

REAL SIMPLE

LIFE MADE EASIER

5 NEW
BOOKS TO
CURL UP
WITH

Take Time for You

Fun, Fast
Dinner
Recipes

Create a
Relaxing
Home

Container
Gardens for
Any Space

Feel More
Positive

MAY 2019

Making It Work

How do you find time for your pet when life gets busy?

By Jane Porter

**I have one dog, who's 6 and very demanding.**

Last September, I changed jobs, and my commute went from two minutes long to 45 minutes long. My solution to being away for longer periods was having somebody else come over and take her for a walk and spend time with her. I also put on an audiobook to play for her at home when I'm gone. I play a lot of *Mary Poppins* because it's a four-hour book. For all I know, she hates it, but she can't tell me!



JULIA WRIGHT, 57,
RESPIRATORY THERAPY
SUPERVISOR IN AUBURN,
NEW YORK

I have two kids and four pets—two cats, a dog, and a blue-fronted Amazon parrot.

My husband and I are huge animal lovers, and we treat our pets as family members. Having pets has been a great way to teach our kids about compassion and gentleness. Parrots need a lot of stimulation, so we moved our parrot into our bedroom, where we spend a lot of time. He gets to listen to music while we listen to music. If we are playing a game with the kids, he thinks he's playing too, just because he's in the room.



JANINE SOMERS, 40,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
AT STONEWALL KITCHEN
IN YORK, MAINE

I've had my Yorkie, Charlie, for a year now.

Work gets busy, and I'm learning how to separate my work and home lives. Sometimes, as a single person, I find it tricky. I am always counting the hours to figure out how long he's been left alone. When I go out of town, I have someone stay with him. I take him on longer walks to give him more attention when I know I'm going to be away. He's brought so much joy to my life that I want to return it.



VEASNA KEO, 35,
HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCE
TEACHER IN SAN DIEGO

I have three dogs at home, and all of them are seniors.

The trick is keeping things as dependable as possible. They'll have accidents, tear something up, or misbehave in some way if I'm gone for a big chunk of the day, so maintaining a regular schedule with them is important. They're always fed at the same time. We go out at the same time. At a certain time of day, we have cuddles. I also make dog snacks a couple of times a month for them. If I know I'm going to be gone, I'll make an extra batch of jerky snacks and spoil them a little bit before I go.



RJ GIBSON, 46,
FREELANCE EDITOR AND
TUTOR IN BUCKHANNON,
WEST VIRGINIA

I have two children. We have two dogs and a cat, and my son has a lizard.

I'm gone a lot: I own a salon in Orlando, work in a salon in New York City once a month, and go to Los Angeles often. My saving grace for my pets is my kids. When I'm traveling, I'll use FaceTime with them and our dog Zeus. My husband set up cameras in the house that connect to our phones so we can see what the animals are up to when we aren't there. We can talk to them over the speaker, and that comforts them.



SHERRY RATAY, 46,
COLORIST IN ORLANDO,
FLORIDA