

How Pet Animals Can Change Your Life

By CC Huffhines

As I grew up in the small town of Richardson, Texas I had no pet. It was the policy of my parents that no animal was permitted in the house. Close as I came to have a pet was playing with chickens, which we had in spades, primarily for eating. Chasing chickens about the enclosed area soon became a non-joy to me, knowing that the very chicken I found so amusing might become our dinner.

Later, I fell for a girl in Fort Worth who had a pet dog named Bo, and it became necessary to love the dog in order to win her approval. The small dog was easy to love, and soon I was walking about with Bo on a leash, assuming the position of an experienced dog lover. The times that Bo became free of the leash, we both entered into a race. This created a time of laughter from family and passerby. I seldom won the race. Bo rewarded me by returning to the leash.

The cutest animals I have personally experienced are baby pandas, which were being protected by a group in Chengdu, China. They were so tame that I could hold two of the babies in my arms, with no protest from the mothers.

My eldest daughter, Lisa, attended University of Colorado in Boulder. There she became owner of a darling pug dog, named Elvis. This all happened away from me in Texas. Years later, Lisa became single again and we joined forces in a Denver condo. There I, once again, became attached to the best pet dog I could imagine. Unfortunately, Elvis died. We hoped to fill his space with two cute kittens from local sources. Both kittens are now full-grown cats. They fill our current needs, but we often both speak of replacing the cats for a dog. If that becomes a fact, a new life story will surely result.