

Beth Pottroff
Short Story

The bonds between pet owners and their animals are apparent at a closer look.

The striped orange feline Max leans into owner Jordan Reece and closes his eyes. I can hear his purr from across the room. She smiles down at him and strokes his ears.

Jordan adopted Max about a year ago when he was just a baby kitten. Max has been with Jordan for almost his entire life.

“When I first got him, I loved him immediately,” Reece said.

Max like many other animals, participates in certain routines with Jordan. At night he sleeps on her pillow next to her. Sometimes during the day, she will take him outside for fresh air. These routines seem to create a bond between Max and Jordan.

Jordan’s roommate Lindsey Wiederholt notices this. She is also a pet owner. She has a german shepherd named Ace.

“It’s obvious that Max realizes Jordan is his owner and that Ace realizes I’m his,” Wiederhold said, “I think it partly has to do with the fact that I feed Ace and Jordan feeds Max.”

When Jordan or Lindsey leave for a few days, typically they will watch each other’s pets. If they both leave at the same time, they find pet sitters or bring their pets with them.

“I don’t like to leave Max for more than a couple days,” Reece said. “I miss him when I don’t get to see him.”

Lindsey also got Ace when he was a puppy. He and Lindsey have different routines than Jordan and Max. Ace likes to play fetch and go for walks. He is more hyper and rambunctious than Max.

Lindsey will take Ace for walks frequently. She also takes him to stores like PetSmart. PetSmart alllows pet owners to bring their pets inside with them. When they go PetSmart, Lindsey will take Ace to the toy section where he picks out a toy.

“When I take him to the toy aisle, I’ll tell him to go pick out a toy and he will sniff them all and pick one, it’s great,” Wiederhold said.

These routines that Jordan and Lindsey have help them connect with their pets. When Lindsey picks up the leash, Ace knows that it’s time for a walk. When Jordan gets the cat food bag, Max knows it’s time to eat.

It has been proven that owning pets can have benefits. According to the website petpartners.org owning pets can lower stress levels and improve the overall mood in pet owners. According to the website cdc.gov, owning a pet can also increase opportunities for exercise and socialization.

Human and animal companionship is a great bond that can last the entire animal’s lifetime. Lindsey and Jordan can attest to that.