



Hello everybody! It's sure great to see the nicer weather; I just love this time of year! I hope everyone learned something about introducing your existing pet to a new pet. If you have any questions or are interested in finding a new pet to introduce to your family, please be sure to let us know.

This month we are going to continue with adding new members of the family, and talk about how to properly introduce a new baby to your pet family.



TIPS ON INTRODUCING YOUR
NEW BABY:

Introducing a new baby is an exciting time. It can also be a stressful time, which is why properly preparing ahead to introduce your baby to your animal family is very important.

PRE-BABY:

- ✓ If your pet is particularly attached to the mother-to-be, than another family member should step in and develop a closer relationship to the animal. This will relieve any feelings of abandonment when the mother is busy taking care of the baby.
- ✓ Make sure your pet is up to date on all vaccinations and has had a thorough pet health exam before the baby arrives.
- ✓ Consult with your veterinarian at this time if you have any concerns or questions about how your pet will behave. This is the time to resolve any behavior issues that your pet is having. This may mean consulting with a pet behavior specialist if there are major behavior problems to resolve.
- ✓ Make sure your pet is spayed or neutered. Altered pets have less behavioral and health issues.
- ✓ Take your pet to an obedience class. This will reinforce all the positive behavior in your pet and give your pet a boost of confidence. This includes basic commands like 'sit', 'stay' and 'down'. Train your pet to only come onto your lap or the bed/couch when asked.
- ✓ Accustom your pet to new baby-related noises: baby crying, mechanical swing, rocking chair, and soft music. Make these noises positive experiences by rewarding your pet while they are playing.
- ✓ The baby room should be off limits. Do this by putting up a baby gate or barrier or even a screen door so your pet can still be included.
- ✓ To discourage your pet from jumping on any baby furniture use double sided tape on the edges of the furniture.

- ✓ A couple months before the baby arrives, start carrying around a baby doll, calling it by the baby's name. Start taking the baby on walks in a stroller with your pet and do routine baby activities, like bathing and diaper changing. Talk to your pet about the baby while you're doing these.
- ✓ Sprinkle baby-smelling products on your skin and clothes so your pets can get use to the smell.
- ✓ And finally make arrangements for your pets to be provided for while you are at the hospital.

POST-BABY:

- ✓ Before bringing your new baby home, have someone bring home a baby blanket with your baby's smell so the pets can investigate.
- ✓ When you return home, have someone else carry the baby into the house. This way you can give the pets the attention they are going to want after you have been absent for a couple days.
- ✓ After giving your pets attention, you can sit down with the baby and let the animals come and investigate. Make sure you have treats on hand to make this meeting a positive experience. ALWAYS supervise your animals around the baby.
- ✓ Even though life will be chaotic for a while, try and maintain a regular pet routine. Keep feeding times and play times the same if possible. And don't forget to take a few minutes out of the day to spend with the pets. This will alleviate stress and help relax them and you!

WHAT'S NEW ON THE HILL:

We decided to do this topic because I have to learn first hand how to introduce 9 cats, 1 dog and 2 bunnies to our new baby come August. My husband, Dave, and I (Megan) are expecting our

first baby, a girl, hopefully no later than August 2nd. 😊 I did well introducing the bunnies to each other; we will see how well it goes introducing a new baby to our pets! Here is a picture. It is in 3-D so it is pretty neat looking.



DR. TIDBIT BY DR. AARON POLLOCK:

Spring has sprung! Happy Easter! As we celebrate spring's arrival and the Easter holiday, let us not forget some potential pitfalls to avoid, keeping our furry friends out of harm's way.

First- Please try and keep our pets from encountering poisonous plants- especially the Easter lily- it can prove fatal if ingested by our cats!

Second- Try your best to resist "spur of the moment" pet purchases, such as chicks, ducklings and lambs; remember they grow up into adults. If you want a bunny and are unsure if you can care for it, buy a chocolate one first. 😊

Third- Be careful of our Easter decorations- especially Easter grass. Animals love it- and it rarely passes through the digestive tract. Also, avoid giving small toys and Easter candy to our pets, especially chocolate.

And last... for you fisherman out there waiting to bait the hook.. Keep smelly baits and lures away from our pets; they are sometimes easier to catch than fish. 😊

ADOPTIONS:

I am happy to report that 3 of our 5 cats have gotten adopted. The first one left only after a couple days of being here; thanks Linda Blake for rescuing her! The other 2 that were adopted were the mom and baby; special thanks to Jenny Hayhurst and family and R. Britt Earp and family! We still have Mork and Mindy, the 10-month-old brother and sister duo. They have both been felv/fiv tested, vaccinated, de wormed, altered and are ready to go. They both have great personalities and love to roll on their backs and get petted. They are not best friends, so they could easily be separated. Mork loves dogs!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Animal Friends is hosting two fun events this month. The first is the annual Canine Egg Fetch on Saturday April 4th at Marilla Park at 1:00 p.m. Registration is at 12:30 and the entry fee is by donation. This is a fun event where your pet can hunt Easter eggs and win prizes. It's always fun to see all the dogs picking up their own Easter eggs!

And the second fun event is the annual Cash Bash. The Cash Bash will be held at the Elks Lodge on Chestnut Ridge Road on Saturday April 25th at 6 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 p.m. The tickets are \$25 per person and this includes food and drink. Tickets are available at Lucky's Attic, Woof's, and Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic or by calling 290-0161. It's a really good time and a great opportunity to support the animals.

All proceeds from these fund-raisers will support it's no-kill animal sanctuary.

RECIPE:

In honor of Easter, our recipe this month is:

CANINE CARROT COOKIES:

2 cups carrots- boiled and pureed

2 eggs

2 T garlic- minced

2 cups unbleached flour or rice or rye flour

1 cup rolled oats

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup wheat germ

Combine carrots, eggs and garlic. Mix until smooth. Add dry ingredients. Roll out on heavily-floured surface and cut into bars or desired shapes. Bake at 300° for 45 minutes or to desired crunchiness. The centers will continue to harden as they cool.

Brush with egg white before baking for a glossy finish.

This treat is o.k. for cats too. If you can get a cat to eat carrots, let me know! 😊 Bunnies might enjoy these, though!

THAT IS ALL WE HAVE FOR APRIL'S NEWSLETTER. I HOPE YOU LEARNED SOMETHING. I KNOW I DID! 😊 PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. HAVE A GREAT EASTER!!