



61 County Road 8, Napane, Ontario K7R 3E6
613-354-6615 • 613-354-4894 • 613-354-6616 (f)
info@napanevethosp.ca • www.napanevethosp.ca

Dr. E. FERGUSON • Dr. R. WALSH
Dr. L. LECKIE • Dr. C. BONNEAU

We are in some very uncertain times. Some people are out of work or are on reduced hours, some people have been declared essential and are manning the front lines. Regardless of your circumstance, uncertainty and the unknowns create stress and a sense of loss of control.

We have seen instances lately where the human-animal bond has been very powerful and healing. Our four-legged friends can sense our unease and they seem to be snuggling up to us just a little bit more, to give us comfort.

In fact, as many of us are working from home, and with the kids also home, our dogs probably have never had so much attention. Cats, on the other hand, would probably prefer that their humans would give them a bit more space so that they can have their peace and solitude.

There have been several media reports lately that this would be a great time to adopt a pet. Usually when people adopt, they don't have two months to work on training and they don't have two months to work on bonding.

However, several experts have raised concerns about what happens when social distancing orders are lifted. Your new furry addition has been conditioned to regular, routine walks and lots of interaction with the family. Families who currently have pets realize the long-term commitment necessary to have a successful relationship with their pet.

Humane Societies have recently modified their adoption process and are asking only those that are really serious to apply. It is important to consider the true cost of raising a pet (especially in the first year—vaccinations, parasite control, puppy training classes, food, insurance and spay or neuter surgery). It is important to consider plans to have outside help for pet care when you are away all day, or when you want to get away for a weekend. Once our society gets back to normal, will there be time to spend with your pup for walks and social activities?

A very real issue with all new animals in a household is separation anxiety. This syndrome expresses itself when everyone leaves the house and the pet is left on their own during the day. The shift from the family being home all day to having everyone leave the house to go to work or school can trigger behavioral issues. Proper training and transitioning can help minimize the effects of separation issues but we must be aware of this situation.

A bigger societal concern is the timing of an adoption during these times when we are being told to limit our travel. An adoption now means increased travel to the vet, to the dog park, to the store for doggie treats and supplies. Please consider delaying an adoption until travel restrictions have been relaxed.

Having a new pup or kitten in the household is an exciting and wonderful experience. It is important to consider that this is a long-term commitment. The more you prepare, the better your experience, and your pet's experience, will be.

