

Today's Pets are More Like Family, Honored in Both Life and Death

Today's pets are more like family members than simply animals you see in passing as you go from your vehicle to your home's door or who you summon to play fetch when weather permits. No, nowadays, as opposed to as when I was a youngster, most family pets are fitted right in between the bloodline brothers and sisters, and are granted the most special of treatments. And yes, that is as it should be. If you go the route of becoming a pet owner, then by all means do everything it takes to make that pet feel comfy and cozy, give it great care, and love it unconditionally as it will most certainly return the favor tenfold.



Craftsman Kent Thompson built the beautiful casket where Samson now rests. Thompson said, "I see a strong need for many pet owners who have grown to love and respect their animals in life, and who wish to honor their time together in death as well. If we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at Thompson Builders at 704-695-6997 for your personal pet needs."

Whether you decide to purchase a specific breed or visit an animal shelter for your choice of pets, that's a matter of personal preference. One day I hope to find enough free time in my schedule to allow myself the opportunity to become a first time ever pet owner. And when that time comes, I plan to go to our local facilities and rescue an animal in dire need of some good old fashioned tender loving care. Admittedly, I was never one to spend much time with animals growing up, and we had many, many of them from which to choose. It has only been in the last five or so years that I find myself absolutely in love with my mother's dog, Mikey. Mikey is typical of my opening sentence, as he is ruler of the roost and prince of his Polkton Palace. This furry white Maltese is cute and cuddly and definitely requires twenty-four/seven care, which you can bet he receives. I suppose I can include him in my line of brothers as he

truly is a member of our family.

My research has led me in many directions, resulting with a common denominator. The pet owners of today most often take the time and energy it requires to cuddle their pets into their families, into their lives and into their hearts. Of the owners I spoke with, they all obviously love their animals and tend to their needs, but it goes much further. They treat these cats, dogs, goats, pigs, turtles fish or whatever pet they have ushered into their homes with all the love and fervor of a new child. Mikey, my five and a half year old white-furry brother, again comes to mind. But so many people in our area are in the same position.

Five and a half may seem young, but in dog years, it's much older. Depending on the breed and some possible inherited factors, you can typically feel confident that an animal will be a part of your life for many years, but commonly, in the teens as an average guesstimate.

After the pet has become so intertwined with the family affairs and daily comings and goings, after the pet has become the devoted listener, follower, loving friend, compassionate companion, and very gallant guardsman, it is tough to say goodbye when that sad time comes. It has become such that many pet owners plan

burials, memorials or some sort of service to honor the fallen family member. Take for example Samson, fourteen year old family pet, protector and proud as a peacock canine who spent his entire life with one woman and her daughter. Samson, a rescued pup, did everything possible to ensure the safety and well being of his human mother and sister. They were quite the trio, and oh how their ties bonded until his life ended recently. Samson will be laid to rest in a beautiful, hand-made oak coffin and placed in his special space within the family garden. And, not uncommon these days, he will be visited, honored, remembered and adored for years and years to come. For just like other family members, Samson the pet, will be provided the same riches in death he was afforded in life, a loving place of remembrance in honor of his time served as the family patriarch. Rest in peace Samson, your duty on Earth is served. Photo and story by Melanie Morse

Pancake Supper and Talent Show

There will hold a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show on Tuesday, February 5, at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro in the fellowship hall. Donations will be accepted for youth ministry projects.

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- 8 oz. Sirloin Thick Cut Sirloin Grilled to Your Choice.....\$7.95
- 10 oz Ribeye Tender and Delicious, Grilled to Your Choice.....\$8.95
- 16 oz Ribeye Tender and Delicious, Grilled to Your Choice.....\$11.95
- Land and Sea Sirloin Steak and Our Famous Fried Jumbo Shrimp.....\$10.95

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- Sautéed Scallops With XO Sauce A Royal Recipe Now Exposed to the General Public. It's Called Extra Old (XO) Sauce Good to Go with Any Seafood Dish
- Filet Of Flounder Lightly Fried Flounder Filet and Mixed with Vegetables in the XO Sauce

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