

## What Animals Want From Us

In the last two Greater Cincinnati Pet pages I have written about the most frequently asked questions that pet owners have asked me during the thirty five plus years I have been doing animal communication work. This edition I would like to discuss a subject our pets would like to tell us.

Without being morbid I would like to mention the recent television news programs in the Greater Cincinnati area have filled with horrible stories of the terrible, cruel and hateful things that humans have been doing to animals. Needless to say, you the readers of the Pet Pages are not the people who are responsible for these awful acts. You are reading this because you have pets that you love and care for very much. You want your pets to be happy and healthy. You often go to great lengths to take the best possible care of them.

A pet is a choice. No one has to have an animal. It is our decision to bring an animal into our life. They can give as much as they receive often a great deal more.

What do animals want from us? They want to be treated decently. Some of us carry this to extremes. That is just fine as far as I am concerned. We cannot treat them too well unless we are doing something like over feeding them or causing them to have problems unnecessarily. Sometimes we are asking our animals to do things that are beyond their ability to do.

Often we ask our dog(s) to spend many hours alone (while we are away at work) in a crate or small area of the house without going to the bathroom, with no food or water or ability to move more than a few feet. If the dog does go to the bathroom in the crate we often become angry with them. How many hours can you go without using the restroom at work or without having a drink of water? I know this is a difficult issue to solve. We need to keep them safe while we are away and finding a reliable pet walker or daycare can be more than the budget will allow. We do the best we can do.

Cats have their own set of issues. I have never met a cat who liked using a filthy litter box. I am not fond of using a dirty rest room. They are no different than we are in that respect.

What I am suggesting is that when we get home we can be more understanding of the accident that happened when your dog just could not wait any longer or when the cat's litter box is full and they decide to go on the floor instead. I know you are tired after a long day at work and you still have plenty of work to do now that you are home.

Your dog is tired of being cramped in a crate. Try to find a few minutes to walk the dog or play with them. If there is more than one person in your household maybe someone can be the designated person to see to the animal's needs. They ask very little of us. A little attention goes a long way toward making your pet happy. The time we spend with them is part of why we decided to bring them into our homes in the first place – isn't it? They give us so much love and enjoyment. Try to see a situation from their point of view. Just give a little thought to their needs too.