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Charming Trends in Jewelry

By Carolyn Schweitzer

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Fashions that owners and their dogs can share.

The wearing of charms dates back to 400 or 500 BC, when they were believed to hold special powers — particularly the power of protection. By the 1890's charms had evolved into a fashion statement and a popular keepsake. Now, as then, charms are often given by mothers to their daughters as gifts or family heirlooms. Many women start collecting them as pre-teens and continue adding to the collection as they mature. Charm bracelets make an ideal gift because of their broad appeal.

Italian charms are the hottest trend right now and show no signs of slowing down. Silver, gold, and non-precious charms snap into place onto a bracelet similar to a watch band. The charms are like the "links" on the band. They're decorated with pictures, letters, symbols and designs that can be combined to create a message or theme. Which reminds me of a great thing about charm bracelets — you can add to them. That means future gift giving opportunities!

Another growing trend in modern jewelry is "theme" bracelets. If you're looking for the ideal dog jewelry gift, a dog-themed charm bracelet could be your answer and a dog themed Italian charm bracelet might just be a slam dunk! Want to coordinate your accessories with your dog's? Buy her a branklet®, the doggie version of a bracelet or anklet.

As Italian charms have grown ever more popular, variations have come on the scene, one of which is a plastic or leather version. The charms slide onto the leather or plastic bracelet, which comes in a variety of fashionable colors. These charms usually take the form of letters, numbers, and popular symbols like hearts or butterflies. Like the traditional kind, they can spell out a message or a name, or advertise the wearer's interests or sentiments.

Ready to coordinate? For the woman who thinks of her dog as a furry child (or, heaven forbid, an accessory) mother-and-dog can now coordinate this look with leather charm collars for the dog! Picture

"mom" wearing her leather charm bracelet, rhinestone charms spelling out "I Love my Dog". Picture her four legged companion alongside her, wearing a matching leather collar and charms of his very own. Bowser can headline his name in rhinestones. Or maybe his collar will spell out how much his mommy loves him.

There's yet another type of charm that can be shared between man and dog — or woman and dog, as the case may be.

To symbolize the prayer for protection, or the golden bond between owner and dog (or dog and dog), 14K gold Protection Medallions and Bond Charms are the answer. The hearts can be separated so that each owner wears half. For dogs who are best friends, or people who are best friends with their dogs, this is a gift of dog jewelry that says it all. Should your pal ever wander off, you'll have no problem proving that the two of you are a pair!

It's safe to say that charms have gone to the dogs, but in a very positive way! What a great time it is to be a dog.

© 2004, Carolyn Schweitzer. Lifelong dog-lover, power-shopper, and former family dentist Carolyn Schweitzer is owner and editor of

. If you need inspiration for stuffed dogs, visit her

at

. The site offers a wide range of choices for dog gift

shoppers, plus shopping and gift-giving tips. She's always looking for new dog gift ideas and dog stories to share with her readers. You can reach her by email at netbrainer@verizon.net.

Her Wedding Begins With Jewelry

By Linda Polansky

The most unique and extra ordinary moment in your life is the moment when your partner slips that diamond ring on your finger! It is just needless to say, that every woman wants to look absolutely stunning that evening. Your wedding dress, your bag, your sandals, and of course your wedding jewelry must be perfect that day. All these things are to be chosen with utmost care. Stylish, classy and elegant; these are the wishes of every bride of her bridal jewelry. Of course, you would wish to follow the most recent fashion trends, too. Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, studs and wedding bands may gather your attention when you are doing that purchasing for your wedding day. So keeping informed with the changing trends of wearing what is "in" should be on your priority list while buying your bridal jewelry.

Every bride to be always visualizes the way she wants to look on her wedding day. She would also like

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to get her pieces custom made to match with her dress and her shoes.

Don't be let down if you are likely to wear that old family necklace on your wedding day. You are certainly wrong if you believe that your mother's necklace will make you look like a traditional antique piece walking down the aisle. For your information, old is in, and that too in a big way. Pearls are the most adored forms of bridal jewelry these days. Besides being classy and elegant, they have a timeless quality. No matter what setting it is in - gold, silver or platinum - bridal jewelry pearls can bring out your features and your wedding dress in the most beautiful way ever.

Wide necklaces of gold and silver laid down with valuable and semi-precious gemstones are making a big display these days with the new generation. Big chandelier studs of diamonds, pearls or glass look charming on the graceful necklines as well as pleasing to eye. You will be obliged to wear that old dramatic diamond ornament on your wedding, if you know that the old styles are really in these days. Top it with a crown or some sparkling coronet along with bright matching clips on your elegant wedding gown and you are all set to dazzle the guests. Therefore, when you walk down the aisle with those gorgeous gems accentuating your already beaming beauty, you will be the talk of the town!

Linda Polansky writes about

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and

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