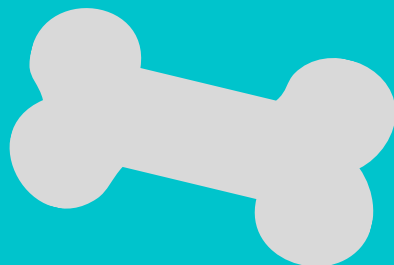
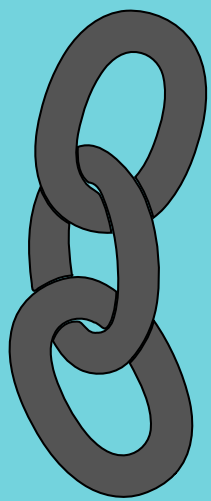


INCORPORATING PETS IN FAMILY

Healthy Communication - Unseen Benefits of Family Pet Involvement



ATTACHMENT



IN A STUDY WITH 8 FOSTER CHILDREN, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT CHILDREN WITH THE MOST INSECURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH HUMANS WERE STILL WILLING TO CREATE BONDS WITH ANIMALS/PETS. THIS ASSISTED THEM WITH CREATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HUMANS LATER ON. (CARR ET AL., 2017)

WHEN PROPERLY CARED FOR, ANIMALS ARE A SAFE AND STABLE RESOURCE INSIDE OF THE HOME.

ALTHOUGH THE ATTACHMENT PROCESS IS USED BETWEEN MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, THIS THEORY APPLIES TO CHILDREN AND PETS BECAUSE OF THE BOND THAT IS FORMED.

YOUTH

IN AN INTERVIEW STUDY, CHILDREN AGED 7-12 TALKED ABOUT THEIR PETS WHILE THE INTERVIEWER CHANGED TOPICS. AFTER THE SUBJECT CHANGE, CHILDREN BROUGHT UP THEIR PETS AGAIN. THIS STUDY EXPLORED THE BOND STRENGTH BETWEEN CHILDREN AND THEIR PETS. (JALONGO, 2015)



ATTACHMENTS ARE FORMED AT A YOUNG AGE, AND AT THIS YOUNG AGE, WE LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS AND FORM RELATIONSHIPS.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN HAVE ADMITTED THAT THEIR PET IS THEIR MOST LOVING RESOURCE. THE YOUNGER THE CHILD, THE CLOSER THEY FEEL TO THEIR PET. APART FROM AGE, FAMILIES WITH ONLY ONE CHILD SEE THEIR PET AS A SIBLING OR SECOND CHILD.

FAMILY PETS HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP SECURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANIMALS AND OTHER CHILDREN.

DEVELOPMENT



SECURE ATTACHMENT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF A CHILD'S LIFE DUE TO THE FACT IT DEVELOPS THEIR SELF-IMAGE AND PERSONALITY, AND TEACHES HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS.

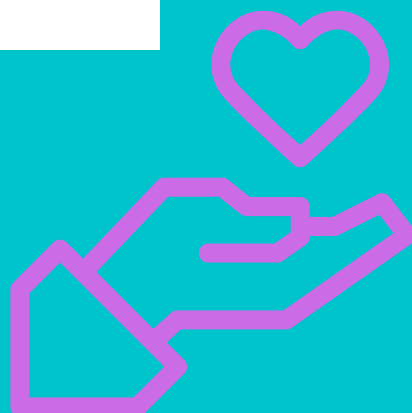
CHILD DEVELOPMENT IS SURE TO BE CHANGED THROUGHOUT A CHILD'S LIFETIME, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE IN FOSTER CARE. THIS MEANS THAT PETS CAN ALTER THE COURSE OF A CHILD'S LIFE AND INFLUENCE POSITIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

YOUNG ADULTS OR THOSE PREPARING TO HAVE CHILDREN WILL OFTEN OWN A PET BEFORE DOING SO. THIS PROVIDES THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO NURTURE AND CARE FOR A CHILD.

PETS OFFER EXPERIENCE FOR ADULTS AS WELL. THIS INCLUDES LEARNING HOW TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES, COMMUNICATION AND PROBLEM SOLVING, AND FAMILY ORGANIZATION. (WALSH, 2009)

SUPPORT

ACCORDING TO OBSERVATIONS, PETS ARE SEEN AS EQUALS TO CHILDREN DUE TO THE FACT THAT ANIMALS ARE DEPENDENT ON THEIR CAREGIVERS JUST AS MUCH AS CHILDREN ARE. THIS CREATES A STRONG FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM, PETS ARE MOST VALUED IN TIMES OF LOSS, AND CAN PROVIDE A HEALTHY COPING MECHANISM FOR FAMILY MEMBERS. PET-FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND IS A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP. (RESIBIG, 2017)



CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO PLAY AND INTERACT WITH DOGS; THEREFORE, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE PRIMARY CAREGIVERS TO THE PETS IN THE FAMILY.

DOGS RECIPROCATATE FEELINGS WHEN THE PRIMARY CAREGIVERS TREAT THEM WELL. THIS IS A POSITIVE RESOURCE CHILDREN CAN USE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

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