

- Dogs

Compassionate Causes

ARE YOU REALLY A DOG PERSON?

HINT: YOUR FACEBOOK POSTS ARE ALWAYS ABOUT DOGS.

By BETTY SAMSON

I am a Dog Person. I just like them, period. This has taken me far, from sports training to rescue and adoption.

One day, I joined a club to meet like-minded Dog lovers. Though some behaviors I found strange and even bordering on obsession, everybody accepted and affirmed them as "normal". We all loved our animal companions, after all.



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6 SIGNS YOU'RE HOPELESSLY A DOG PERSON

In case you're wondering if you're really a Dog person, these might provide more clarity.

YOU'RE ALREADY A DOG PARENT

You studied responsible ways to care for your Dog and apply what you read.

You've probably even joined a club where you can exchange notes and share experiences with other Dog people.



YOUR FACEBOOK POSTS ARE ALWAYS ABOUT DOGS

Maybe your friends have noticed, and they've made remarks about how Dogs are all they see from your profile.

Your cellphone opens up with a photo of your Dog wearing a cap, bow tie, or John Lennon glasses. Your gallery is full of photos of your canine companion sleeping, eating, or playing.

Your Dog is your online avatar.

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YOU OBSESS ABOUT DOGS

You can't stop talking about your canine companions.

I know of one Dog owner who could not stop talking about her beloved Retriever. She gave him a personality and regaled us all day with his antics. Her Facebook photos were always about the Retriever. One photo alone could produce some of the funniest captions ever. The Dog was her inspiration and the center of her life.

When I used to meet with the late Fred Alimusa, the country's first "Dog Whisperer," I tried not to bring up Dogs. He had TV talk shows, tapings, and many Dog clubs clamoring for his attention, so he must be talking about Dogs all day. I would respectfully steer the conversations elsewhere to give him a rest.

But it never worked. As soon as Fred sat down, he plunged into the subject of Dogs and would not stop.

I guess our famous Fil-Am Dog behaviorist was just as obsessed as any Dog lover.

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DOG CRATES OCCUPY YOUR LIVING ROOM

I know of one club member who lined up her Dog cages neatly along one wall of her living room.

That living room set-up can be understood only by another Dog lover. I found it very practical; it's the best way you can keep an eye on your beloved animal companions.



YOU OWN NOVELTY ITEMS THAT REMIND YOU OF YOUR DOG

You surround yourself with trinkets that remind you of your Dog.

Dalmatian lovers fall for anything with spots, from gift wrappers and trash cans to pencil holders.

Right now, Corgis are trending; keychains, wall clocks, bags, stickers – you name it – are all the hype.

YOU'RE CONSIDERING ADOPTING ONE MORE DOG

Dogs always liven up a home with their positive energy. Their presence is healing.

That's why you can't refuse one more.

