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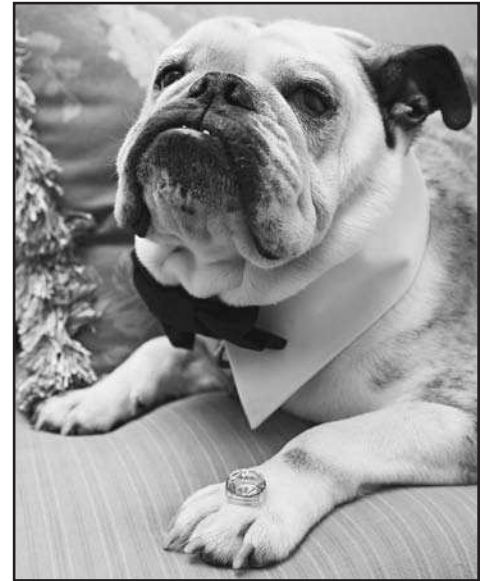
Pets play important roles in their owners' lives and are increasingly included in more activities, such as vacations, dining out and even weddings. More couples now are customizing their wedding celebrations and bridal parties to include pets.

Dogs and cats are turning up in wedding photos as well as trips down the aisle. Some pets even serve as ring bearers.

Before giving your pet a job for the wedding, consider its personality and temperament. How does the pet react around crowds? A dog or cat accustomed to a quiet home may behave differently when placed in a room full of excited people.

In addition, confirm that pets are allowed inside your ceremony space. Certain venues may not allow animals that are not service dogs.

Make sure to inform guests that



More couples are choosing to incorporate pets into their weddings, such as this ring-bearer.

an animal will be present, so those with allergies can take precautions.

If it isn't practical to have animals in the ceremony, give them a primary spot in wedding or engagement photos. —Metro

Rehearsal

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Toasts are expected at the rehearsal dinner, but they tend to be spontaneous, off-the-cuff remarks.

A couple with a good sense of humor might not mind being roasted at their rehearsal dinners. The bride and groom should expect to say a few words of thanks to all in attendance, but remarks need not be too formal.

Rehearsal dinners may even fea-

ture a little entertainment. Tech-savvy wedding party members may put together a presentation with videos or photographs that chronicles the couple's lives separately and their life together.

Rehearsal dinners provide an opportunity for couples and their families to spend time together before the larger festivities of the wedding pull them in multiple directions. Plus, they set a fun tone for the wedding weekend to come. —Metro



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