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Infographic from Pet Care Community Offers Tips for Keeping "Pandemic Pets" as Things Get Back to Normal-ish

-Leading pet care organizations join together to help pet owners and fosters -

WASHINGTON, DC – Pets helped us cope with the pandemic by easing stress, fighting depression and loneliness, giving us reasons to exercise and play, and just being great companions. Now that stay-athome orders are lifting, America's pet care community is sharing an infographic to help people transition pandemic pets to a lifelong part of the family.

Understandably people are facing new challenges as they begin to make their way back toward prepandemic routines. Many are going back to work full-time, or soon will be, after working from home with their pet for two months or more. Others are facing difficult changes to their financial situations due to lost jobs or decreased hours. Animal shelters and rescues across the country were emptied with generous people stepping up to foster pets, many of whom are now considering permanent adoptions.

This new infographic provides information for various situations and is designed to help pet owners and fosters make informed and responsible decisions in the best interest of both the pet and the family. Whatever each individual or family's changing circumstances are, or how the pet is reacting, there are ways to support their pet ownership journey to give them the opportunity to continue enjoying the scientifically-proven mental and physical health benefits of animal companionship.

Download the infographic here.

Additional information and interviews available upon request. Proudly supporting responsible pet ownership, this educational outreach was developed by <u>American Pet Products Association</u> (APPA), <u>Pet Industry Distributors Association</u> (PIDA), <u>Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council</u> (PIJAC), and <u>World Pet Association</u> (WPA).