



# Playing with Pet Pals

The relationship between a pet and its owner is timeless and universal. Whether it is a bearded dragon, a cat or dog, there is a unique, unspoken bond between the animal and human.

For some people, having a pet runs in the family. Sometimes, having a certain kind of pet or breed of dog is important. And in other cases, having a name that stays in the family is also significant.

Deanna Cole has had her German Shepherd, Ripper, for the past 11 years. Her husband wanted the dog and they found an ad in the paper and picked up the dog when he was five weeks old.

“His grandfather had two Rippers, so this is the third in our family,” she says.

The most rewarding part for most pet owners is the companionship.

Jess Powell has two dogs – a seven-year-old chocolate lab and a five-year-old husky. He brings the dogs to the park almost every morning, and says it’s good for him and the dogs to get out of the house.

On the way to the dog park, Powell drives by the Tim Hortons to get a coffee for himself and a couple of timbits for the dogs.

Cliff Maclean has a two-year-old Alaskan Malamute named Nanuk. He also enjoys the friendship with his big dog.

“They’re great companions and funny clowns,” he says. “One hundred pounds of Malamute on your bed in the morning is a very effective alarm clock.”

For many pet owners, their animals are more than just their pets. They are their lifelong companions – someone who will always love them unconditionally.

This is true for Jordan Buskard, the owner of a four-year-old pit-bull named Carter. “He’s with me through thick and thin.”

Story by Megan Voss



Top: Deanna Cole with German Shepherd Ripper, photo by Chloë Ellingson. Top left: Jenn Faulkner with German Pointer Hackett, photo by Sarah O. Swenson. Top right: Noah Widder with bearded dragons Mr. Big and Viola, photo by Brynn Campbell. Middle left: Julie Slaughter with cat Luther, photo by Cassandra Davidson. Middle right: Melanie Jardine with hound Max, photo by Stephanie James. Bottom right: Jordan Buskard with pit-bull cross Carter, photo by Dan Pearce.