Dogs Are the Best Family Pet

Your Name

EDD 520

June 22, 2010 (Date Submitted)

Susan Gamez

Dogs Are the Best Family Pet

People often wonder what type of animal would make the best family pet. When making this decision, animals like cats, ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs, fish, and hamsters are among the multitude of choices. However, dogs are quite adorable, and over the past 10,000 years, they have been living at people’s houses for a variety of reasons. Dogs are the best family pets because they are loyal, they are great companions, and they provide protection.

In the first place, dogs are far more loyal than any other pet. While many family pets can share a bond with their owners, one characteristic that sets dogs apart from the others is the loyalty they show, such as how they jump up and down when their owners come home and the way that they like to follow their owners around anywhere they go. This same trait is not true of other pets that typically spend most of their time by themselves and do not interact with people in this same way. One example of a loyal dog is Nicki, who was extremely devoted to six-year-old Cory. “Every day for three weeks, the dog broke free from her leash and ran seven miles to Cory's school. Nicki snoozed and waited outside Cory's classroom until school was over, and then she ran home” (“Dog-gone,” 1998, p. 8). Cory’s parents finally had to build a fence, but not before this story made the national news showing a degree of loyalty that most other types of family pets most likely cannot match.

Next, when compared to other pets, dogs are the best companions because of their versatility. Some dogs like to play fetch with a ball, others prefer tug-of-war with an old sock, and most enjoy doing a variety of “tricks” for the reward of a treat. In addition, dogs can herd cattle, they accompany hunters on their outings, and studies have shown that senior citizens take “twice as many daily walks and feel healthier than neighbors who did not own or walk dogs” (Moore, 2002, para. 7). Of course, if certain breeds are properly trained, they are the most tolerant and beneficial pets for young people and can be extremely helpful if the children have just experienced their parents getting a divorce, a death in the family, or any type of tragedy. Moreover, the benefits of guide dogs for the blind and companion dogs for the handicapped are frequently in news reports.

Then, no other pet provides the type of protection and benefits that dogs can offer in various ways. Historically, the news has been full of reports of dogs that have saved their owners from a gunshot or attack due to their deeply engrained instinct to protect their territory. Not only can dogs protect against intruders and assailants, but they can also help improve a person’s emotional, physical, and mental health. Hyperactive children can be “calmer after being paired with big, happy-go-lucky dogs that provided a positive outlet for their high energy” (Moore, 2002, para. 7). Similarly, in a study of the effect of dog ownership on the ability to lower the blood pressure of their owners, Karen Allen (2001) found that borderline hypertension can be effectively controlled resulting in the elimination of the need for drug therapy with people who live alone and have a dog (para. 6). Even more amazing is a dermatologist in Florida who discovered that a particular “schnauzer is capable of sniffing out hard-to-spot melanomas in some of his patients” (Moore, 2002, para. 7). Most other pets would never be able to do something as remarkable as finding cancer in a person.

In conclusion, because they are extremely loyal, great companions, and alert protectors of their surroundings, dogs are the best choice for a family pet. In fact, many people believe that pet ownership helps them live longer and happier lives. More specifically, people have the greatest advantages available to them when they make the important decision to become a dog owner. After all, history has shown that dogs are “man’s best friend.”

References

Allen, K. (2001, March 24). *Dog ownership and control of borderline hypertension: A controlled randomized trial.* Paper presented at the 22nd Annual Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Seattle, WA. Retrieved January 3, 2003, from <http://www.deltasociety.org/dsx409.htm>

Dog-gone loyal. (1998, April 3). *Time for Kids*, 3(22), 8. Retrieved January 3, 2003, from EBSCOhost database.

Moore, A. (2002, November). Get a pet: Doctor’s orders! *Prevention*, 54(11), 177-179. Retrieved January 3, 2003, from EBSCOhost database.

.