

5 Holiday Traditions to Share With Your Pet

The holidays are a time to gather closer to the ones we love. For many people, pets play an integral role in making their house a home. For others, pets may be the only family they have left. This season, while you are making new memories and sharing in the old, I implore you to include your pet. I've taken the liberty to share a few holiday traditions my pets enjoy that yours may too.



Dr. Jasmine Shanelle Streeter
Veterinarian

pet. Many stores are pet friendly and will welcome you and your fur baby with open arms. If they have a Santa, even better, that is a great time to get a picture you and your little one will be proud of.

Opening Gifts

As an only child, for many years I received all the Christmas gifts. After getting my dog and cat, that all changed. With no children at home, my holidays are now spent wrapping stuffed animal toys and kitty treats. Watching these little nubs and tails wiggle back and forth as they wait for me to pass them their gifts makes it all worth it. I am a witness to the joy pets can experience when they are included in the gift giving.

Explore Outside

Winter weather brings a beauty all its own. This time of year I love walking through my neighborhood after dinner and admiring the beautiful light displays. To protect your pet against the wintry elements, I



Dr. Jasmine says decorating and crafts takes on a whole new feel when pets get included.

recommend purchasing a doggy jacket or protective booties. Make sure your pet is visible in inclement weather and at night by fitting them with reflective gear or light up collars.

Holiday Movie Night

Grab some milk and cookies and a few pet treats and you will be ready for movie night. The holidays are the perfect time to catch up on your favorite seasonal movies and comedies. This season save money on your electric bill and get all the love by cuddling with your pet for a movie marathon or holiday classic. For me, the Grinch and Friday After Next will be on repeat.

Wishing you and yours a relaxing holiday and a Happy New Year!

Email Dr. Jasmine your pet question to drjasmine@theskanner.com.

Guns cont'd

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Black," said the Rev. Kenn Blanchard, a Second Amendment activist and host of the YouTube program "Black Man With a Gun TV," a gun advocacy show. "We still have racism. ... We still scare people. The psychology of fear, it's bigger than the Second Amendment."

The recent shootings of Jemel Roberson and Emantic Bradford Jr. amplified long-held fears that bad things can happen when a Black man is seen with a gun.

Roberson was working security at a Robbins, Illinois, bar when he was killed Nov. 11 while holding at gunpoint a man involved in a shooting. Witnesses said the officer ordered the 26-year-old Roberson to drop his gun before opening fire.

But witnesses also reportedly shouted that Roberson, who had a firearms permit, was a guard. And a fellow guard said Roberson was wearing a knit hat and sweatshirt that were emblazoned "Security."

Bradford, 21, was killed Thanksgiving night by an officer responding to a report of gunfire at a shopping mall in Hoover, Alabama. Police initially identified Bradford as the gunman but later backtracked and arrested another suspect.

Ben Crump, a lawyer for the dead man's family, said witnesses claimed Bradford was trying to wave people away from the shooting. Crump said Bradford was licensed to carry a weapon but was presumably seen as a threat because he was a Black man.

The two shootings have brought



In this Nov. 8, 2018, file photo, a woman holds up a sign with Jemel Roberson's image at his funeral in Chicago. Roberson, who was working security at a bar, was killed on Nov. 11 while holding at gunpoint a man involved in a shooting in the barroom in Robbins, Ill. The recent shootings of Emantic Bradford Jr. and Roberson amplified long-held worries that bad things can happen when a black man is seen with a gun.

up some of the same questions about racist assumptions and subconscious fears that were asked after the killings of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida.

Trevor Noah, host of "The Daily Show," lamented Bradford's death.

"That's what they always say, right? 'The good guy with a gun stops the crime,'" Noah said. "But then if the good guy with a gun turns out to be a black good guy with a gun, they don't get any of the benefits."

In some other cases involving black men killed by police: Philando Castile was shot in a car in 2016 in Minnesota, seconds after informing the officer he had a gun. The officer was acquitted of manslaughter. And John Crawford III was shot in a Walmart in Ohio in 2014 while holding a BB gun he had picked up in the sporting goods section. Security footage showed he never pointed it at anyone.

According to the advocacy group Mapping Police Violence, 1,147 people were killed by police in 2017, 92 percent of them in shootings. While

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