

THE PET CONNECTION

By Deb Waldron

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WHY DO WE LOVE OUR PETS SO MUCH?

Ever wonder why the bond between man and animals can be so strong? What is it about soft fur and wet noses that warm our hearts so? We've all experienced it, (and if you haven't you need to!), the way that animals can make everything right in the simplest of ways, whether by gazing at us with soft brown puppy eyes, or purring us to sleep at night. What is this hold, this inexplicable, beautiful connection that we have with the animal kingdom?

If you want to go back to the beginning of one well read book, we can find a clue to this relationship we share with the animals. In Genesis Chapter 2, verses 19-20, it says:

“Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beast of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was it's name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beast of the field.”

Now you know as well as I do, that as soon as you give something a name it's yours, right? I mean how many of us have fed the neighborhood stray cat and thought, well, I'll just put this food out for the poor thing Until the end of the second week when you start calling the cat Mr. Jinx, and voila! he becomes your pet because you've named him. Your whole relationship to him changes, now you feel responsible and concerned for his welfare. You've made the “love connection”, intimacy begins with the giving of a name.

God gave Adam the first “pets” in the garden of Eden, to be a comfort to him, and company for him, so that he wouldn't be lonely. (Then God made Eve, but that's for another column ;) If we use the Bible as our reference, we see that man had an intimate relationship with the animal kingdom right from the start. So maybe it shouldn't come as a surprise that we love and need our pets so much, or that they are still comforting us today with their unconditional love, antics, and companionship. Perhaps they truly are heaven sent.

PAWS FOR REFLECTION

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul is unawakened.” - Anatole France

Would you like to see a certain topic discussed in a future column of The Pet Connection? Send an email to Debbie@PamperedPawsSalon.com

