

Creating a Bucket List for your Pet Companion

First:

Take some time to think about those things you want to remember in the final end-of-life walk with your pet. When you look back on this time six months from now, what will you wish you would've done in their life's final stage? In their last days? Think broadly, as well as remembering the little things that were special.

Next:

What did you like to do together? Plan to do those as often as you can.

Then:

Were there things your pet was never allowed to do, but you know they wanted to do them? For instance, eat people food. What will you put into your bucket list that falls into this category?

Remember:

The small things. For our animals, those are really the big things. The treats. The toys. The car rides. Do those things that bring your pet joy, and joy to you for seeing them happy.

Finally:

As you're taking time to make these final memories, don't forget to step back and embrace this time. The Bucket List is a great road map, but there will be starts, stops, and times where you just need to "be" and not "do."



More Inspiration and Ideas

Play ball. And, if they can't chase the ball anymore due to age or illness, roll the ball.

Eat as many treats as they want. If it's fries, burgers or Chicken McNuggets they like, go through that drive as often as you can.

A favorite park or walking trail made your pet happy. Go there. Walk, or comfortably put your pet in a wagon and pull them with you.

Were they always jealous of you and your fluffy bed and covers? Then jump on in and snuggle!

Are there neighbors, friends, family members who need their final time with your pet? Make sure to snap those photos.

Have you recorded that cute bark they do when they're excited? The soft meow when you snuggle together? Capture those sweet voices.

Did they like wading in the ocean, river, swimming pool? Do that!

Let them finally meet that delivery guy they've always warned you about.

Trips to the local doggie bakery to indulge in everything. As many as they want.

Take a final trip around the neighborhood or apartment complex, seeing everyone along the way they always loved to see.

Do paw print projects.

Make sure to get a good close-up photo of their nose. You know it's their unique marking, just like a thumbprint.

If it was handing out candy at Halloween they loved, ask the neighborhood children to trick-or-treat so he can do that one more time. Who cares what time of year it is!

Christmas or birthday presents were a highlight? Wrap up boxes and go after it! Hide treats in the boxes and watch them smile.

And, lastly, record their last days with you. From photos to video recordings, pay tribute to the journey and life shared to its final moment.

