

Giving Thanks For Our Animals on Thanksgiving
Daniel Estep, Ph.D. and Suzanne Hetts, Ph.D.
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On this Thanksgiving weekend, we thought we'd take a humorous look at what we, as a pet owning family, have to be thankful for this year. We are thankful that:

- when Ashley, our young Dalmatian, jumped out the car window to greet our neighbor, that the car was parked in the driveway rather than going down the street.
- when our cat, Buffett, jumped the fence to visit our neighbor's backyard party, that all he did was visit, rather than decide he'd found the perfect new bathroom area.
- our male Dalmatian, Mocha recovered well from his surgery to remove bladder stones, which, it was discovered during surgery, he had already passed.
- when Mocha and Ashley got into a wrestling match and knocked a lamp off a table, it didn't break.
- Mocha didn't get sick from the chicken bones he dug out of the trash.
- when Ashley jumped up and literally caught a bird on the wing, she let it go and the bird flew away unhurt.
- when we caught Ashley on the dining room table, we had already cleared the table from dinner.
- when the wind blew the front door open and Ashley dashed across the street to visit the neighbor's dogs that she wasn't hit by a car.
- both Ashley and Mocha knew how to swim when they jumped into a pond on our friends' pastureland.
- when Buffett jumped onto the dining room table and landed on a pile of slick magazines that caused him to go sliding to the floor, he had the typical cat's ability to right himself before he landed.
- when Buffett bit the veterinarian as he was trying to draw his blood, that it didn't break the skin.

While these examples may make it seem as though our critters are more trouble than they're worth, that's definitely not the case. When they all snuggle up on the bed with us at night when we watch TV, we wouldn't trade them for anything. On a more serious note, we would like to express a huge thank you to our veterinarians who take such wonderful care of us and our animals, our friends in Gunnison who cared for Mocha and Ashley for several weeks this summer and our housesitter who takes such good care of everybody when we travel. Last, we are thankful that our Tipper-Cat, who died this year at the age of 19, is now at peace. We think of you most every day, Miss Tipp, and still miss you terribly. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and your critters.

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