

It's a Wonderfur Life



As 2020 comes to an end, many of us are taking time to reflect on a year that has brought about many professional and personal challenges. It's no news, nine months into the pandemic, that the Coronavirus has severely altered the way we work and live. Like many companies, we moved to a largely remote workforce with the onset of the Coronavirus this Spring. Though it's been strange and difficult at times, this not-so-new norm has allowed us to connect in interesting ways. A way that has been very special to us is through our pets.

There's nothing that offers a window into a colleague's life quite like a Zoom meeting. And (if you are a pet owner you already know) there's nothing like a Zoom meeting to inspire a star performance from a pet. Our furry co-workers have proven themselves invaluable: providing much-needed comic relief, humanizing our now very digital interactions, and offering us opportunities to bond over some of the things we hold most dear.

Pets, as it turns out, have been a surprising silver lining to the restrictions of COVID-life. They act as stand-in companions when we are missing the company of our officemates and force us to exercise when we are living an unusually sedentary lifestyle. New studies indicate that our pets can actually combat the negative mental health outcomes that many are experiencing due to the pandemic. Pet ownership has been shown to reduce depression, loneliness, and stress – they have even been linked to an increase in productivity!

But we aren't the only ones benefiting. Working remotely means more pats, cuddles, and treats for our fur-family. In fact, you might say that pets are the winners of the pandemic. By April, shelters across the nation had reported a spike in adoptions and fostering requests.

So, in this time of retrospection, during the season when we consider for what we are most grateful, we'd like to take a moment to formally thank our four-legged friends:

Beau, Boomer, Thor, Winchester, Kai, Dr. Happy Hofstadter, Simi, Barney, Astrid, Louie, Nico, Ralphie, Giovanni, Mrs. Puggles, Remington, Bella, Lumpy, Sebastian, Ludo, Sita, Kana, Moshi, and Puddles.

You're the best.

*Visit us on social media (LinkedIn, Twitter, or Instagram) for the 12 Days of Petmas.