

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

IN RELATING THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION 'WHAT BEING A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER MEANS TO ME', I FELT IT MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION 'WHAT BEING A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER DOESN'T MEAN TO ME' FIRST. BEING A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER DOESN'T MEAN CHAINING UP YOUR DOG IN A SPACE THE SIZE OF YOUR FRONT YARD 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, EVEN IF YOUR FRONT YARD ACRES ACROSS, SO HE WON'T CATCH RABIES. IT ALSO DOESN'T MEAN CUTTING OFF HIS FUTURE FAMILY LINE. IF HE STAYS IN THE YARD ALL DAY, WHATS HE GOING TO BREED WITH, BESIDES YOUR LEG? I WOULD ALSO COUNT FEEDING YOUR ANIMAL TO BLOATED POINT, PAMPERING IT TO THE POINT OF DEMI-ADORATION, WIPING ITS ASS, AND TAKING IT TO THE VET EVERY TIME IT SQUEEZES IN THE LIST OF OVER-RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER MANUEVERS. OBVIOUSLY, I COULD GO ON & ON, BUT PERSONAL MORALITY AND LIMITED SPACE BEGS ME TO CLOSE THIS PARAGRAPH WITH ONE ONLY NEED LOOK AT LONELY, OLD LADIES TO SEE HOW OVER-RESPONSIBLE SOME PET OWNERS ARE.

SO, ANSWERING THE FIRST QUESTION, WHICH, IF YOU FORGOT, WAS 'WHAT BEING A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER MEANS TO ME'. BEING A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER MEANS REMEMBERING CONSTANTLY THAT YOUR PET IS A SENTIENT, INDEPENDENTLY THINKING, MOVING CREATURE, NOT A MACHINE THAT YOU CAN JUST PROGRAM TO 'KILL' OR 'FETTER'. ANYBODY WITH ANY PSYCHOLOGY SKILLS KNOWS, WHEN YOU LEAVE A CHILD IN A 20x20 FT. SPACE ALL DAY & NIGHT FOR YEARS, THE CHILD ISN'T GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE SIGMAN FREUD (EXCEPT FOR MAYBE THE COKE PART). NOW A DOG IS AS COMPLEX AS A CHILD PSYCHOLOGICALLY (WHICH ANY PET OWNER CAN VERIFY), BUT HIS NEEDS ARE MORE BASIC. WHETHER OR NOT TO STERILIZE YOUR DOG OR CAT IS YOUR CHOICE, BUT, WHERE I'M CONCERNED, PETS SHOULD BE ALLOWED AN AMOUNT OF PRIDE A HUMAN CAN UNDERSTAND. CHILDREN ARE NATURES WAY OF SAYING 'YOU MADE IT KID, WAIT TILL THE NEXT BATCH'. AND, ACCORDING TO MY BIOLOGY TEACHER, GRANDCHILDREN ARE WHAT MAKES YOU SUCCESSFUL BIOLOGICALLY. BESIDES, DO YOU WANT FLUFFY'S GENES TO A