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“Where Loving Pet Parents Shop”

Do You Have a Friendly Dog?

Consider Being a Therapy Dog Handler

Both therapy dogs and service dogs have the job of helping humans. Are they the same thing?

In a word, “no.” Service dogs are trained to provide assistance to one individual. Guide dogs for the blind, dogs who assist the hearing-impaired, and dogs that help people with epilepsy or other medical conditions are service dogs. These dogs are specially trained, help a specific person, and are allowed special access to restaurants, stores, airplanes and other public places.

Therapy dogs are most often family pets. They have basic obedience training and are well-behaved, but have no special-

ized training. They are friendly by nature, are comfortable around strangers, enjoy interacting with people and also enjoy being petted. Their purpose is to provide comfort to people.

Therapy dogs volunteer, along with their owners, to visit seniors who live in nursing homes or patients in hospitals. They are used by the military to help soldiers recovering from PTSD and other injuries. Some legal jurisdictions use therapy dogs to help comfort children involved in stressful or traumatic court cases.

If you have an exceptionally friendly, well-behaved dog, and you would be willing to volun-



teer some of your time, you might consider getting certified as a therapy dog handler. You and your dog will both enjoy sharing your time with others.

Tips for Keeping Your Dog Happy and Comfortable This Summer

- Keep plenty of fresh water available
- Make sure there's plenty of shade
- Check often for fleas and ticks; treat the dog *and his environment* if you find either (or both)
- Provide shelter from the rain, hail, etc.
- NEVER leave your dog unattended in the car in the summer sun: the temperature inside can become fatally hot in a matter of a few minutes

Summer is here, and that means fresh produce. Guinea pigs (cavies), like humans, need Vitamin C, but do not manufacture it on their own. They must get it in their diet or through supplements.

Timothy hay provides a lot of Vitamin C. But guineas enjoy variety in their meals. In addition to their daily hay, consider including some of the following

Carrots, Anyone?

in their diet regularly: carrots; cilantro; lettuce (butterhead, radicchio, romaine or red leaf); sweet green or sweet yellow peppers; and zucchini.

The following are things you should give your cavies also, but only once or twice a week: arugula; cabbage (red, green, or Chinese bok-choi), celery (with veins removed); and cucumber with the peel.

Give these foods occasionally as treats: apples; blackberries; cauliflower; honeydew; peaches; plums; and watermelon.

Feed primarily vegetables, and no more than one cup per day of produce per guinea. Fresh food should NOT be the cavies' main diet, but does provide some much enjoyed variety to their pellets and hay.

CATS AND CAR RIDES - A BAD MIX MADE BETTER

Most dogs love car rides. So much so that many dog owners have a fight on their hands every time they try to go anywhere in the car without the dog.

Not so with cats. Cats like their home. They like their routine and don't like change. Car rides typically are not high on their list of favorite things to do.

But sometimes an auto trip is inevitable. Say you just got a big promotion and raise at work – but you also have to relocate to the other side of the country. That means taking your cat on a three-day car ride. Here are some tips to make the trip easier:

Get a cat carrier that's large enough for your cat to comfortably stand up, sit, turn around, and lie down. Leave the carrier on the floor and open so she can explore the carrier for several days or a

week before you leave.

Take the cat on a few short car rides around the block or for just a few miles before you go so he can get used to riding in the car.

Secure the carrier with a seat belt or some way so the carrier and its passenger doesn't go flying if you hit the brakes suddenly.

Feed her at least three or four hours before you leave; or just feed her in the evening.

Give him water and let him out for a litter-box break every two or three hours. There are disposable litter boxes that you might want to get for the trip.

Make sure you make reservations at a "cat-friendly" hotel. Find out ahead of time if you can leave the cat alone in the room.

Take one or two gallons of water from home. The change of water may upset her stomach. Give her the bottled water on the trip and mix water from her new home with the remaining water from your old home water to help her get accustomed to the new water.

NEVER leave the cat alone in the car during warm or hot weather -- the inside of your vehicle can heat to deadly temperatures in just a few minutes.

With a little preparation, and if you follow the above tips, you can ease the stress on both you and your cat during your cross-country trip.

KOZY KITTY KARRIER

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HERE

COMFY CAVY

CRITTER LITTER

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