

The Enterprise

Staying at Home Increases Pet Ownership

By Dan Belson | April 3, 2020

With more people staying at home amid the COVID-19 pandemic, some in need of companionship are seeking pets to fill that void.

“People are home, people are working from home, and a lot are figuring it’s a good time to adopt because they’re going to be home,” Anne Forrest, who runs the Wag ‘n’ Wash pet supply and grooming shop in California, said this week. “The more time you can spend with your pet when you adopt, the better.”

Forrest noted pet supply retailers and rescues have seen an increase in animal fostering volunteers during the pandemic as well.

“They’re getting a lot more volunteers,” she said.

Wag N’ Wash, which sells pet supplies and offers animal grooming services, has had to shut down its dog self-wash and grooming salon as they are not considered essential, but is continuing to sell supplies in and out of the store.

“We’ve always offered [curbside pickup], but people didn’t really think it was necessary until now,” Forrest said.

At first, running a pet supply store “was a lot like the grocery stores,” she said, with “throng[s] of people” panic-purchasing dog food. That’s calmed down some since then, she said.

The store is not nearly as packed as grocery stores, and is usually able to keep below 10 people in the shop at a time. Forrest said employees are also sanitizing most of the shop in between transactions.

Four-legged friends have their own breeds of coronaviruses to worry about, but there is no documentation that COVID-19 can get your pets sick, according to Forrest, although she advises not to allow strangers to pet your dog when you’re out for a walk.

“It’s just like if someone else wanted to borrow your phone, someone else touching something of yours,” she said.