

Pet Partners

GCCOA Newsletter March 2021



Long Distance Adoption

Mindy moved to New York City from Xenia many years ago and, despite living in apartments, always had pets. During the lockdown, she has been grateful for the company of Oscar, a friendly Lab mix. Mindy recently learned about a woman who had to move to an assisted living facility which would not accept her cat. Mindy drove 100 miles to Philadelphia to pick up Herbie the cat and brought him home to Oscar.



Mindy says Herbie has settled in well although he is still a bit wary of Oscar, who desperately wants to be friends with his new roommate. Patience, Oscar!



94% of pet owners say their animal pal makes them smile more than once a day.

Spring is coming

and the new season promises light and color and all sorts of new beginnings. We are highlighting stories about Pet Adoptions and how those first few days and weeks are memorable. We also want to put the spotlight on some more “exotic” pets that you may not have imagined for yourself. Variety and fresh perspectives that is what I think about as the greys and browns of winter gradually give way to bright spots of green and yellow and purple spring blooms. We hope you will find ways to welcome Spring letting our Pet Partners show us the way to be joyful.



Adopting a Playmate for Johnnie Mae

In the last newsletter, Caroline shared a photo of their dog Johnnie Mae with her cat, Mufasa. The cat was glad to snuggle but didn't like to play puppy games like chase, fetch and tug of war. Thirteen-year-old Jipsy the dog had died in October and Johnnie Mae was becoming a bit anxious and definitely bored. Caroline and her family contacted Stray Haven, a dog rescue organization that saves dogs from Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

It took about a month after applying and being approved to be matched to a 14 week old puppy, a Corgi-Shepherd mix named Georgia. She was only 12 pounds when she arrived, but she is learning from her big (120 lb) sister



how to be a dog and play all the right games. She may never be even 25% as big as Johnnie Mae but she is rapidly on her way to being the top dog.

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Another Successful Adoption

Carol tells us that 10 years ago they rescued lab-mix Riley, now 10 1/2 years. A month ago, Riley welcomed her new sister, Rooney. They adopted Rooney last month through the “Fabulous Flunky” program with 4 Paws for Ability. She is a 15 month old Golden-doodle who came to them fairly well trained as a family pet, who was not cut out to be a therapy dog. It took all of 10 minutes for the dogs to be great friends! Rooney is a bundle of fluffy energy and has been a positive, playful influence on Riley ... as well as on Gary and Carol.

Pandemic Pet Adoptions

In 2020, when lockdowns were put in place, many people decided a dog or cat could help with the new normal of no school and no friends. Soon, stories appeared about empty pet shelters.

It’s more than a year later, and fortunately there has *not* been an increase in returned pets, so it seems that those recently adopted pets are now forever family members.

Pets during the Pandemic

Research has shown that our pets have mostly done well during the pandemic. They enjoy our company and having more attention is better than less. Being around pets constantly enables us to learn more about them, and how they interact with us and each other.

A new children's book published in 2021 called "When Will They Leave?" was written from a dog's point-of-view. He wonders about the constant presence of his family at home. He finds there is a lot less sleeping during the day with people all around. And his human siblings keep dressing him up in a princess dress or football jersey.

Working remotely and having a pet in the house has caused some comical problems, with inappropriate barking and intrusions of a strolling cat into video calls. Some worry that there will be problems when their humans go back to the office, leaving the dog or cat alone all day. That could be a problem for pets adopted during the pandemic, who never knew the long hours of an empty house. Older pets should get used to it fairly quickly.



Exotic Pets

Many of us share our homes with dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, or birds, but how many have unusual or even exotic pets? Some people enjoy having unusual pets, like our Melissa’s brother:

“It all started with an ant farm I got from my Grandma when I was little. I have owned everything from fish, dogs and hamsters to tarantulas, sugar gliders and hedgehogs. Being able to share the love of animals and taking care of them has always been a passion of mine personally and professionally.” *Kevin Vuckovich – 43 years old*

