# Professional Pet Sitting, Etc.

## NEWS letter March 2016

### *Tips for Selling a Home with Pets*

Selling a home with pets takes a few extra steps in order to make sure the home is ready for any potential buyer who walks in the front door. The last thing you want is for someone to automatically exclude your home from their list due to a pet related issue. In order to remove any stigma in a buyer's mind, it is best to minimize as much as possible the fact that your home houses a pet. Yes, your pet is your pride and joy, but not everyone who views your home will agree Rascal and his residual damage and odor is the cat's meow!

The following tips can guide you in getting your home ready for sale by taking care of any pet related issues:

**Repair Pet Damage** ~ Check furniture, walls, molding, doors and flooring for any damage and repair them effectively, if possible. With furniture pieces, any item that cannot be repaired should be stored. The fact that potential buyers can see pet damage on your furniture may lead buyers to think there is more damage around the house, even if they can't see it right away.

**Put Pet Odors at Bay** ~ Most pet parents become accustom to the smells that non-pet owners may readily notice. Regardless of whether there are pet smells or not, have your carpet and furniture steam cleaned before listing your home for sale. The smell of pet odors can easily turn a potential buyer off the scent of your home.

**Enhance the Great Outdoors** ~ Great landscaping adds to the curb appeal of your home and draws buyers in, making them want to see the rest of the house. Pick up after your pet regularly and keep your yard clean and in good order. Ensure your lawn is wet enough to absorb the nitrogen from your pet's urine, avoiding yellow spots.

**Be Considerate of Your Pet** ~ Buyers coming and going can be stressful for your pet. Be sure to have a plan in place for your pet during times your home is being shown.

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**Shelter Dogs Get Surgeries with Funds Donated by the Public**

Three shelter dogs from the Humane Society for Greater Nashua are now one step closer to their goal of adoption thanks to generous donations from the public via a GoFundMe page.

All three required medical care before they would be available for adoption. One of the three dogs, Diamond, was sent to the shelter by a family that became unable to care for her. With the donated funds, Diamond received successful treatment for an eye condition.

The other two dogs, Kit Kat and Lily, were found abandoned. Kit Kat had chronic ear infections and ingrown nails, and Lily required surgery for a rear knee that was holding on by only a tendon.

All three dogs are in various stages of recovery, with all having very different surgeries, but shelter officials are very happy to see a strong response from the public after launching the campaign to help the animals, raising almost $12,000!

Kudos to those who donated giving these three pups a new lease on life!

### *Interesting Cat Facts*

- When a cat blinks slowly, it means she trusts you completely.
- Cats have adapted meowing as a way to communicate with people. Cats rarely meow to one another, and feral cats are mostly silent.
- Cats rub against your leg for the same reason you give someone a hug - as a show of affection.
- Cats swallow and digest their food without chewing it.
- To a cat, there is no clear correlation between her action and your reaction. Cats don't understand punishment like humans do.

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## *The Three Stages of Your Senior Kitty's Life*

Cats are officially "seniors" by the time they reach 10 years of age. Fortunately, kitties today live well into their teens and even early 20s, so a 10-year-old, healthy "senior" cat still has lots of living to do!

At 10 - 12 years, most cats have slowed down a bit and tend to feel more stress in response to changes in their routine or environment. Cats at this age can also begin to develop the same types of health problems that older people face, including diabetes, kidney disease, arthritis and hyperthyroidism. That is why it is so important to schedule a twice-yearly wellness visit with your veterinarian. The sooner a change in your kitty's health is identified and addressed, the better the long-term outcome.

At 13 - 15 years, many cats experience some loss of vision and hearing, and can also develop age-related cognitive dysfunction. Kitties at this age tend to nap more often and may grow a bit crabby and become easily annoyed. Frequent geriatric work-ups provided by your vet are essential to maintaining your cat's good health.

A 16-year-old cat can be compared to an 80-year-old human. A kitty aged 16 or older is moving and thinking more slowly and is not as alert or responsive as he once was. He probably has a few age-related health issues as well. It's a good idea to keep a journal of any changes you notice in your senior cat, including his appetite and water consumption, signs of constipation or incontinence, aggressive behavior, and/or mental confusion. Signs that a cat is in pain can include panting, teeth grinding, hiding, shortness of breath, loss of interest in food, and/or lethargy.

As a senior cat parent, there are many things you can do to help your senior enjoy a good quality of life. Providing proper nutrition and senior supplements, opportunities for exercise and environmental enrichment, and setting aside time each day to share positive interaction with your kitty can all go a long way in helping him live his best life!

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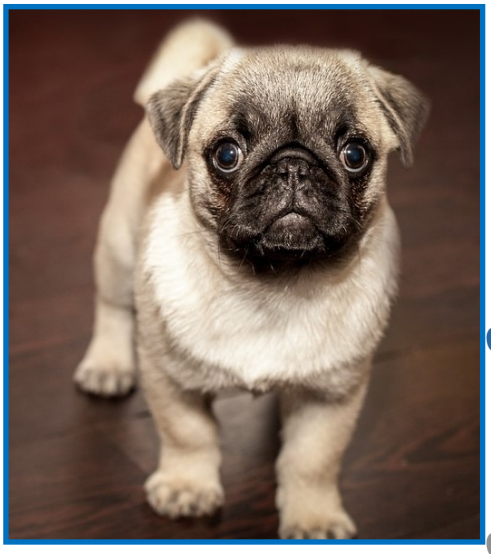
### Possible Reasons for Your Pooch's Whining

A lot can be learned from the sound of a dog's whine, as it is one of the most versatile forms of communication they have. Here are the top reasons why dogs whine:

1. **Stress** ~ Whining is one of the key signs of stress. If it is accompanied by cowering, panting, pacing or any other stress signal, it is a good indication your pooch is over his threshold in terms of his stress level.
2. **Appeasement** ~ If your dog whines when meeting a new person or animal, he will whine as he displays appeasement behaviors such as crouching, tucking his tail between his legs and avoiding eye contact. This is a sign of low confidence and means your dog may need help overcoming his fears when meeting new people and pets.
3. **Excitement** ~ If your pup's entire body wiggles in unison with his loud whines, as if he can't control himself, he is simple excited. It may be a good idea to work on calming behaviors with your excitable pooch.
4. **Attention** ~ Whining is a surefire attention -seeking method for some dogs, especially puppies. Just like a baby cries for attention, so does a dog whine. Be careful! If you give in regularly, this whining can soon turn into barking!



***Save the Date!***

The ***Pawsitively Pet Expo*** is coming to Nashua Sunday, May 15th from 9 am - 1 pm!

Celebrate all things with four legs, fins, wings and whiskers with pets from all over NH and their pet parents at Daniel Webster College. You and your pet can enjoy vendors, product demos, prizes and give-aways. Don't have a pet? The Humane Society for Greater Nashua will be on site with available pets.