



Incorporating Your Pets into Your New Life with Kids

As a shelter with more than 200 dogs in residence, HSHA normally is not able to assist with re-homing pets that are not in our shelter. We have limited resources and our first focus must be those animals here in our shelter. Additionally, one of our main goals is also to help pets stay in their homes, even during difficult or transitional times.

Schedules and priorities shift with the addition of a little one. However, with a little creativity, there are definitely ways to incorporate your pets into your “new” life. Some ideas are:

1. Taking your pups for walks with baby going along in the stroller
2. Giving baby a bottle while sitting on the floor in a quiet space, allowing your pets to hang out with you
3. Consider hiring a pet sitter to help here and there with routine pet tasks (A great resource for finding one is: <http://www.petsit.com/>)

Here are some great articles on the topic:

<http://www.examiner.com/new-dads-in-denver/find-activities-for-the-whole-family-including-your-pet-and-your-new-baby>

<http://www.growingupwithpets.com/index2.shtml>

Some might take the approach that it’s “not fair” to the dogs because they have less one-on-one time now. However, it’s important to consider that it may also be “not fair” to adopt great pets into your family and re-home them when the family structure changes a bit.

With a little flexibility, it’s very possible to keep your family intact in a way that benefits all...and after the initial adjustment period, your pets and child are sure to be fast friends!

This document is being provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal, veterinary, or behavioral counsel.