



## Pros/cons of condo living for pups; dealing with snow issues and pets

My husband and I just moved into a condominium. We want to get a puppy. We know that we are raising Marbles in your condo. What are the pros and cons?

There are so many things to think about raising a puppy in a condo. Of course, the obvious is to see that your condo association approves of having dogs.

You need to decide the size of dog you want when the pup grows into an adult. Your large breeds like Marbles require lots of exercise, and in a condo situation that can be difficult. Tom and I really miss having a fenced back yard to be able to let Marbles out. Wherever you live, condo, apartment or home, dogs are to be leashed and under the owner's control. Puppies are not always easy to control. You have to create ways and places for them to run safely.

Tom and I are lucky to have woods behind our condo to let Marbles run with a leash dragging behind him. We have to be very watchful not to offend the neighbors when Marbles is out with supervision running in the woods. He does enjoy running with one of his dog friends in the woods. Luckily, there are friends around with fences that we can take Marbles to and let him run without a leash. It would be nice to find someone close by that would allow me to bring Marbles over and run in their fenced backyard a few times a week.

With the deep snow this winter, it is especially hard to exercise a dog. This time of year, the streets have so much salt that it's not good to walk a dog on them. If I do walk Marbles on the street, I make sure I dip his

big feet in warm water to get rid of the salt in between his footpads.

Sometimes, the stress of making sure Marbles does not bark too much is hard. When walking Marbles, we make sure that we pick up after him. Even then, I notice some neighbors giving us the evil eye. Of course, these are neighbors who really don't care for dogs.

Since there are other dogs in our condo complex, some of us get our dogs together in one of our condos and let them play. This is a lot of fun and you get to know your neighbor better and that is a plus. Also take into account that you need to be able to take a new puppy outside many times during housetraining. One advantage of a small dog is that you can paper train him. When the weather is bad, you don't need to let him outside.

Overall, 8-month-old Marbles is a joy to have in a condo situation. So think about size of the dog you want. The availability of an exercise area for your puppy. Make sure you start training your puppy as soon as the puppy is ready. Untrained, barking and nuisance dogs are not pleasant for anyone, including the owner, no matter where you live.

We have a small longhaired dog that is 6 years old. When we take her for a walk in the snow she gets ice balls in her feet and will not walk any further. What can we do to prevent ice ball buildup?

Marbles had the same problem until I remembered to put a small amount of Vaseline in between his pads on all four feet just

before going outside. Another help is to keep the hair that grows in between the pads of their feet cut very short.

You also might want to consider buying a pair of leather boots for your dog. The plastic ones I have found dogs won't wear. I think it is because dogs don't like the fact the plastic boots are stiff. Soft leather is flexible. Some shoemakers will customize some boots. When you measure your dog's feet, do it when she is standing. The reason for this is because her feet splay out when she is standing. You want to make sure there is enough room for comfort. It may take your dog some time to get used to boots.

My son and his wife own a Lhasa Apso. The dog is unable to walk around in his back yard: The snow is too deep. Do you have any suggestions on what my son could do for his dog?

Your son can use a snow blower or snow shovel and make paths around his back yard for his little dog. Your son's dog will enjoy walking and sniffing the paths made for him. Remind your son that small dogs cannot spend as much time outside as your large breeds with their hair. He may want to consider buying his dog a dog sweater or coat.

Ben Cornell is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and former veterinary aide. She will answer pet and wildlife questions in care of Ash Bristol, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335 or her e-mail address: bristol\_dog@msn.com

## ANNIVERSARY



### DETIZIO 50TH

Louis and Lenore DeTizio of Farmington Hills were married in January 1949 in Dearborn. Mr. and Mrs. DeTizio have been Farmington Hills residents for 30 years and have three children: James (Carol), Nancy (Patrick), Grady and John (Pamela); and grandchildren, Keana and Trevor Grady and James and Michael DeTizio. They enjoy golfing, antiques, traveling, gardening and their family.

In celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary Mr. and Mrs. DeTizio will take a trip to Puerto Rico with friends.

## Think trim in new year

It's a new year, a time for a new start - the perfect time for New Year's resolutions. But do they really work?

"More than 80 percent of all people who make New Year's resolutions never keep them more than a week or two," said Lorraine Stefano, founder of Think Trim.

"Many of us never even remember our resolutions by the time February rolls around."

### Realistic solutions

Instead of resolutions, she suggests people develop solutions based on realistic goal setting.

Here are her tips: Concentrate on your behavior - it is the only thing you can change. Instead of saying "I'll lose two pounds a week, focus on behavior that will get you there," she said.

"I will exercise for 30 minutes three times this week or I will prepare two low-fat dinners this week."

Moderation is the key - when setting any goal, ask yourself, "Can I do this for the rest of my life?" If the answer is no, forget

it. The goal is unrealistic. Small changes add up to big successes when you can moderately change your behavior over time.

### Exercise a priority

Make exercise a priority - there will never be time to exercise unless you make time for exercise. Schedule it on your calendar, start gradually. Soon, it will become a habit.

Make your health a top priority - scan menus, read labels, find recipes with healthy alternatives. Many of your favorite foods are available in a low-fat, low-cholesterol or low-calorie version.

Set short-term goals - make a goal for a week, not a month. Then set the same goal the next week or revise it. You are much more likely to work toward a goal when the end is in sight.

Resolve to look for healthy solutions all year long. Stefano will conduct a solution-focused class Think Trim at Schoolcraft College in Livonia 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6. For more information, call (248) 828-7333.

## Homeowner's workshop on tap at Jewish Community Center

The Neighborhood Project will host a homeowner workshop, sponsored by Capital Mortgage Funding, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28 at the Jimmy Prentiss Morris Jewish Community Center, 16110 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park.

The workshop will cover refinancing, home equity loans, home improvements and landscape design. Contractor and home inspector Bob Mitchell will

talk on how to choose a contractor and how to identify problems in the home. Kevin Collins of English Gardens will talk about landscaping.

The community is invited free and refreshments will be served. For reservations by Monday, Jan. 25, call the Neighborhood Project, a program of the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit, at 248-967-1112.



Vivians help out: Members of the Vivians Club of Farmington (auxiliary of the Farmington Elks) include (from left) Marilyn Smart, special projects; Cheri Hoemke from Lanigan school accepting donations on behalf of her school; Millie Engle; Tomi Rutzloff; Bette Smith; and Carolyn Beauchamp, Vivians president.

## Vivians Club spreads goodwill to many

The Vivians Club of Farmington, auxiliary of the Farmington Elks, was very busy this past holiday season filling Christmas stockings for residents of a group home in Pontiac as well as an

assisted living senior citizen home in Farmington.

Also the Elk ladies Golf League, chaired by president Bette Smith, presented J.A. Lanigan Elementary School sec-

retary Cheri Hoemke with over 50 presents for less fortunate children in the Farmington area. The Vivians have been doing charitable work for 40 years in this area. A celebration last

August marked the club's 40th anniversary of operation.

They are also donating a garden bench for the memorial garden at Hospice Home in Farmington Hills.

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