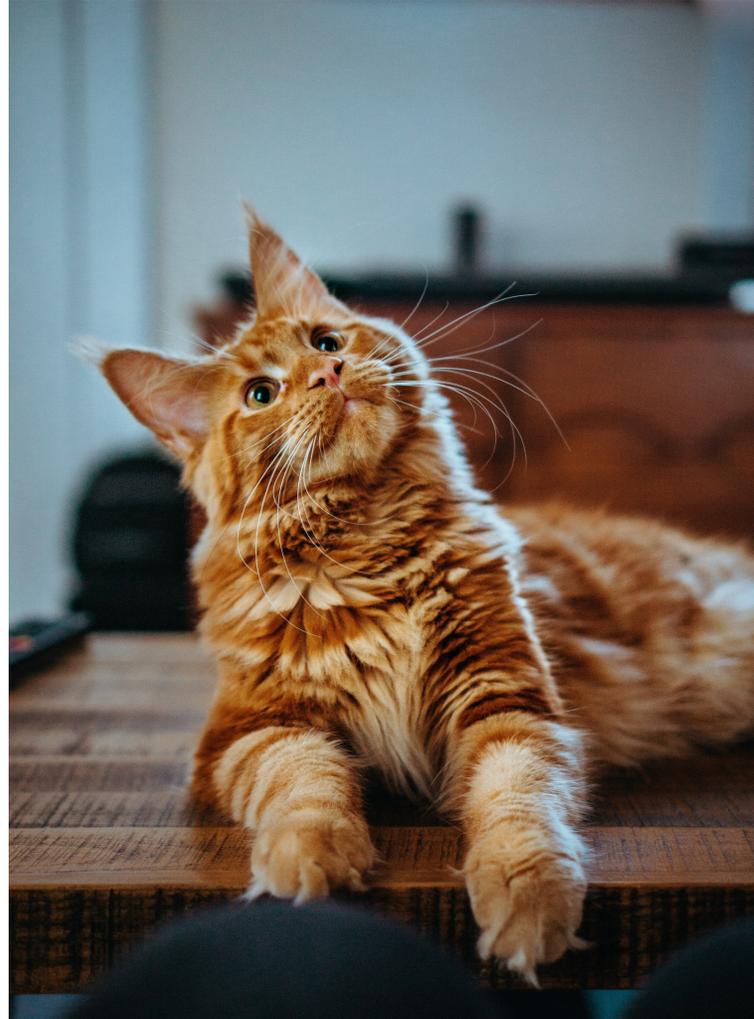


# DOGS ARE BETTER THAN CATS



BY PRIYA TRIVEDI



Jake's mother had not smiled in a long time. Up until now, she didn't know what to do with her son until someone had suggested getting a dog. Tears of joy poured down her face as she saw her blind son crossing the road safely with the help of a guide dog. She told everyone "This dog has changed my son's life."

The argument of dogs versus cats is something that's been witnessed throughout the world's history. Dogs and humans have lived side by side for thousands of years. The statement "A dog is a man's best friend" was first used by Frederick the Great of Prussia to describe the loyalty, companionship, and friendship given by dogs. Ever come across a similar heartfelt statement for cats? I didn't think so.

Dogs can be great household pets, just ask the 471 million people who owned dogs in 2018 according to Statista. Not only can dogs be trained easily and disciplined, they are also very loyal to their owners. There are many more breeds of dogs than cats meaning there is a huge spectrum to choose from, starting with minuscule chihuahuas to Great Danes.

Taking care of a cat means kitty litter boxes all over the house. This may not be an issue for people living in spacious houses however for someone living in a small apartment, I would not like to imagine the stench that lingers around the litter box. Cats also tend to kill mice which is a pro however stepping on a dead mouse first thing in the morning is not very pleasurable, personally speaking.

Think for a moment, how many times have you seen or read about a police dog, now think have you ever seen a police cat? Exactly there are hardly any. We have sniffer dogs who track down illegal drugs and there are rescue dogs who save people during natural disasters.

Imagine Jack the firefighter, who has been called on an emergency firefighting mission. He sees his teenage daughter fast asleep and next to her is their dog Charlie, sleeping with one ear perked up. "I have full faith in you Charlie," whispers Jack, "keep her safe until I'm back."

On January 15th 2022, five army dogs were recognized by the Indian army for their heroics and devotion to duty. Two of these dogs helped the army track down terrorists and the remaining three sniffed out explosive chemicals in the north-east of India saving many lives. All five of these dogs now wear their commendations proudly on their collars and continue to serve their country. The Prime Minister of India himself paid tributes to two Indian army dogs called 'Sophie' and 'Vida' who were awarded the Chief of Army Staff's Commendation Cards on the 15th of August 2020.

It's not just about the convenience of taking care of dogs and the safety they provide; it's also about the love and compassion you receive from them. Picture this, it's been a long day at work and you arrive home ready to fall asleep. As you are turning the key, you hear an excited bark and you can feel saliva and warm fur all over your face as your dog Max is greeting you. Max is so happy to see you that instead of just giving up, you decide to stay up a bit longer to finish your work and stroke his smooth fur. According to the 'National Alliance on Mental Illness' (NAMI), dogs can reduce "*stress, anxiety and depression, ease loneliness, encourage exercise and improve your all-around health.*" People who have pet dogs are usually happy most of the time and have a good mindset.

Without a doubt, keeping a dog is a responsibility but it gets children ready for when they would eventually be living by themselves. Going on walks with the dog is good for both you and the dog's health. During the Covid pandemic, many people got dogs to keep them company and also to give their families bonding time and something to talk about.

To conclude, dogs are amazing pets. Whether or not you like cuddling soft fur, going on long walks, or playing fetch, you will always have a loyal companion by your side. There's nothing wrong with cats however its just that they are better off living in the wild feeding off mice. Dogs are just naturally more inclined to be domestic animals than cats.

## How Dogs Think



**"They feed me,  
they care for me  
they must be gods"**

## How Cats Think



**"They feed me,  
they care for me  
I must be god"**

# Sources

Grenley, Greer. "How Dogs Can Help with Depression." NAMI, Feb. 2018, <https://nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/February-2018/How-Dogs-Can-Help-with-Depression>.

Photo by Amber Kipp on Unsplash

Photo by Anna Dudkova on Unsplash

Photo by Cristian Castillo on Unsplash

<https://pics.me.me/how-dogs-think-how-cats-think-they-feed-me-they-23493964.png>

Published by Emma Bedford, and Mar 10. "Dog and Cat Pet Population Worldwide 2018." Statista, 10 Mar. 2020, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1044386/dog-and-cat-pet-population-worldwide/>.

Service, Tribune News. "'Sophie' and 'Vida', the Award-Winning Army Dogs, Find Mention in PM's 'Mann Ki Baat'." Tribuneindia News Service, 30 Aug. 2020, <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/sophie-and-vida-the-award-winning-army-dogs-find-mention-in-pms-mann-ki-baat-133817>.

Singh, Rahul. "Army Dogs Get Top Honours for Heroics in J-K, North-East." Hindustan Times, 17 Jan. 2020, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/army-dogs-get-top-honours-for-heroics-in-j-k-north-east/story-NuNolHmnWcSDOuAOjNjDFI.html>.

Stregowski, Jenna (2022, February 8). 10 Reasons Dogs Are Better Than Cats. The Spruce pets. Retrieved February 13, 2022, from

<https://www.thesprucepets.com/reasons-dogs-are-better-than-cats-1118371>