

Love is a 4-Legged Friend

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From an early age, I have been a people person, but even more so...an animal person. From anything to cats, dogs, pigs, donkeys, goats, sheep, cows, bulls, and horses, there has always been an interest in the 4-legged friend. There are so many memories through the years of all the great animals that I have adored. From the time when I was little, we had a litter of kittens that I enjoyed sitting in the middle of our back porch with the kittens all around me, then later running to see if my dog Tootsie could keep up with me with her Bassett Hound legs, and more recently rubbing my dog Otis' belly when he wants "belly time" and playing fetch with my dog Scout.

Throughout the years, I have had friends that have come and went, but when there is that special cat or dog around, they seem to stick with you no matter what – they are right by your side when you are happy and playing basketball with your friend, but also right by your side when you are sad because that same friend might have said something hurtful. They always seem to know what you need – to be playful and run around to cheer you up or sit on you and be there for you to cuddle. They can be your support system without saying a word, your protector when needed, and they are also your friend and family all rolled together as one.

Although I have not yet been able to experience the long-term 4-legged companion of 10 years or more, I have been able to experience various dog and cat companions throughout the years. I was able to enjoy my dog Tootsie the longest (for 7 years) until she became old. After she died, I was so sad and missed her so much, but still so happy for the time that I got to spend with her.

I currently have 2 dogs, 2 pot-bellied pigs, 1 donkey, 1 cow and 1 bull. My 2 dogs are the most playful. I have had Otis almost a year and Scout for only a few months. Otis is a Beagle and more mild mannered but when he looks at you with his eyes, I just want to melt, and he will let you rub his belly and just lay there for as long as you are willing to continue petting him or rubbing his belly. Scout is young, still in a puppy stage and more playful. He is always ready to eat when he can tell you have food for him, and he is so fast and can find the ball so quickly as soon as you throw it. He will go fetch the ball for as long as you are willing to throw it. To top it off, they are such good companions for not only me, but for each other. They get along so well and play together.

I hope to continue to have animals for many years. All animals have a special place in my heart. Dogs have been such faithful companions to me. They can bring so much love, joy and support. They always look forward to you coming home, whether you have been gone for 5 minutes or 5 hours. If I come home from a bad day, I instantly start having a better day as soon as I see them and how happy they are to see me.