



Milestones

New Pet

A new pet is an exciting time. Pets remind us of God's love that we experience in all Creation. Pets teach us responsibility and compassion. Pets provide companionship and affirmation.

As you welcome a new pet into your home we invite you to reflect on this moment with the following devotion. You may use it to replace your regular household devotions or do it at a special time. You may wish to keep it and re-use it on your pet's birthday or the anniversary of when they came to live with you.

We would also like an opportunity to mark this milestone in your household by recognizing it in worship at church. If you have not done so already, please let Pastor know about this special occasion and schedule a time to recognize it in worship. You will receive a special milestone token to help you remember and celebrate the love you have for your pet.



As you gather, invite those participating to share a memorable experience they have had with a pet (it may be the current pet or one you had in the past).

Caring Conversation:

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- What are some of the responsibilities that come with this pet?
- Why did you want to get this pet?
- What are you most looking forward to with this pet?
- What is one thing that worries you about having a pet?

Devotions:

Read the following:

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:24-25)

- How does knowing God created all animals affect the way you care for and think about your pet?

Suggested song: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*.

Service:

As you make your home ready for your new pet and as you care for it, it can remind you of other animals. Animal shelters provide shelter, food, and medical care for homeless animals. Many are in need of donations to continue this support. Find out more about an animal shelter where you live and make a donation or volunteer.

Rituals and Traditions:

Gather around your pet and read this blessing:

Dear God, creator of all animals in the air, in the sea, and on the land, we ask for a blessing on our pets and all animals, especially those who are homeless or lost or failing in their health. We are thankful for (name your pet/s) and grateful for the love and joy they bring to our lives. Bless our pet/s with a happy life and all that is good. Amen.

End your time together by giving your pet/s a special treat.