

## **Animals**

We lost our cat after 16 amazing years. She was going the wrong way physically for a year or so. We tried to hold on. I can say the same for our dog who died a year before. His last week was horrible. In some ways I can't get that week out of my memory. We had so much fun with these two animals. I wanted to hold on. They are my best friends. I can tell them anything and they understand. Not once did they disrespect me or criticize my character. These two were the best. Ok, to be fair, Jack did pee on my hand once. Yet, putting them down cost us something in the heart.

I don't get why vet bills have to be so big. To top that off they offer expensive options from funeral trinkets to extra medicine. Do we really think vets have a slow business? I have not once been able to walk right in with a pet problem. They are booked all the time. Why is the best food for the animals double and triple the price? They even beg us to feed them better. Yet, I have visited rich people's houses. Rarely do they have pets. Only the poor own furry friends. I suppose that's not accurate but it feels that way. Why? Rich people keep their house cleaner. Pets compromise that.

So, are you a cat person or a dog person? Yes, I know there are reptile and bug people. I love reptiles but I seem to love killing them too (by accident). I am a dog guy but only little dogs. Frankly, I love to travel so dogs are tough to have in that scenario. Cats can survive me being gone. Had a bird but we just didn't know how to maintain it. I truly think that people are attracted to the animal they are most like. Our animals have always fit our personality. Don't they say that animals pick their owner most of the time.

What could God possibly say about animals? In the beginning I don't feel that we were destined to eat animals. However, I can't prove that. That does not mean we are naturally vegetarians. The need of vitamin B12 throws a wrench in that theory. We need it and it comes from animals mainly. However, we were naked and I don't think we killed things for food or clothing before the fall of humans in the garden. God had us tend the garden and name the animals. Maybe we were to eat fish? I dunno? As we sinned the earth and its creation suffered. It does not appear that animals are part of heaven in the book of Revelation. Yet, two things with that. I want animals in heaven! Secondly, that would be a lot of cats!

Yes, our cat died. To be honest that was a doozy. Yet, within three weeks we have two kittens on order. Well, that did not take long, sorry Rugby for not mourning more! I miss my cat. However, our house is an animal house. Currently we have none. That's the problem. Besides, who can I tell my dark secrets too? Who can I cry with? Who will bug me in the middle of the night? So, the boys are coming! Well, we do need to go through a screening process but I'm confident animal people always pass! The boys! We have MacGyver and Mr. T coming. They are brothers and that's a first.

Comedian Steve Martin tells the story of his cat dressing up as him to charge 3000 dollars worth of cat toys. Now I am excited to get the boy's home. I am excited to buy a cat tree and a few fun toys. This is going to be epic! However, I'm probably not going to buy 3000 dollars worth of cat toys. Although that would be fun sorta. The house will be ready for them. We expect these two to trash our Christmas tree. Will they fight and play hard? Of course, they are boys!

It's almost like the anticipation of a baby coming home. There is a buzz in the house. New animals with new quirks. I think I have had eight other animals from dogs to lizards. Each

one was special. The boys will be no different. The wife has even claimed both of them as hers. Honestly, that shocks me because in many ways I picked them. Even the girls are chomping at the bit to get the boy's home. This house has been silent. Strangely silent without animals. We totally expect that to change. This is going to be fun. If you love animals then this is a fun but remorseful time. Sad to lose one and happy to gain one or two. I hope there are animals in heaven but for now I feel blessed to have them on earth.