

Puppies do not know what is right and wrong in their new environments and have to learn such lessons through trial and error, often getting into trouble along the way. However, puppy owners can take steps to curb potentially troublesome behaviors.

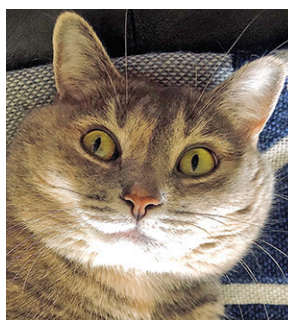
1. Provide a lot of exercise. A tired dog is a well-behaved dog, offer many experts. The American Kennel Club says that puppy parents should speak with their vets and/or trainers about what is a reasonable amount of



Cocoa
Waukesha



Murphy
Mukwonago



Peaches
Waukesha



Cody
Menomonee Falls



Ariel
Waukesha



Rhyleigh
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Zara
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Little Boy
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Akira
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Lucky
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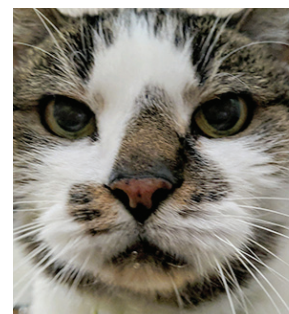
Duck
Waukesha



Sergeant
Waukesha



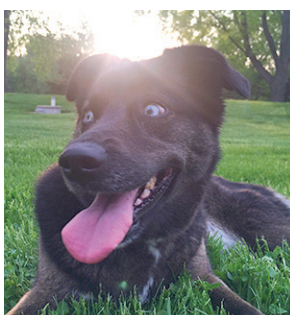
Shiloh
Menomonee Falls



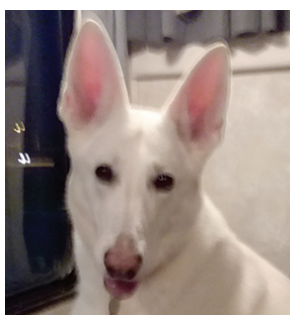
Sweetums
Waukesha County



Tulip, aka Tully
Waukesha



Jade
Waukesha



Blanca
Waukesha County



Chilly
Sussex



Buddy, (8 years old); Poppy, (1 year old); Gracie, (3 years old)
Sussex



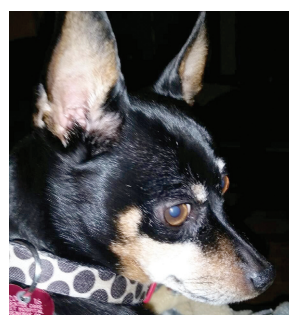
Oscar, fur therapist at
Dr. Amy's Clinic in Waukesha



Marshall, fur therapist at
Dr. Amy's Clinic in Waukesha



Field, fur therapist at
Dr. Amy's Clinic in Waukesha



Shiloh
Waukesha



Teko and Slick
Waukesha



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How to transition your pet's food

The food your pet is eating today may not be the food he or she consumes in the near future.

Pet owners alter their pets' diets for a variety of reasons. These can include food allergies or intolerances that develop, new formulations that boast health benefits or the cost of food. Food transitions also occur when juvenile pets mature into adults and then require different foods to meet age-related dietary requirements.

Anytime pets owners introduce new foods to their pets, owners should follow a gradual introduction process to minimize the risk of potentially negative reactions, which can include loose stool or stomach upset, according to the pet retailer PetSmart. In addition to taking things slowly, pet owners can employ a few other strategies so pets seamlessly transition to their new diets.

- **Choose a similar formulation.** PetMD advises pet owners to find foods with similar formulations if existing foods need to be switched due to a recall or if a brand is no longer carried. That means if you were feeding chicken and rice, look for chicken and rice products when buying new foods. A similar nutritional analysis also can help make the transition go smoothly.

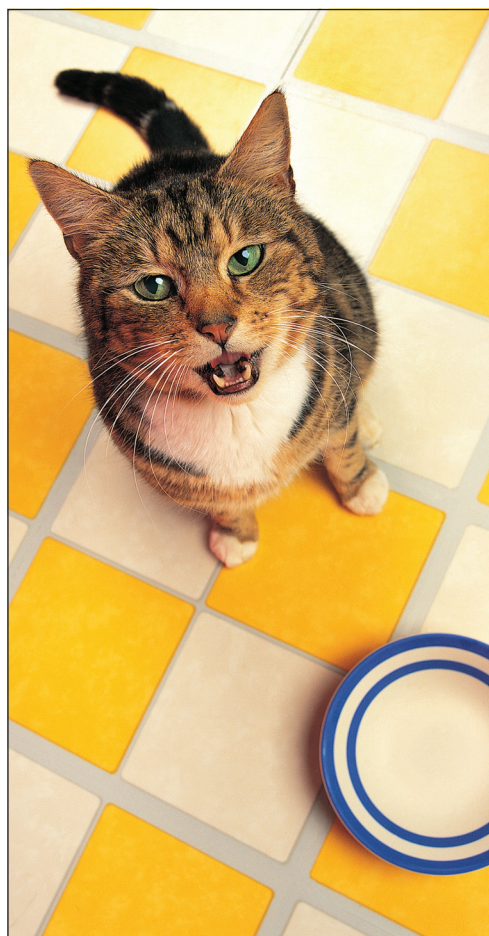
- **Opt for a gradual switch.** Mixing the old food with the new food gradually can ease diarrhea or stomach upset. Hill's Pet Nutrition, the maker of Science Diet®, suggests a seven-day transition. On days one and two, make it 75 percent current food with 25 percent new food. On days three and four, serve a 50-50 mix. On days five and six, the ratio should be 25 percent current food and 75 percent new food. Starting on day seven, serve only new food. Pets with sensitive stomachs may require a transition period that lasts between 10 days and two weeks.

- **Consult with a veterinarian.** If you are unsure about food choices or want advice about making a switch, talk to your veterinarian. He or she can suggest foods, including some that may be breed- and need-specific.

- **Watch for side effects.** It can take as long as 12 weeks before you determine if a diet regimen is working. But most companion animals will resume normal digestive function within a few weeks of transitioning to new foods. Avoid new edible toys or food treats during the transition period to isolate potential food reactions to the new food. If vomiting or diarrhea is present and persists, it could be a result of sensitivity to the new food and a vet should be called.

- **Use the same technique for wet or dry food switches.** When switching from a wet to dry food or vice-versa, adhere to the same gradual transition process.

When transitioning to a new pet diet, adhere to the feeding guidelines on product labels, as portion sizes may need to change depending on differences in nutritional values. (Metro)



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Caring for pets in hot weather

Warm weather can be one of the most dangerous times for your pets, especially if you don't keep track of their overall comfort and hydration.

If you keep your pets outside, it is imperative that you make sure they have plenty of shade and fresh water during warmer days.

Your inside pets are also at risk during walks around the neighborhood. Knowing the risks and being prepared can help keep your pet safe in potentially dangerous weather situations.

Stay healthy in the heat

Talk to your veterinarian about warm-weather risks for pets. They will have great advice on caring for your pets in the heat and for taking the proper precautions to protect their overall health. There are certain parasites to keep your pet clear from during the hot summer months, including ticks, heartworm and fleas. Your vet can prescribe tick, heartworm and flea medicine that keeps your pet in the clear for months at a time.

Heat illnesses

Ask your veterinarian how to recognize signs of heat stress, which can include any of the following signals:

- Excessive panting or drooling
- Restlessness
- Abnormal gum and tongue color
- Collapse

Call your vet's emergency number if you notice any of these signs in your pet. Acting quickly can make the difference between life and death for your pet.

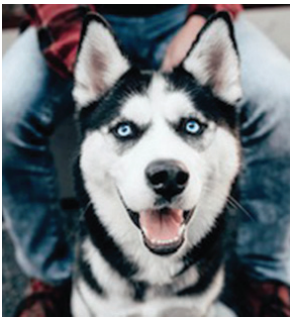
Keep them comfortable

Remember the following rules of thumb when deciding if the heat is likely to impact your pets.

- If it feels warm outside to you, it's even hotter for your pet.
- Plan to take your walks or do your pet exercises during the cooler parts of the day, like the morning or evening hours.
- Try to avoid making your pet walk on hot surfaces like asphalt that can hurt or damage your pet's paws.

With a little prevention and planning, you can ensure a healthy, happy summer season for your furry friends.

(Green Shoot)



Lotus
New Berlin



Mr. Bubbles
Eagle



Chip
Waukesha



Colonel Mustard
Waukesha



Maggie Mae
Waukesha



Abby
Waukesha



Gandalf
Wales



Zoey
Muskego



Layka - Los Angeles
formally of Waukesha



Willow
Palmyra



Alisdair
Madison



Keegan Fullington
Madison



Lefty is a truck driver.
His family appreciates his
hard work! - Franklin



Willow
Delafield



Zoey
Waukesha



Gunner
Waukesha



Goldie
Waukesha



Sangria
Waukesha



Indie
Waukesha



Blastoise
Waukesha



Archie
Waukesha



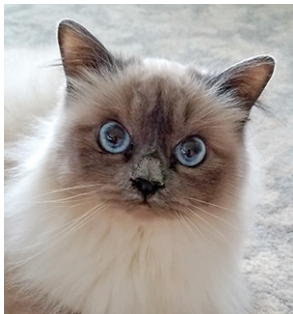
Maggie
Waukesha



Oscar
Waukesha



Chimi
Mukwonago



Pasha
Brookfield.



Coco
Waukesha



Mickey
Oconomowoc



Henry
Brookfield



Ditto
Waukesha



Anna Magdalena
Waukesha



Sadie
City of Pewaukee

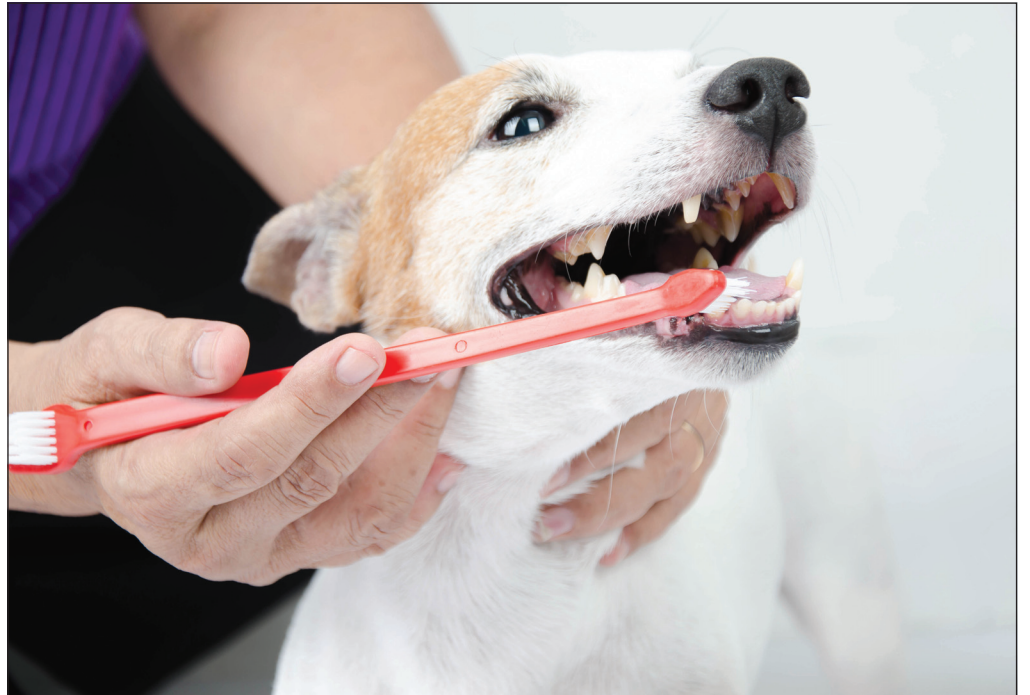


Tommie, age 7; Tia, age 9
Waukesha



Bella
Waukesha

Keeping your dog's teeth clean



When it comes to caring for your pet, you may be able to quickly spot something amiss with their walk, with their fur or in their eyes or ears. One area you may not consistently check is their mouth.

Most dog owners never take a good look at their dog's teeth. This is ultimately harmful to your pet, because according to the American Veterinary Dental College, it's estimated that the majority of dogs show signs of periodontal disease by just three years old.

The best way to ensure your dog's oral health can include ordering a professional cleaning service by a veterinarian. Your vet knows what's best for your dog's teeth and will be able to address any issues she finds, including potentially harmful conditions not easily recognizable by pet owners.

Must-know definitions

To help understand the topic of oral hygiene, let's take a look at a few basic definitions below, provided by the American Veterinary Dental College.

- **Gingivitis:** Inflammation of the gums.
- **Periodontitis:** A general term for a disease of the oral cavity that attacks

the gum and bone and delicate tissues around the teeth.

- **Pyorrhea:** Inflammation of the gums and tooth sockets, often leading to loosening of the teeth and accompanied by pus.

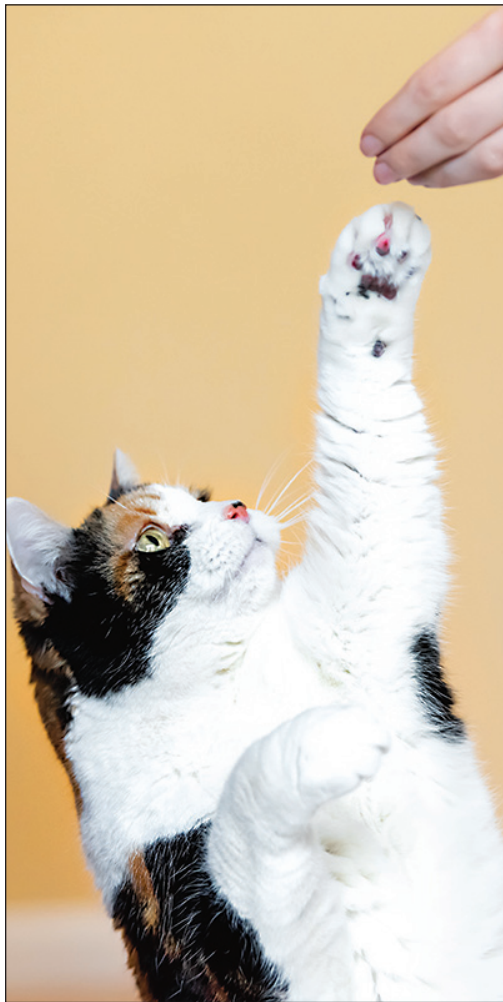
- **Caries:** An area of decalcification of the tooth enamel leading to cavities in the tooth. Caries are very rare in dogs.

- **Plaque:** The first buildup of material adhering to tooth enamel. Composed of a mix of intercellular matrix of bacteria, salivary polymers, remnants of epithelial cells and white blood cells.

- **Calculus (tartar):** Calcium carbonate and calcium phosphate combined with organic material, deposited on the surface of the tooth.

Prevention

One of the best ways to insure optimum oral health is to provide the dog with a well-balanced, meat-based dog food. Meat assists in keeping the mouth environment healthy. If you can, brush your pup's teeth with a brush and paste meant for use in canines. You can even find a flavor he likes to make the experience more pleasant. (Green Shoot)



Cat obedience training

As long as you give them clear directions, cats are smart enough to learn commands and behaviors.

If you've got a stubborn cat, a local pet trainer or feline behavior expert can help. They will be able to build a custom program to help you teach your cats specific, consistent behavior. If you're more of a do-it-yourselfer, read on for tips on training your cat.

Patience is key

When training your cat, remember that patience and positive reinforcement are critical to productive sessions. Punishing your cat can induce stress, leading to behavioral and health problems, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals .

The ASPCA recommends up to two cat training sessions a day, for five minutes or less. This consistency can help turn your kitten into a well-behaved cat in no time.

Use a clicker

Commonly used as training tools for a wide variety of animals, a clicker is one of the best tools you'll find for training your cat. They cost only a couple of dollars and will give you a nice return on your investment.

The noise a clicker makes can keep your cat focused on the job at hand. Remember to reinforce with snacks to help them link their behavior with rewards. If your cat obeys a command, hears the click and then gets a treat, it's more likely to repeat the behavior in the future.

Learning to shake

- Tap your cat's paw while saying "shake."
- Use your clicker when it moves its paw.
- Reinforce with snack or positive feedback.
- Repeat training until your cat offers its paw without prompting from the clicker.

Learning to beg

- Hold a treat just above your cat's head and give a "beg" command.
- When your pet stands on its hind legs and reaches up for the snack, click to mark the behavior.
- Give your cat its treat.
- Practice until your cat begs on command without needing the treat as an incentive.

When to see a vet

Some behaviors aren't normal for a cat. If your kitty has regularly been using its box but suddenly has accidents, something could be wrong. Before starting training, have your pet's health checked. (Green Shoot)



Luna, age 6 months (L) and Willow, age 4 (R)
Waukesha County



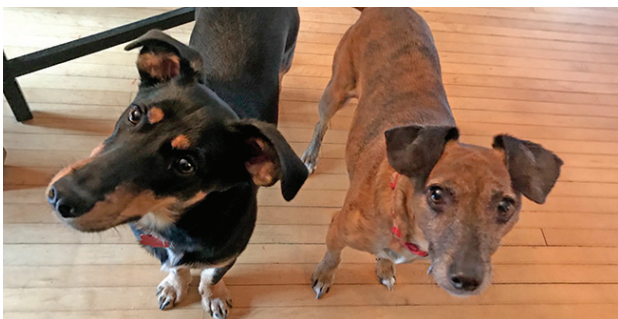
Brandy, 7 years old; Buster 9, years old; Buddy 10, years old
Eagle



Woodrow & Mildred
Waukesha



Felix and Jewels
Pewaukee

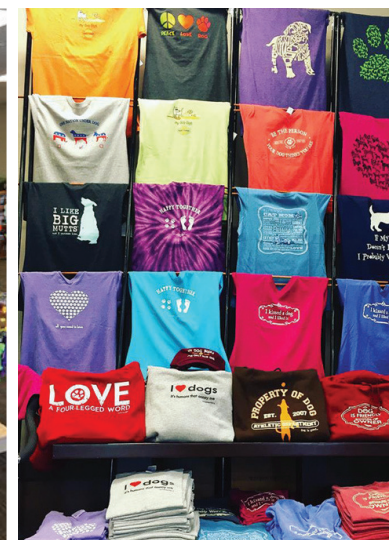


Gadget (L) and Dolly (R)
Waukesha

THANK YOU! We appreciate all of our readers who emailed photos of their pets for the "Wall of Fame." *The Freeman* and *Oconomowoc Enterprise* readers really do love their pets!



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