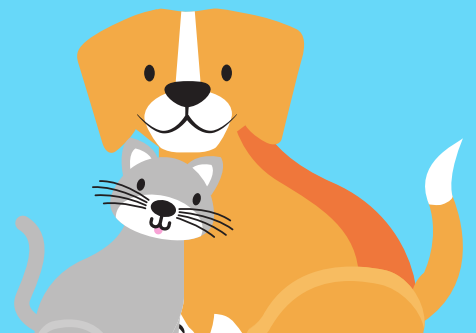


Life-Hacks All Pet Owners Need To Know

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Abstract

Pet ownership brings joy, companionship, and endless love, but it also comes with challenges that require smart solutions. From cleaning up after your furry friend to managing their health, behavior, and overall well-being, there are countless hacks that can make life easier for both you and your pet. Learn how to tackle common issues like shedding, pet odors, and accidents with minimal effort. Discover creative DIY toys, grooming tips, and cost-effective solutions for pet care. These life-hacks are designed to simplify your routine, save time and money, and ensure your pet stays happy, healthy, and loved. Whether you're a first-time pet parent or a seasoned owner in Perth, these tips will help you handle the ups and downs of pet care like a pro.



1. Introduction

Owning a pet is one of life's greatest joys, but it can also come with its fair share of challenges. Whether you're dealing with shedding fur, training hiccups, or unexpected messes, having a few clever tricks up your sleeve can make all the difference. These life-hacks are designed to simplify your daily routine, keep your pet happy and healthy, and save you time and effort. From DIY solutions and grooming shortcuts to tips for managing behavior and keeping your home clean, this guide is packed with practical advice for every pet parent. No matter if you're new to pet ownership or a seasoned pro, these ideas will help you navigate the ups and downs of life with a furry friend.

2. Pet-proof your home



We love our pets. We love our homes. But sometimes, these two things can be at odds with each other. Pets are infamous for their love of scratching, rolling in mud (and then on your lounge), burrowing into spaces they're not meant to be in, and that's all the more reason to pet proof your home.

In fact, pet lovers nationwide are reporting a high prevalence of pet-ty crime from their furry friends when left home alone. According to new research commissioned by Ring, the smart home security company, a whopping 83% of pet owners in Perth reported acts of mischief, with canine crimes outweighing feline felonies. This is costing Aussies millions in repairs each year – \$222 million for dog-owning households and \$153 million for cat-owning households.

So when your home is your castle – and your dog is your best friend – how do you ensure the two play nicely?

“Knowing your pets is half the challenge. Bored pets will find ways to entertain themselves and can get up to all sorts of mischief and destructive behaviour while you are not there,” Australian veterinarian, Dr Katrina Warren tells Homes to Love. “Other pets, (including my own dog Chilli) are opportunists and will do things they may not do when you are home like sprawl on the couch or counter surf. Anxious pets may soil the house, bark or cry. A camera is a very useful tool for telling you whether your pet is anxious/stressed, bored or just chilled out waiting for you to get home.”

“When pets get up to mischief, they are just exhibiting their natural behaviours. Puppies and young dogs will explore by chewing and digging, while bored or anxious dogs will often engage in destructive behaviours when left home alone. Safety is most important and you should manage the areas that your pet has access to when you are not actively supervising them.”

Here are our best ever tips for keeping a stylish home... that also happens to be pet-proof.

1. Pet-proof your upholstery

You love your nubuck leather sofa... and so does your Great Dane, who slobbers all over it as he sleeps. When you have pets, it pays to choose your fabrics wisely.

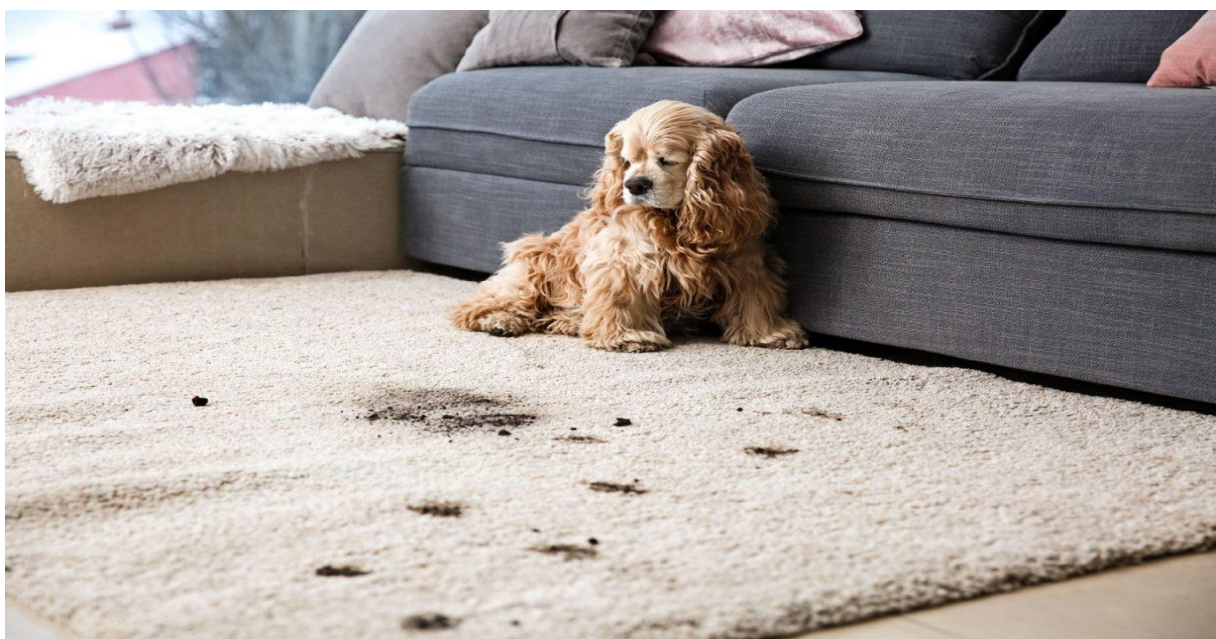
For cats, velvet fabric works well. Cats don't tend to scratch it as much, so they won't ruin it! Ultrasuede and microfibre, similarly, aren't great for cats to scratch, and they're easy to clean.

Leather is a great option for dogs, too, as it doesn't soak up smells or attract hair. Scratches can usually be buffed out, too.

As much as possible, choose fabrics in colours that match your pet. A white couch with a black lab? It's probably not going to work.

It's also wise to invest in a durable blanket for your lounge – you can put it under your pet while they relax on the sofa. And always choose cushions and sofas that have slipcovers, so you can remove and clean them when necessary!

2. Pet-proof your rugs



Grace Bonney of Design Sponge has a great tip when it comes to rugs: choose an indoor-outdoor rug, in a material like sisal or seagrass.

These rugs are more durable than straight indoor styles, and can handle deep cleaning well (they're also UV-protected, if your house gets a lot of natural light).

Go for low-pile rugs (soft, fluffy rugs are like magnets for curious claws) and stick to dark colours in small patterns. Big patterns allow a lot of exposed, solid colour to show, making stains seem more visible.

If you've invested in a beautiful rug you're worried your new pet might destroy, why not hang it on the wall instead, and choose a sturdier or washable floor rug?

3. Pet-proof your walls

Between their slobber, dirty fur and rogue paws, pets can damage walls quicker than you can say "Grab the Ajax!"

Choose a paint finish in semi-gloss, will be easier to wipe down than other paints in a matte finish.

4. Pet-proof your shelving

Open shelving and pets don't often mix, especially if you have a new puppy or kitten (known for their love of exploring!). "If something is chewed or ruined, it's because you have given your pet that opportunity," reminds Dr Katrina. "Remove any dangerous or tempting items from their reach, including toxic plants, electrical cords, and valuables."

Invest in closed shelving as much as possible, to keep knick-knacks away from curious paws and mouths.

5. Pet-proof your flooring

Wall-to-wall carpet is plush and comfortable, but probably not the best choice for pet owners in Perth.

Instead, go for more durable flooring choices, like tiles, polished concrete and hardwood. These are much easier to clean and won't attract fur.

Arm yourself with a heavy-duty vacuum cleaner that is designed to pick-up pet hair.

6. Pet-proof your legs

Table legs, that is. Cats love scratching and dogs love chewing, but cat trees and dog toys can be pretty hideous to look at. In fact, Dr Katrina says chewing could be something we have to

deal with for a fair while. “Chewing is natural for puppies and most will grow out of chewing everything by about 12 months but some dogs will chew items for life.”

Instead, protect your table and chair legs by wrapping sisal rope around them – your cat can use these to scratch against, and you’ll also protect the wood itself.

7. Invest in pet supervision while you’re out

We can’t always be home to keep a watchful eye over our pups (as much as we’d like to be!), so the answer for you may be pet supervision technology like the Ring Pan-Tilt Indoor Camera to give you the peace of mind to check in on your furry friend at home, no matter where you are.

With over plenty of pet owners feelings anxious when they’re away from their pets, the use of smart home tech, like indoor cameras, can provide a reassuring window back home.

3. Tips to Protect Furniture from Dogs



There are several reasons dogs may chew on or damage your furniture. These include separation anxiety, stress, and boredom. Sometimes dogs will chew furniture as a way to exert their energy if they are not receiving enough exercise. They may also destroy furniture if their current chew toys and bones no longer interest them. To protect furniture from your

dog while you are away from home, there are prevention methods you can practice to keep your dog satisfied, happy, and preoccupied.

Keeping Your Dog Away From Your Furniture

Apply unpleasant flavors to furniture your dog has chewed on. If your dog is attracted to a specific piece of furniture and it just won't leave it alone, you may need to make that piece of furniture unpleasant to the dog. Putting an unpleasant taste on it may just do the trick and it may prevent your dog from continuing to chew on your furniture in the future.

Place unpleasant textures on the furniture. If you don't want to put unpleasant tastes on your furniture, then try using unpleasant textures. For example, you can put aluminum foil or double-sided tape on areas that your dog is attracted to.

Use a remote deterrent to make the furniture less appealing to the dog. Choose a deterrent that your dog dislikes and that will activate when the dog approaches the furniture. For example, a motion activated can of compressed air posted near the furniture could make the dog avoid the area.

Confine your dog to an area without furniture. Place your dog in an enclosed yard with a fence or a dog run when you are not home. If your dog is crate trained, put it in its crate. This will allow your dog to roam freely without damaging any valuable items or furniture.

Block access to furniture. If your dog has a particular piece of furniture that it likes to get on when you are away, then you may want to block access to it. For instance, if the piece of furniture is a chair, place something large in the chair before you leave, so that the dog cannot get in the chair.

Cover furniture with rugs, blankets, and washable covers. This will protect your furniture from fur or urine. It's normal for dogs to shed fur, which will end up on your furniture if the dog does get on it. Covering furniture with items you can wash, such as rugs, blankets, or covers, makes it easy to keep the furniture clean. Whenever the washable item gets dirty, simply throw it into a washing machine.

Reducing the Likelihood of Doggy Damage

Dry off your dog after walks, especially if it rained. Dogs can get wet paws during a walk, or could even come home muddy. As soon as your pet re-enters the house, be sure to dry him off, especially his feet. This will prevent the pup from jumping on furniture, which could leave marks.

Housebreak your dog. If your dog has accidents on the furniture, it likely needs to go through housebreaking again. Once your dog gets used to a walking schedule, it should not have accidents in the home unless there is a medical issue.

Get a the dog fixed if it's marking furniture. Hormones can cause both male and female dogs to mark your furniture by peeing on them. This is because dogs are territorial. Getting the dog spayed or neutered can reduce this behavior and protect your furniture.

Training Your Dog to Stay Away From Your Furniture

Train your dog early to stay away from your furniture. From the time your dog is young, you should make it clear that your furniture is off limits. If you have done thorough training with your dog throughout its life, this boundary will be clear and your dog will stay out of areas that you don't want it to be in.

Correct your dog's behavior. When you catch your dog on your furniture you need to make it clear that that behavior is not allowed. This will help your dog understand that they are misbehaving. Say "No" in a firm manner to your dog at the same moment you see them jumping onto or chewing your furniture.

Redirect your dog's attention. Provide your dog with one of their toys immediately after scolding them for chewing on your furniture. Then praise them when they begin playing with or chewing the toy. This will help your dog understand which behavior you find more acceptable.

4. Keeping Your Pet Happy Inside Your Home



Sometimes, getting outside with your dog isn't an option. How do you keep your pet pooch occupied, active, and happy while you're both inside? Activities and play can help so your furry friend stays stimulated.

Why Your Dog Needs Activity

Dogs need to move and play to stay in good physical and mental health. Regular activity helps them relieve stress. Games, exercise, and toys may prevent naughty behaviors like chewing your stuff, barking a lot, or making a puddle on your carpet.

Activities Pups Can Do Indoors

You can keep your puppy happy and entertained even in an apartment or other small indoor spaces. If you do remote work during the day, it's important to find some distractions for your pooch so everyone stays happy and sane.

Chew away the hours. Most dogs like to chew. Chewing is a natural instinct and can help keep their teeth clean, too. Make sure your fur baby has something to chew on other than the legs of your favorite chair. A chewy toy or bone can keep your buddy busy and happy for a while. Tough nylon chew toys are nearly indestructible and may be better than rawhide chews, which can break into pieces. Stay away from hard bones that can break teeth or splinter and harm the GI tract.

Play indoor games. Hide and seek is an easy game to play indoors with your dog. First, command them to sit or stay. Then, you go into another room or inside your bedroom closet. Call them to come find you.

If you have enough room inside your home, like in a basement or rec room, teach your pup to do agility exercises. Set up a little obstacle course that they have to run around to get to the finish line for a treat. You can teach your dog to weave around objects or hop over them.

There are devices that play with your four-legged friend while you get some work done in another room. Some toss balls for a round of fetch and return, then toss them again. These devices even toss small tennis balls a short distance, so they're perfect for an apartment.

Your dog can also play a game following a bone-shaped toy that moves around the room powered by a motor. You set how fast it will move and for how long. These toys may be a good short-term distraction if you're on a web conference for work.

Make them work for treats. Hide treats so your dog has to seek them out. Place a treat inside of an empty box. Leave other boxes nearby that don't have any. Tell your dog to find it -- they'll have to figure out how to open the box to get it. Make the game more of a challenge by turning the box upside down so it's harder to open.

Stuff treats inside toys so your dog has to work for them. There are toys designed to hold either chewy treats or mushy foods like peanut butter or canned pumpkin. Another trick: Take an old T-shirt and tie it into several knots. Stick treats inside each knot. Just make sure

you keep an eye out so they don't eat the T-shirt itself. Your dog stays occupied while they figure out how to get all the good stuff out of their toy.

During the warmer months, make a treatsicle for your pooch. Fill a paper cup with water. Float treats or chews inside, and then freeze it. Spot will either have to lick the ice or wait for it to melt to get to the treats.

Create a home dog spa. Spa-calm music can de-stress your pup. There are small speakers loaded with tunes selected by pet behavior specialists to soothe doggy nerves. Or create your own playlist of easy listening songs to play in the background while your canine companion chills out.

Take an online class. If Fido could use a little obedience training or you'd just like to teach them new skills, you don't have to leave the house to do it. Go online to take courses led by experts. You can work with your pooch on agility, obedience, skills, and tracking. Some courses allow you to send videos of your dog to instructors for personalized feedback.

5. What Every Pet Owner Needs For a Cleaner Home



You may dream of having a beautifully clean and tidy home but when you have a pet, it can be an uphill battle. Even if you manage to stop them from bringing mud and grime into the

house, you probably will still have to contend with pet hair, smudgy marks on the windows and pet food all over the place. Luckily they're cute, so it's easy to forgive the mess!

To stay on top of the chaos a pet can cause, we've created a guide to help pet owners in Perth clean everything from smudged windows to muddy floors.

Windows

Most pet owners will be familiar with muddy smudges and nose prints on windows or glass doors. The quickest and easiest way to keep on top of these is with a microfibre cloth, such as the E-cloth Window Cleaning and Polishing Cloth.

Rub the dampened cloth over the offending smudge to polish away. For particularly grubby glass, like the times your wet dog shakes itself off right next to the patio doors, wipe the muck away with a coarser, damp microfibre cloth before polishing with the glass cloth. No chemicals are needed.

Keep feeding areas clean

Keep a shallow tray under pet food and water bowls; it'll catch spills and can be easily wiped clean or, better still, popped in the dishwasher if you opt for one that's dishwasher-safe.

Muddy floors

How you tackle your muddy floors needs to depend on what they are made from.

For laminate flooring, avoid over-wetting. Instead vacuum, dust or wipe and never use soap-based detergents or wax polish.

For ceramic tiles, sweep and wash with a mild detergent solution, such as Zoflora, diluted in hot water. Rinse with clean water. Again, no wax polish as the tiles will become slippery. Don't allow your beloved furry friends to walk on or lick any wet or treated areas until they are completely dry.

Wooden floors need only be swept and damp-mopped. Don't use too much water or the wood could swell and split.

If you're looking to invest in a decent mop, the experts at the GHI gave the Spontex Full Action Spin Mop (£34.99) a score of 88/100.

Stop the smells

As much as we love our pets, they can contribute to unpleasant smells around the home... Luckily there are steps you can take to help reduce this problem. Investing in an air purifier can help. Because most modern models contain a carbon layer as part of the filter, they help

to deodorise as they work. Air purifiers can remove pet dander from the atmosphere as well for an added bonus; helpful to those who suffer from allergies.

If you hate the smell of pet food, you could also invest in a feeder with an automatic lid, such as a SureFeed Microchip Pet Feeder, to keep the smell contained. It's suitable for cats and small dogs and only opens when it detects your pet's microchip.

Remember to brush your pets regularly to collect loose fur before it spreads to your carpets and contributes to the smell. Wash items they frequently use, such as pet beds, to remove odours there too.

Get rid of pet hair



For quick removal of pet hair from fabrics and upholstery, grab the rubber gloves! Pop one on and dampen the surface of the glove under a running tap, then use it to wipe the surface of the fabric, using your other hand to hold the fabric taut. This smart trick lifts the pet hair easily; a speedy solution if you don't want to get the vacuum out or can't find the lint roller.

Pet-safe cleaning products

To remove pet odours from upholstery, carpets and pet beds, sprinkle the area with bicarbonate of soda - it's a natural cleanser which won't harm your pets (as long as they don't ingest large quantities of it). Leave the bicarb to work for a minimum of 15 minutes, then vacuum away. Use an upholstery attachment and a low suction setting for upholstery.

Begone, pet stains!

A useful product to keep on hand for dealing with pet stains is Dr. Beckmann's Pet Stain and Odour Remover. It features a built-in brush so the product can be scrubbed straight into the stained area, before you sponge it off with a damp cloth. As a bonus, it helps with odour removal at the same time.

5.1.How To Eliminate Tough Odors From Your Home



No matter how well you dust, sweep and mop surfaces, the unpleasant smell lingering in your home is the most annoying things to deal with. Store-bought room fresheners may temporarily fix the issue but won't target the main cause.

As a responsible homemaker, it is important to identify the source of musty odours. It could be your filthy kitchen appliances, clogged garbage disposal, damp carpets, pet messes or mould spores on your bathroom walls. Regular cleaning, vacuuming, disinfecting and deodorising with the right products and methods can help you achieve a shiny and fresh-smelling home in Perth.

So, here is a complete guide to eliminate tough odours from your home. The best part is that you don't need any fancy or expensive products. You can use the power of natural or organic cleaning solutions to attain the desired outcomes.

1. Clean and Disinfect Your Trash Can

Let's start with basics! Trash can or dustbin can be the prime source of unpleasant odours in your living space. After emptying the trash can, clean it with vinegar and warm water

solution or sprinkle baking soda at the bottom to banish lingering odour. In the final step, spray a disinfecting spray like a Lysol to kill lurking germs and bacteria.

2. Get Rid of Dust Particles, Pollens and Mites

The accumulated dust on hard surfaces like windows, doors, shelves, tabletops, etc can also give off nasty odours. It can also pose health hazards, such as respiratory disorders, skin allergies, and other serious illnesses.

So, it is imperative to get rid of pollen, pet dander and dirt using the right tools. Instead of using a feather duster, wipe down surfaces with a damp microfiber cloth. You can also use telescopic duster to clean hard-to-reach spots, like cabinet top, ceiling fans, walls, etc.

According to vacate cleaning Perth Experts, vacuuming delicate surfaces, such as carpets, rugs and upholstery furniture twice a week can also reduce dust buildup and prevent bad smell.

3. Deep-Clean Your Kitchen Appliances

The lousy odour of leftovers, spills and splatters in your much-loved microwave, oven or refrigerator can ruin the entire look and feel of your cooking station. Whenever you spruce up your kitchen, pay special attention to these appliances. Here are some effective ways to clean and deodorise your basic kitchen appliances:

Microwave: Add vinegar, lemon and water in a microwave safe bowl and heat it for 3 minutes. Keep the door closed for another 5 minutes or until steam breaks down the gunk. Now, wipe down the microwave inside and outside to eliminate food particles, grime and stains- the prime source of bad odours.

Oven: Baking soda can be a great solution to eliminate lingering smell and greasy stains from the appliance. Scrub the area and achieve sparkling results.

Refrigerator: Clean the shelves, doors and walls with a DIY vinegar solution. Make sure you eliminate pungent and spoiled foods before cleaning. To banish bad smell, keep a jar of coffee beans in your clean fridge. Keep the lid open for the desired outcomes.

Dishwasher: Use vinegar or baking soda to clean your dishwasher. This will remove bad smell as well. You can also use dishwasher cleaning tablets and run a cleaning cycle to get rid of stains and smells.

4. Unclog Your Garbage Disposal

Food residue can stuck and decay in the garbage disposal, leading to unbearable stench. Grease deposits can also contribute to bad odours. So, unclog and clean it using all-natural products.

Pour a cup of baking soda followed by a cup of white vinegar. This will create a fizz that can break down the accumulated food particles. Let it sit for half an hour. Meanwhile, you can clean and polish your sink and faucets. After that, pour hot water down the drain to clear way clogs and residue.

You can also hire an experienced company for a budget vacate cleaning Perth and get your bond back. They clean everything according to the pre-approved checklist to simplify your end of tenancy journey.

5. Freshen Up Your Carpets



Overexposure to moisture can harbour mould and mildew on your delicate floor coverings. These fungi can linger unpleasant odours. Plus, pet messes and food spills can also contribute to irksome smell. So, clean, disinfect and deodorise your carpets like a pro.

Ensure you spray the vinegar solution and blot it with a clean cloth. Then, add baking soda, cornstarch and lemon essential oil solution to freshen up your carpets. Let it sit for 20-30 minutes before vacuuming up the flooring.

You can also hire professionals for hot water extraction or other professional carpet cleaning methods to restore its original shine.

6. Identify and Eliminate Mould Naturally

Are you experiencing musty smell in your bathroom or any other room? It could be a sign of mould and mildew infestation. It is good to check the dark, humid and moist areas of your home for black, grey, greenish or pink mould spores.

Instead of using store-bought products that contain Volatile Organic Compounds, use hydrogen peroxide and water solution. Spray on the mould stains and leave the surface for half an hour. Then, scrub the surface with a brush or sponge to get rid of stains. Rinse and dry the area to avoid further growth. Mould removal can also promote a healthy and hygienic living space.

Tip: Keep your doors and windows open to ensure proper ventilation.

7. Prepare a Homemade Air Freshener

For this super-effective and natural air freshener, you will need:

- Water- 2 cups
- Vinegar- 2 cups
- 10 drops of lemon essential oil
- 10 drops of basil essential oil

Pour all ingredients in an empty spray bottle and use it on a daily basis. Lemon and basil essential oils are perfect for banishing tough odours from everywhere. You can clean and deodorise surfaces at the same time.

8. Simmer Pot to Freshen Up Your House



Fill your abode with fresh and aromatic smell using this creative simmer pot recipe. All you need to do is to cut an orange into slices and include in a pot. Add a few cloves and

cinnamon sticks. Then, add water and let it simmer on the stove for 2-3 hours. This will release the sweet scent in the entire room.

Apart from this, keep your bathroom fixtures, especially toilet clean and disinfected, groom your pets daily, act on spills immediately and maintain a clean abode. You can also hire professionals for a cheap vacate cleaning Perth for the sake of your hard-earned bond money. They will clean, disinfect and deodorise the entire space to help you impress your landlord or property manager.

Conclusion

Being a pet owner comes with its own set of responsibilities, but with the right hacks and tips, you can make life easier for both you and your furry companion. By applying these simple yet effective strategies, you'll save time, reduce stress, and create a happier, healthier environment for your pet. Whether it's keeping your home clean, improving your pet's behavior, or finding creative ways to bond, these life-hacks prove that small changes can make a big difference. Remember, the key to a great relationship with your pet lies in understanding their needs and finding smart ways to meet them. With these ideas in hand, you're ready to tackle any challenge and enjoy the unconditional love that only pets can provide.

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