Jen's Pet Sitting

1 The most environmentally friendly act that pet owners can do is also the easiest: provide a forever homes for their pets! Shelters are a huge drain on resources and keeping animals out of the system is a plus for both animal and environment. In addition, spaying and neutering is vital to reducing the number of unwanted animals that end up in overburdened shelters.

2 As the number of household pets grows, so does the issue of pet waste disposal. Until we move toward the ideal solution of commercial grade composting of pet waste, "bag and trash" is currently the best option for both health and environmental reasons. Reduce landfill impact by using biodegradable poop bags and natural cat litters. Scoop natural cat litter into biodegradable, compostable, or paper bags.

3 The fewer toxins introduced into pet homes, the better. Diluted white vinegar is a basic cleaner that also has antibacterial properties. It works great on urine stains and clears hard water deposits from water bowls. Steam mops, which clean without the addition of chemicals, are perfect for floors where pets spend most of their time, occasionally eat from (despite the best of intentions) and walk on before licking their paws.

4 The market for eco-friendly and pet safe toys is growing. Shopping locally is always ideal and Noble Beast has a wide range of environmently friendly products. There are numerous online retailers such as *planetdog.com* and *earthbath.com* that are just a google away. GreenerChoices (*greenerchoices.org*) is a great resource to help sort out the true meaning of eco-labels.

5 Food choice is much too complex to address here, but one thought to consider: high quality foods that use responsible food production methods often require smaller serving sizes than less expensive foods with lower quality filler ingredients and production. The true cost can be deceptive as the price difference between the two may actually be less than it initially appears.

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