

Reasons Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs

By Dee Em, eHow Contributor

Introduction

Every pet has its own quirks and personality, so deciding between a cat and a dog can be difficult. Further, although most cats will sleep away the day rather than destroy the living room, some will cause willful destruction. However, cats as pets do have certain advantages over their canine counterparts.

Grooming

Cats are both capable and willing to fulfill their own grooming requirements. While many cats may enjoy gentle brushing provided by their owners or will endure an occasional bath, dogs are more likely to rely their owners to provide regular grooming.

Companionship

Cats enjoy being solitary animals; you can easily leave them **home** alone for the day while you go to work. Dogs, however, prefer your company. They are pack animals, and as such, demand more of your time. A dog would rather spend time with you than be home alone.

Exercise

Cats and dogs both benefit from daily exercise. However, the level and rate of exercise requirements can be quite different for each animal. Most dogs need to be taken for walk at least twice a day, regardless of the weather. They may also require more vigorous activities to keep them happy and healthy. Although your cat needs exercise, it will probably be content to chase a ball with or without your participation.

Noise

Dogs often bark at all hours of the day or night, while your cat is sleeping or stalking a mouse quietly in the **backyard**. This is not to say that cats can't be as vocal as dogs; however, it is not as common.

Training

Well-mannered dogs require a certain amount of training. They need to be taught not to jump on people, how to sit and stay, and many other behaviors that make him enjoyable to be around. You may even need to teach your dog to lay down so you can have some quiet time. While your cat can be trained to fetch a ball or walk on a leash, these lessons are more for entertainment than necessity.

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"Reasons Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs"*

Why Dogs Make Good Pets

By Cecilia McCormick, eHow Contributor

INTRODUCTION

If you're thinking about introducing a new pet into your family, there are many types you may consider. One of the most popular pets is a dog. Dogs make good pets when they are matched with the right family. While owning a dog is a big responsibility and not a decision you should make lightly, there are many benefits to owning a dog and reasons why they make good pets.

LOYAL COMPANIONS

While their personalities vary according to the breed and a variety of other factors, one trait remains the same--dogs are loyal companions. Dogs are patient and make great listeners. Many people find themselves telling dogs things they can't tell anyone else. This is what also makes dogs good therapy animals. A dog is an especially good animal for someone who lives alone or is lonely and desires company.

SOCIAL BEINGS

Most dogs are curious by nature. They want to meet other people and animals. Visit a dog park and you will see not only dogs playing together, but their owners meeting new people and socializing. Because a dog requires daily exercise, the owner is more likely to meet others while out and about. Dogs are good conversation starters, and many people are likely to approach someone with a dog.

HEALTH BENEFITS

The health benefits of owning a pet have been studied extensively. Dog owners have lower blood pressure, less anxiety and lower cholesterol. They are less likely to get sick, and when they do get sick they recover quicker than those without dogs. Also, dog owners who suffer a heart attack survive longer than those without a dog. Special therapy dogs can also be trained to assist those with special need.

GUARDIANS

Many dogs are good guardians of the home. While the level of alertness and action the dog will take when faced with danger depends on the dog's breed, personality and training, most dogs will bark and alert the master if there is danger. Dogs have been known to scare off intruders and alert homeowners of fire. Specially trained dogs can also find missing people, detect bombs and drugs and assist disabled people.

EXERCISE

Because a dog requires daily exercise, the owner also benefits from this. Daily exercise promotes a healthy weight, gives you energy and increases your levels of healthy endorphins, making you less likely to be depressed. It also strengthens your muscles and bones. Dogs are creatures of habit and will often motivate you to get into a routine and walk or play with them.

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