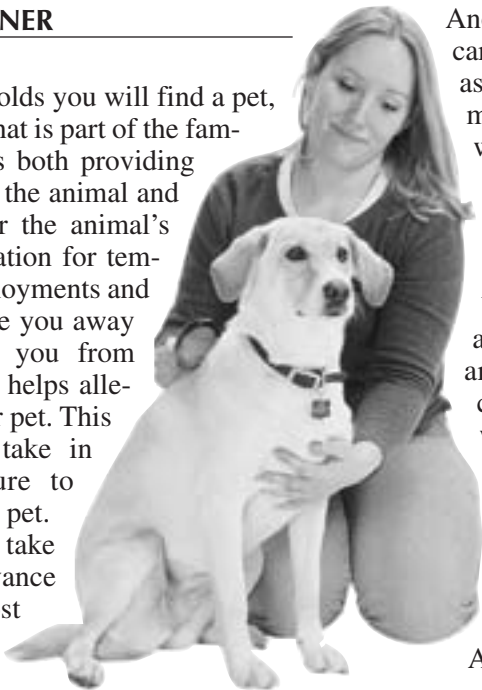


Advance preparation for temporary pet care a must

CAPT. ALAINA M. WICHNER
Legal Assistance Office

In many military households you will find a pet, a furry or feathered friend that is part of the family. Pet ownership includes both providing for the health and safety of the animal and assuming responsibility for the animal's actions. Thoughtful preparation for temporary pet care prior to deployments and other tours of duty that take you away from home helps protect you from potential legal liability and helps alleviate stress on you and your pet. This article suggests steps to take in advance of your departure to ensure proper care for your pet.

First, find someone to take care of your pet far in advance of your departure date. Most people look to a neighbor, family member or friend.



Another option is to seek help for foster care from non-profit organizations, such as the MilitaryPetsFOSTER Project. For more information, visit www.netpets.org/netp/foster.php.

Next, consider giving your temporary caregiver a special power of attorney legally authorizing him to make pet care decisions on your behalf. Additionally, prepare a written agreement outlining the pet care arrangement. The agreement should cover important issues such as what will happen to your pet if the temporary caregiver can no longer care for him, who is liable for any damage done by your pet, what will happen if you are unable to reclaim your pet and what happens if the pet is injured or dies while in the temporary home. Arrange who will pay for routine and

emergency care, as well as food, toys and grooming. Both the temporary caregiver and the owner of the animal should sign the agreement.

Then, complete a cat or dog personality profile to help your temporary caregiver understand your pet. Address issues unique to your pet such as allergies, medications, unusual reactions, food and sleeping habits.

Finally, make sure your pet is up to date on all vaccinations, have your pet spayed or neutered and provide your caregiver with veterinary records and contact information.

Outfit your pet with a collar and tag with the temporary caregiver's contact information and other necessary rabies or identification tags required by law.

Follow these suggestions to help ensure a happy reunion with your beloved pet when you return home from your tour of duty. For more information, call the Legal Assistance Office at 568-7141.

ATTENTION MILITARY READERS

Please tell our advertisers you saw their ad in *your* Monitor. Support the advertisers who appreciate the military and support *your* paper.

MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

YOUR PLASMA MAY SAVE LIVES.



HELP SUPPORT THE BIODEFENSE INITIATIVE.

Earn up to \$300 per month!

If you will be receiving your 4th or higher anthrax vaccination GET PAID TO DONATE!

TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY, CONTACT THE IBR PLASMA DONATION HOTLINE FOR DETAILS.

International BioResources, LLC
 8802 Alameda Avenue
 El Paso, TX
 HOTLINE: 1-800-360-9897



Withers Jewelers "Where it doesn't have to be ON SALE to get the very BEST PRICE"

1700 N. Zaragosa Rd. Ste. 103
 (915) 849-8000

Up to 4 years Interest FREE Financing OAC

- Appraisals
- Certified Diamonds
- Custom Jewelry Design
- Watch Repair
- Jewelry Repair
- Class Rings

46196

"I'm Bill Withers, your friendly neighborhood Jeweler."

It's A FIESTA OF SAVINGS!

at Fiesta Rent-To-Own

Washer & Dryer Set



only \$39⁹⁹ a month

✓ **No Credit Check**

✓ **Same Day Delivery**

Fiesta Rent-To-Own

FURNITURE • APPLIANCES • ELECTRONICS

5026 Montana • 775-1155
 CHELMONT SHOPPING CENTER



THIS IS A RENTAL PURCHASE AGREEMENT. NO OWNERSHIP RIGHTS ARE ACQUIRED. PRODUCTS MAY BE NEW OR PRE-RELEASED. PRICES ARE PLUS SALES TAX AND WAIVER FEES. \$39.99 X 24MOS. = \$959.76.