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**Pet Peeve: Dogs Doing Business Where Not Wanted**

**By Alyice Edrich**

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We've recently moved into a new apartment complex that really is much like a resort. We don't have to maintain the lawn, handle any maintenance problems, or deal with unruly neighbors. We can use the pool without having to clean and maintain it, we can work out in a gym without the added monthly expense, we can play pool without going to a bar, and we can enjoy many sports such as racquetball, tennis, volleyball, and basketball.

So why with all this "luxury" surrounding us would I already be in a tiff? Dogs! That's why. Many of the renters own dogs and instead of taking them for a walk on the "pet walks" which were meant for their feces. These pet owners think its okay to walk their pets around the apartment complex, let them do their "business," and then walk away without cleaning it up!

I've learned that not cleaning up after their dogs is a HUGE pet peeve of mine. First, I consider it rude to let your dog use the bathroom on someone else's property. Okay, so we don't own the lawn in front of our apartment, but we sure do pay a lease for it as well as the public areas! Second, I think it is inconsiderate and shows a lack of respect for others. Third, I think it makes the property look bad.

I can't tell you how many times I've wanted to go up to a dog owner as the dog is doing his/her business and give the owner a piece of my mind. But instead, I bite my tongue and say to myself, "As long as they aren't doing it on my property I have no right to say anything. I just hope if they do it on my property I find the right words to say without letting all my frustration out on one person."

I've even considered going up to management and making a fuss, but what can they do? They can't "police" every pet owner as they leave the house. There are signs posted through out the complex, they've mentioned this area of concern in the monthly newsletter, and it's in the apartment rental contract.

If you're a pet owner who lets your pet "do business" on someone else's property, think about this:

## Pet Peeve: Dogs Doing Business Where Not Wanted

How would you feel if you woke up one morning and stepped on something squishy as you walked to your car? Doesn't sound bad? What if you looked down to find that squishy mess was actually a pile of dog poop? Would you be angry, irritated, or disgusted? Or would you think it was okay and just walk back in the hose to change your shoes?

Now take that stop a step further, what if your little one was playing outside on his/her front lawn and thought that pile of dog poop was mud and put it in his/her mouth? Would you still be okay with someone else letting their pet "do business" on your property?

### Final Thought

Take the time to respect your neighbor today. You just never know when that respect will come back to you ten-fold.

Alyce Edrich is a freelance writer specializing in helping small businesses succeed—on the web. Visit her at

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## **Go For A Cat Instead**

### **By Analese Burnabaker**

I know many people that are considering getting a pet for themselves or for family members of friends. When I ask most of them what kinds of pets they are considering they sort of laugh and say that "they are only considering dogs, of course." I'm not sure what causes this particular response in people, but I have done my best in the past few months and begun speaking up for getting a cat instead of a dog.

It's true that I am a little biased about the benefits of owning a cat over a dog. After all, I have been a cat owner since I was three years old and I am now a cat breeder by profession. I will attempt to keep all of my bias away as I share with you a few great reasons why you should at least consider choosing a cat rather than a dog for your next pet.

First, a cat is the perfect pet for many people because they require much less work than dogs. Think about it. Getting a dog requires someone to be home nearly all the time at least for the first few months

## Pet Peeve: Dogs Doing Business Where Not Wanted

of owning the dog. With a cat there is no need to potty train them, take them outside, walk them or spend endless hours playing with them. A cat is definitely a more independent animal and the perfect pet for more independent people. Who really wants to be tied down with an animal that takes so much time and attention?

Another great reason for getting a cat rather than a dog is to have a quiet and constant companion. One of my least favorite things about dogs is how loud and noisy they can be. Of course, a cat will occasionally meow, but nowhere near as much noise as a dog. Cats pretty much keep quiet and are the perfect companion for most people. They are also great because they usually love to be around people, so if you are looking for a pet that will be quiet but will be near you, then the cat is the perfect choice for you.

Cats in general take a lot less work than dogs. Talk to most cat owners and you will hear great stories of people who love owning a cat. So if you are thinking of getting a pet, take the time to check out the benefits of getting a cat. See how great having a cat can be with your stressful and busy lifestyle.

Analeese Burnabaker is a professional cat breeder and a long time cat owner. See

for more about getting a cat, the perfect pet.

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