

"Bless the pets"

Remembering our Pets 2015, Madison, WI

Speech by Katie Hilst, DVM

Hello and welcome, I am honored that you have chosen to spend time with us today. As I reflected on [Remembering Our Pets](#) and what I wanted to talk about, I kept coming back to the thought that we are so blessed by the pets and people in our lives. The definition of blessing from the Bible is a mark of God's relationship with a person, and the act of blessing means the imparting of power or life. The definition of blessing from the dictionary is to ask for care, protection, to grace with, or to provide someone with something that is good and desirable.

Blessing is about relationship, not just any relationship, but a relationship that is a gift and brings us joy and happiness. We have all been gifted by a pet in our life who is no longer with us physically on this earth. Our special pet has devoted their life to making us happy, in their own unique way. My first pet as a child, a German Shepherd named Kjas, was my sister's and my protector. She watched over us, chased any grownup that she didn't know that came near us (or any other little kid in our yard). She would occasionally escape out of our yard, but could always be easily found 3 blocks away, at the grade school playground playing with any kids that were available. She was our best friend and playmate, and would take naps with us on the floor. She blessed us with her care, protection, love and friendship. Kjas's blessing to me was to show me how a pet could truly be a part of my family.

Our pets spend their love and their lives devoted to us. Each of our pets have blessed us with a very special relationship. By being in relationship with us, they have given their love and joy to us to share, and even though their physical bodies may be gone, the love and joy stays with us. We cherish and remember them, and share our memories today, on National Pet Remembrance Day. So today, my question is how has your pet blessed you?