

FURever Friends

I love my pet because...



Tyra Triumph. (Above) Maureen Campbell '20 showcases her trained horses in competitions across the state of Iowa. Campbell has competed at the Mississippi Valley Fair annually and will be showcasing Tyra at Kirkwood Community College this year. "I've rode horses for 12 years. Having horses has taught me a lot of responsibility and has definitely kept me in shape," said Campbell. Photo By: Beth Campbell



Happy Pup, Happy Life. (Above) Connor Haiston '20 enjoys spending time with his dog daily. Haiston found that having a dog comes with much responsibility but is worth the extra effort. "I love my dog, Bella, because I am definitely her favorite out of my family members. She is really energetic and always happy," said Haiston. Photo By: Connor Haiston



Loyal Willow. (Above) Emma Peters '22 finds comfort in her dog. Throughout the rough days, Willow was always seen at Peters' side. "I love my dog Willow because she is fun to play with and dogs are loyal. No matter what kind of day I'm having she always make me happy," said Peters. Photo By: Cindy Peters

That's RUFF



"My dog, Beans, is super petty. He will ignore you for the entire day, and he is very aggressive."
-Reagan Hoffman '22



"My dog, Lady, gets aggressive when you try and pick her up, and she barks late at night."
-Aubrie Schlotfeldt '21



"My mini poodle, Bentley, always pees on the carpet and it's really annoying."
-Chase Bruns '21

A Special Surprise

Students talk about being surprised with a special pet

Is getting a pet more special when you're completely surprised? West students became overjoyed while receiving their surprise pets.

Sophomore **Emma Reynolds** was delighted to receive a 6 month-old chocolate lab for her 16th birthday, however decided to rename her Fiona after one of her favorite shows. "She came with the name Abby, but we decided to change it to something more unique. Everyone thinks she is named after the *Shrek* character, but it's from *Shameless*, because my whole family likes that show," said Reynolds. While certain pets are purchased from breeders, others may be rescued from local shelters.

Junior **Jessica Cortez** was gifted her Chihuahua and weiner dog mix by her father from a shelter. Although there may be a lasting stigma surrounding shelter pets, Cortez gained a new friend. "She was one month old when I got her, and she was very playful so I named her Luna, because I really that name," said Cortez. Although mostly gifted by relatives, some pets chose students to be their owners.

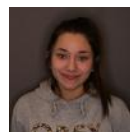
"Some lady from my mom's work lives on a farm, so there are a bunch of cats. One of them decided to hop in her [Duyvejonck's mother's co-worker's] truck and then rode all the way to my mom's work. The cat hopped out and my mom found her there, so she decided to keep her," said sophomore **Kylie Duyvejonck**. Now, the cat, whose name is Ivy, lives with Duyvejonck's family and is cherished daily.

Whether students have received their surprise pets by chance or choice, the responsibility is on for the duration of the animal's lifespan. For West students, each pet, no matter their prior circumstances are appreciated and loved.

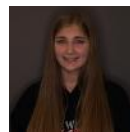
Story By: Daizie Johnson and Abigail Paper



Emma Reynolds



Jessica Cortez



Kylie Duyvejonck

exoticPETS

Lovebird Is The Word. (Right) Turner Sperry '20 has a Peach Faced Lovebird named Tiki. Although Tiki was originally a replacement for a passed pet, Turner and his family have grown fond of Tiki throughout the past three months. "The bird before her had died and they [the birds] were lonely, so my family bought a new one," said Sperry.

Photo By: Turner Sperry



Dreaming Of Philburt. (Right) Madi Phelps '21 is the proud owner of a two and a half-year old hedgehog named Philburt. Prior to owning Philburt, Phelps had dreamt of having a hedgehog for four years. "I got him because they [hedgehogs] are cute and roll into balls," said Phelps.

Photo By: Madi Phelps



Lizard By Luck. Sydnee Soenke '21 has a Red Argentine Tegu lizard named Doug. Soenke received Doug in a strange circumstance ten months ago. "My brother works at an exotic pet store and some people dropped him off; the store couldn't keep him, so we did," said Soenke.

Photo By: Sydnee Soenke

DREAM TEAM

"My dream pet is a black lab because they are adorable and very playful."

Maddie White '23



"My dream pet is a wolf because it's like a big dog and it would be a good guard dog."

Brock Teel '22



"My dream pet is a sloth. I feel like they would be a really chill pet. I think they're cute."

Emalee Lemon '21



"Looking Back, I was obsessed with the movie *Racing Stripes* when I was little, so I always wanted a zebra. Moving Forward, I want a zebra and a farm with lots of animals."

-Carter Wheeler '20

