

Kids and Pets



By Suzanne Hladun

Each year, almost four million animals end up in shelters awaiting adoption. Many pets are surrendered by parents when a new baby joins the family. However, with care and supervision, children and animals can grow up safely together and create lasting and wonderful relationships. Animals can provide companionship; teach responsibility and help children learn to care about someone other than themselves.

Also, children raised with animals in the home experience fewer allergies. Building a successful child/pet relationship takes careful planning and involvement by the parents. Not only will your pet need to be trained how to act around your child, your child must be taught how to treat your pet with respect and care. There are many avenues available to parents wanting to raise children and pets together that can provide information and support. Local humane agencies, your veterinarian and online resources are just the beginning.