

SUNDAY RECORD

YOUR GUIDE TO PUBLIC RECORDS AND VITAL STATISTICS IN CALHOUN COUNTY

DEATHS

Willie Ann Albea, Anniston
Henry Almon III, Anniston
Lois Frost Anderson, Anniston
Willie James Bailey, Anniston
Verdie Sylvia Bone, Centre
Joe R. Boshell, Heflin
Doris Robertson Burrows, Munford
Peggy Odum Virginia Chesnut, Gaylesville
Jeanette Clark, Anniston
Jimmy L. Coppock, Jacksonville
Robert Couch, Anniston
Ernest Leroy Dover Jr., Anniston
Charlotte Perry Duncan, Muscadine
Harvey Preston Ervin, Anniston
Jackie Fielder, Anniston
Samuel H. "Uncle Sam" Gibbs Jr., Talladega
Laura Louise Grimes, Gaylesville
Tony L. Heard, Miami, Fla.
Matthew Blake Howell, Anniston
Wilbur Jefferies, Heflin
Martha Ellen McArthur

Johnson, Anniston
Emma Jones, Anniston
Voncile Dawkins Jordan, Mellow Valley
Julian M. Knight, Wadley
Wilburn Laughlin, Cedar Bluff
Christine W. Lee, Weaver
Frankie McFall, Anniston
Jeanette Miller, Roanoke
Joseph Henry Nix, Wedowee
Grayson Luke Perry, Pell City
Clara Mae Lovell Pettis, Weaver
Stephen P. Phillips, Centre
Clara Pope, Anniston
Benny Loy Powers, Munford
Willie D. Rawls, Virginia
Willie Rushon, Attalla
Betty Jean Sanders, Georgia
Mary Joyce Williams Scott, Anniston
Donald "Donnie" Snider, Oxford
Jeff Soleman, Delta
Diana Stockdale, Lincoln
Waymon L. Taft, Roanoke
Cecelia "C.P." Walker, Anniston
Kimberly Fleming Webb, Oxford
Willie Willis, Anniston

BANKRUPTCIES

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy allows the debtor to retain certain exempt property, but the debtor's remaining property is gathered and sold by a trustee from which creditors will receive payment. It may also be used by businesses which wish to terminate their business.

A Chapter 13 bankruptcy enables debtors, through court supervision and protection, to propose and carry out a repayment plan under which creditors are paid, in full or in part, in installments over a three-year period. During that time, debtors are prohibited from starting or continuing collection efforts.

The following bankruptcies declared by Calhoun County residents were recorded by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Alabama last week:

Chapter 7

- **Derek Don Jewell**, Jacksonville
- **Loretta Woodard**, South Marshall Street, Anniston
- **Jobe Nelson Statum III**, Kelly Lane, Oxford
- **James B. Kelly**, Law Martin Road, Piedmont
- **Tona R. Davis**, Eualton Road, Anniston
- **Shanti Reed**, Kilby Terrace, Anniston
- **Jeffery Adam Gibbs**, Six Foot Road, Ohatchee

Chapter 13

- **Willie Burnett and Dorothy Burnett**, West 21st Street, Anniston
- **Carolyn Jones**, Cloverdale Road, Anniston

FORECLOSURES

- **Joey L. Dodd**, Quail Run subdivision, block A, lot 17.
- **Mark T. Cotton and Lisa Cotton**, Sunset Heights, The Fairways addition, block 3, lots 7 and 8.
- **Donald E. Chumley and Holly D. Chumely**, Lakewood Estates, block 2, lot 9.

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MARRIAGE LICENSES

- **Reginald Juan Butts** of Anniston to **Sherita Lashae Moore** of Anniston
- **Chandler Scott Tyree** of Oxford to **Haleigh Delyn Graben** of Anniston
- **Mason Chase Clark** of Alexandria to **Taylor Diane Robinson** of Jacksonville
- **Joshua Daniel Wright** of Weaver to **Celia Dawn Engle** of Weaver
- **Zachery Tyler Woodall** of Ohatchee to **Haley Margaret Chaney** of Ohatchee
- **Hermelindo Vargas Oliver** of Piedmont to **Reina Maria Ventura Mejia** of Piedmont
- **Jonathan Bradley Allred** of Lincoln to **Jennifer Olivia Lee** of Pell City
- **Albert Juarez** of Anniston to **Tiffa-**

- ny Marie Shears** of Anniston
- **Trenton Kyle Floyd** of Alexandria to **Jordan Nicole Spiering** of Anniston
- **Kristan Shawn Weeks** of Piedmont to **Sydney Diane Powell** of Piedmont
- **Wayne Barry Yenser** of Anniston to **Jennifer Marie Tremble** of Anniston
- **Nathaniel Cy Sensenbach** of Anniston to **Tanya Nicole Smith** of Anniston
- **Thomas Alexander Davis** of Anniston to **Brittany Nicole Whaley** of Anniston
- **George Skylar Ray** of Anniston to **Kristin Leigh Steward** of Anniston
- **Larry Holyfield Jr.** of Oxford to **Amy Lynn Rutherford Brewer** of Oxford

CATTLE SALE

Here is the livestock market report for the Tuesday sale. Receipts for this week 277 compared to 854 last week. Receipts a year ago 455.

FEEDER CLASSES:

Bulls and steers (Medium and Large No. 1 and No. 2): 200-300 lbs. Too Few; 300-400 lbs. 225.00 to 250.00; 400-500 lbs. 190.00 to 225.00; 500-600 lbs. 170.00 to 197.50; 600-700 lbs. 142.00 to 172.00. Heifers (Medium and Large No. 1 and No. 2): 200-300 lbs. Too Few; 300-400 lbs. 200.00 to 230.00; 400-500 lbs. 185.00 to 212.00; 500-600 lbs. 170.00 to 197.00; 600-700 lbs. Too Few.

SLAUGHTER CLASSES:

Cows: Breakers 90.00 to 94.00; Boners 101.00 to 106.00; Lean 84.00 to 89.00. Bulls: High Dressing >58% 119.00 to 122.00.

WILLS PROBATED

- Mildred E. Worley
- Margie F. Harmon

EDITOR'S NOTE

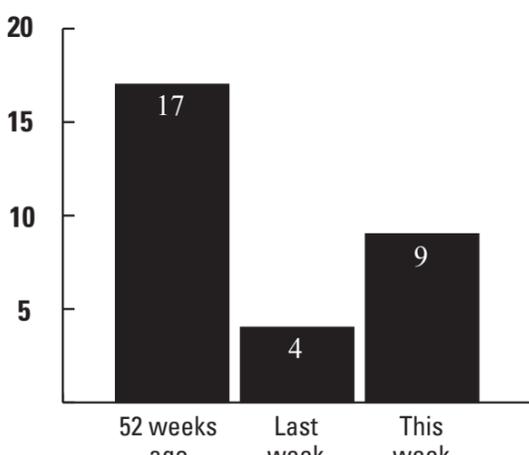
The material inside the Sunday Record is recorded by The Anniston Star from various institutions and government offices.

The public records are published as they appeared on the documents obtained by the newspaper. Direct questions and comments about Sunday Record to Isaac Godwin at igodwin@annistonstar.com.

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The Anniston Star
RELIGION ROUNDTABLE
 Local faith leaders answer your questions every Friday.

RATE OF BANKRUPTCIES



ARRESTS

The people listed in this arrest report, whose names and charges are obtained from public records, are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Anniston

The following felony arrests were reported by the Anniston Police Department (addresses not provided) during the seven-day period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

- **Tony Ray Rogers**, 18: first-degree theft.

- **Carter Eugene Combs**, 40: possession of a controlled substance.
- **Christopher Andrew Hart**, 25: first-degree possession of marijuana.
- **Kevin Oneal Johnson**, 22: first-degree theft.
- **Laci Morgan Morgan**, 28: criminal attempt.
- **Derek Alan Campbell**, 37: second-degree receiving stolen property.
- **Demarcus Sharon Brown**, 19: third-degree burglary.
- **Juliane Louise Kelley**, 29: third-degree theft.

- **Lucas Bradley Adams**, 31: second-degree theft.

Calhoun County

The following felony arrests were reported by the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office during the seven-day period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

- **Cassie Marie Langston**, 24, of Lincoln: failure to appear in court.
- **Latasha Lucious**, 28, of Alexandria: second-degree assault.

- **Sarah Andrews Byrd**, 44, of Alexandria: third-degree burglary.
- **Haley Nicole Bryant**, 25, of Jacksonville: unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance.
- **Joseph Scott Schoeller**, 33, of Anniston: unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance.
- **Robert Thomas Jenkins**, 56, of Oxford: first-degree theft of property.
- **Wilbert Marvin Dodd**, 44, of Jacksonville: domestic violence strangulation.

BLOTTER

Crimes are listed by location. Anonymous tips may be called in to Crime Stoppers at 256-238-1414. A reward of up to \$1,000 may be given.

Anniston

The following property crimes were reported to the Anniston Police Department during the seven-day period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

- **Burglaries**
- Residence, 100 block of East 29th Street: televisions, game console, games.
- Residence, 1400 block of Kilby Terrace:

- jewelry, game console.
- Residence, 2800 block of West 11th Street: televisions, game console.
- Residence, 400 block of East 23rd Street: television, game console.

Thefts

- Residence, 3200 block of Gaines Street: tablet computer.
- Residence, 2600 block of West 12th Street: money orders.
- Fraudulent use of a debit/credit card
- Residence, 200 block of Douglas Drive: cash.

Auto-related thefts

- Parking lot, 1500 block of Hillyer Robinson

- Industrial Parkway: purse, laptop computer, cash, mp-3 player.
- Parking lot, 3800 block of Alabama 202: tool box, tools, drop cords.
- Residence, 5300 block of Glade Road: Army helmet, sleeping bag, rucksack, vest, checkbook, baseball bats.
- Residence, 4300 block of Saks Road: 1991 Acura Integra, wallet, debit card, personal I.D., vehicle keys.

Calhoun County

The following property crimes were reported to the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office

during the seven-day period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

Thefts

- Residence, Patterson Street, Anniston: farm equipment.
- Residence, Antioch Road, Anniston: firearm.
- Residence, Ivy Street, Anniston: leaf blower, string trimmer, gas can, lawnmower.
- Fraudulent use of a debit/credit card
- Residence, Lott Drive, Anniston: Greendot Visa card.
- Unknown location, Parker Boulevard, Weaver: Visa card.

PROPERTY

- **Roger Brandon Harris and Amanda Harris** to **Freddie Mac**, Brittany Downs, re-subdivision 10, lot 41.
- **May Rene Turner 2013 Revocable Trust** to **AMS Selah Inc.**, a parcel of land in section 13, township 16, range 8, \$10.
- **Farmers & Merchants Bank** to **Cindy H. Kuehn and Mark A. Kuehn**, Wildwood subdivision, 1st addition, lots 12 and 37, \$10.
- **Teresa Lynn Cochran, Landon A. Fordham and Lisa G. Johnsey** to **Steven D. Gardner**, a parcel of land in the Sam Holland subdivision, block A, \$10.
- **Mark Powers & Co. Inc.** to **Clifton D. Stansell**, Anniston Land Co., block 601A, lots 5-12, \$10.
- **Peyton Homes LLC** to **Kevin C. Johnson and Jennifer C. Johnson**, Magouirk subdivision, lot 12, \$10.
- **Lisa W. Lang and Kevin Dwight**

- Lang** to **Jordan Shears**, Wood Chase subdivision, block B, lot 6, \$10.
- **Kristin R. Brodeur** to **Logan Ryan Eads**, Shady Manor, 1st addition, block D, lot 3, \$10.
- **Jimmie Rowe and Andrea Rowe** to **Nellie T. Milton**, Pine Hill Estates, 5th addition, lot 60, \$10.
- **Andrew Williams and Tabitha Williams** to **Jennifer M. Bowman**, Pokagon Park subdivision, block 4, lot 6, \$10.
- **Sandra Faye Christopher** to **Patrick Jeffery Christopher and Mary Ellen Christopher**, a parcel of land in section 34, township 15, range 7, \$10.
- **Lewis Frederick Clements Jr. and Ranier Haspel Clements** to **Christopher Schneider and Jenny Schneider**, a parcel of land in section 20, township 14, range 9,

- \$130,000.
- **Heirs of Lois Anne Key** to **William Chad Key**, Pettus-Boozier subdivision, No.2, lot 9A, \$1.
- **Margaret A. Potts** to **AMS Selah Inc.**, Bracks subdivision, block 1904, lots 25-27, \$1.
- **Bhakti Chandravada Patel** to **Paul H. Byers II, J.J. Burns** subdivision, block C, lots 50 and 51, \$10.
- **Rudolph Perkins-Estate** to **Joseph C. Bragg**, Winslow Heights, block 7, lots 1-8, \$10.
- **Alvaro Mejia Romero and Rosalinda Romero** to **Bryan R. McCormack**, Pine Hill Estates, 7th addition, lot 100, \$170,000.
- **Cahaba Timberlands LLC** to **Sweetwater Properties LLC**, a parcel of land in sections 14/22, township 14, range 6, \$10.
- **Vera J. McAbee Myers** to the **City of Piedmont**, Piedmont Land

- & Improvement Co., block 50, lots 4 and 15, \$10.
- **Healthcare Authority of the City of Piedmont** to the **City of Piedmont**, a parcel of land in sections 5/6, township 13, range 10, \$1.
- **William R. Kennamer and Jane Wynn Kennamer** to **Jeffery D. Simmons and Teresa A. Austin**, Willow Point subdivision, lot 15, \$310,000.
- **Calhoun Development Co. Inc.** to **Kimberly B. Campbell and Bradford W. Campbell**, Buckhorn subdivision, phase IX, lots 18 and 19, \$10.
- **Davita A. Arenth** to **David Byron Brock**, a parcel of land in section 20, township 14, range 8, \$10.
- **Ben Miller and Miriam Weber Miller** to **Stephen H. Miller and Kristi D. Miller**, The Links at Pine Hill, lots 5 and 6, \$10.
- **William G. Crowe-Estate** to **Timo-**

- thy Tamerlane Brown and Melissa Michelle Brown**, a parcel of land in section 26, township 16, range 7, \$10.
- **James L. Smith and Verily A. Smith** to **Marcus Harris**, Woodgate subdivision, block A, lot 1, \$100.
- **Macie Wagoner** to **Jessie Graham and Alexis Graham**, a parcel of land in section 20, township 15, range 8, \$10.
- **Robert P. Konkol** to **Wayne Holcomb**, Wayside subdivision, lot 1, \$10.
- **Joel D. Ficklen** to **Jeff Sallee and Tiffany Martin**, a parcel of land addressed 800, Mountain Street, Jacksonville, \$13,000.
- **Heirs of Ross Brown** to **Paula Green and Greg Green**, E.L. Hollingsworth subdivision, 2nd addition,

Please see PROPERTY I Page 7E

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PROPERTY TRANSFERRED

PROPERTY

Continued from Page 6E

block 6, lots 6 and 7, \$10.
 • **Diana M. Reaves to Jerry O. Reaves**, a parcel of land in section 29, township 16, range 8, \$10.
 • **Bobby Gerald Lee and Annette T. Lee to Bobby Gerald Lee**, Windwood Estates, Vaughn's addition, block 2, lot 6, \$73,400.
 • **Deborah Tate Lewis to Hugh D. Miller III**, a parcel of land addressed 712 Ingram Street, Oxford, \$1.
 • **Robert L. Tate III to Hugh D. Miller III**, a parcel of land addressed 712 Ingram Street, Oxford, \$1.
 • **Denise Tate Spires to Hugh D. Miller III**, a parcel of land addressed 712 Ingram Street, Oxford, \$1.
 • **Gayle B. Storey to Patrick M. McCord and Valerie Brown McCord**, Shadow Ridge subdivision, lot 44, \$10.
 • **Judy Lynne Whitten and James Ted Whitten to Radford W. Prater**

er and **Mary M. Prater**, Piedmont Land & Improvement Co., block 72, lots 7-9, \$10.
 • **Sandra C. Morgan to Ramie Andrew McWilliams**, a parcel of land in section 2, township 17, range 8, \$10.
 • **Phillip L. King to Bryan Thrasher**, Indian Oaks Estates, block 3, lot 6, \$10.
 • **Fannie Mae to DDB LLC**, Mecca Woods Estates, block 3, lot 11, \$68,900.
 • **Fannie Mae to Joe Corvelo**, a parcel of land addressed 306 West Oak Street, Oxford, \$10.
 • **Dorothy Wright to Philip D. Stancil**, a parcel of land in section 30, township 13, range 9, \$10.
 • **Philip D. Stancil to Philip D. Stancil and Shelba J. Stancil**, a parcel of land in section 30, township 13, ranges 8/9, \$10.
 • **Gwedalyne McGuffey Rollins to Robert Bryan Key**, Blue Montian subdivision, E.L. Hollingsworth addition, block 3, lot 16, \$1,000.

• **P. Denise Hubbard and Gene Hubbard to Billy M. Wilburn**, Mountain View, phase 4, lot 153, \$10.
 • **Geraldine Arkontaky, Glenn Nicholas Arkontaky, Heirs of Diane Ledbetter, Charles Christopher Ledbetter and Lorrie Beth White to Rebecca McCullars**, a parcel of land in section 3, township 16, range 7, \$10.
 • **John W. Scully to Lauren J. Brown**, Indian Oaks, section 5, lot 180, \$10.
 • **John E. Turner and Joann Turner to Jeremy S. Mullally and Lori Mullally**, a parcel of land in section 30, township 14, range 7, \$10.
 • **Paula J. Yancey to Eddie D. Lewis Jr.**, Tarrymore subdivision, block 1, lot 21, \$10.
 • **Marcel Gentes to Tim Cain Enterprises LLC**, Sue Ann Stephens subdivision, block 516, lot 1, \$10.
 • **Joshua Dale Payne to Carlos Payne and Debra Payne**, a parcel of land in section 9, township 14, range 8, \$10.

• **Barbara Reed to Virginia Mays**, a parcel of land in section 17, township 16, range 8.
 • **Elizabeth R. Gnatt to Frances Whitlow Solivan, Donald R. Whitlow and Michael J. Whitlow**, Spring Valley subdivision, 1st addition, block 7, lot 1, \$10.
 • **Virginia Diane Salers Murray, Margie May Salers Maughn and Stella Jeanie Salers Crestwell to Wayne Salers**, Corning Land & Loan Co., block 58, lot 6; Mechanicsville, block 20, lots 3-5, \$10.
 • **Odis Wayne Wells and Deborah Wells to Vera Kay Barker**, Laney subdivision, lots 8-13, \$10.
 • **Thomas Hilton Elliott to Thomas Hilton Elliott and Karen Barnett**, Cambridge East, 3rd addition, block F, lot 8, \$100.
 • **D. Ann Wilson to Stanley L. Dulaney and Lynn W. Dulaney**, a parcel of land in section 21, township 16, range 6, \$10.
 • **Marion S. Watson-Estate to Marion Watson Murphree and Harri-**

et **Watson Lane**, Sunset Heights, block 8, lot and block 11, lot 1, \$10.
 • **Roberta G. Neighbors-Estate to Joel T. Barkley and Amber L. Barkley**, Spring Hill Heights, 1st addition, block 5, lot 4, \$10.
 • **Leonard A. McCauley Jr. and Tuyet Mai McCauley to Alejandra G. Lopez Rodriguez and Ricardo Almanza Moreno**, Deville Estates subdivision, 2nd addition, block B, lot 14, \$10.
 • **Calhoun Development Co. Inc. to Jerome Douthitt and Lakeisha Douthitt**, Buckhorn subdivision, phase VII, 2nd addition, lot 183, \$10.
 • **Lenard Lee and Doris Ann Jackson to Randall Morgan**, South Anniston Land Co., division A, block 4, lot 1.
 • **Betty Dudley Murray to James Green Jr. and Brenda Dianne Green**, Crow Farm, lots 1 and 2, \$10.
 • **Dora Ann S. Noah to Harold L. Smith and Kathy Smith**, a parcel of land in section 35, township 14, range 7, \$10.

FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS

When is doggie roughhousing too rough?

BY LINDA LOMBARDI
 Associated Press

Going to the dog park has become something owners think they almost have to do. "Our society has gone from thinking dog play is fun to thinking dog play is vital," says Robin Bennett, co-author of "Off-Leash Dog Play: A Complete Guide to Safety and Fun." But not all dogs are suited to this kind of play, experts say — and even if yours seems to be having a good time, you need to watch closely and keep connected with your dog. To humans, normal dog play can look rough, with wrestling and body-slaming and face-biting. But that doesn't mean anything goes. Unfortunately, dogs do get injured and sometimes even killed in dog park fights. Safe dog play requires human guidance. Trainer Sue Sternberg, who has spent the last few years videotaping and studying dog parks, says, "The subculture in most dog parks is, it's a dog village, this is their time to be a dog, you don't interrupt — and that's a dangerous subculture." To keep dog play safe and fun, know when to calm the situation. That should start before you're even in the park. When dogs run up to the gate and your dog is bouncing with anticipation, don't enter till your dog settles down and the others lose interest and walk away. "When your dogs are revved up like that, that arousal and aggression are linked," says Bennett. "It's possible for them to get really excited and it spills over into a fight." That connection between arousal and aggression is why you should keep a close eye on play and not hesitate to step in. "What keeps a group of dogs safe is timely interruption," says Sternberg. So you don't want to be drinking a latte and chatting, or looking at your phone — unless you're looking at Sternberg's dog park app, "Dog Park Assistant," which helps identify unsafe behaviors. A few of the play interactions that she considers red flags:

- Group chase. Chase is great exercise, but Sternberg says it's really only safe when it's two dogs, not a group.



Richard Vogel/Associated Press

Dogs play at the Sepulveda Basin Off Leash Dog Park in Los Angeles. Safe play requires human guidance — watch closely and stay connected with your dog.

- Wrestling between two dogs can be good fun, but safe wrestling involves turn-taking — if one dog pins the other for five seconds or more, it's time to break it up.
- A dog rolling all the way over is usually a sign of over-aroused play, whether it's caused by impact from another dog or just running out of control.

"If owners see any of those things, that is a cue to go in there and interrupt — physically get close to the dog and touch and reconnect," Sternberg says. Even when things are going well, it's a good idea to regularly check in and let your dog know you're still there. "There's no harm in interrupting, as long as it's not punitive," Sternberg says. "Go in, get your dog and move away. No harm done, and what a great thing to reconnect to your dog."

- Recognize signs of distress. If a dog yelps, don't assume it's an accident — it indicates your dog is in trouble, as does a tucked tail. "A dog that tucks its tail, even if it's momentary, feels vulnerable," says Sternberg. Sometimes dogs are asking for help and owners don't realize it. "There's a kind of jumping up that's, 'Hello, can you not see I'm freaking out here? Take me home!'" says Bennett. "Owners tend to ignore that, thinking the dog is being annoying, but the dog is asking for help."

And if your dog is hiding — getting

between your legs, using you as a barrier, or getting under a bench or table — take the hint. "So often owners yank their dog out from under the picnic table and go, 'Really, it's fun! Go play,'" says Bennett. "That dog is hiding for a reason."

Your dog may be great with some dogs and not others. Dogs have different play styles — some like to body-slam, some like to chase, some like to be chased — and while there's no intrinsically bad style, there are bad pairings. Sternberg's app has a cast of the characters you'll see over and over again, and indicates which combinations make for good play. There are also dogs who are better off avoiding group play entirely, and there's nothing wrong with that. "There are dogs who are the greatest dogs in the world, great canine citizens, great with people, and simply shouldn't be with other dogs," says Sternberg. "And that's far better than being the other way around: great with other dogs and you bite all people that you see."

Remember that the park is not the only way to meet your dog's needs — and it's not necessarily the best, says Sternberg: "The most important playmate for a dog is their owner, because play is so enriching, is such a bonding event, is so healthy for mind, body and spirit — and the most important creature your dog can play with is you."



App offers pet first aid advice

BY ROBERT MORAN
 Philadelphia Inquirer

Is your cat breathing normally? There's an app for that — for knowing what's normal. Is your dog not breathing? Watch the dog CPR video on the American Red Cross' new mobile app, "Pet First Aid." The app, available for 99 cents on Apple and Android devices, went on sale in December. Deborah C. Mandell, a staff veterinarian and professor at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, said the app gives users information "right at your fingertips when you need it," such as knowing "what's normal so they can know what's abnormal much sooner." The app also uses GPS to locate the nearest veterinary hospital or pet-friendly hotel during emergencies. Users can store pets' information and email it to a veterinarian ahead of a visit. "They've done an excellent job," said Mary Kury, a certified vet technician supervisor at the Quakertown, Pa., Veterinary Clinic. "They went through the most common emergencies we see on a daily basis." She also praised the app for providing "enough information without giving too much information," so a pet owner is not overwhelmed or confused.

Love among pets, partners means harmony at home

BY SUE MANNING
 Associated Press

It's got to be more than puppy love to move in with your partner. But that's just what you'll need for household harmony if that partner comes with a pet. If you just walked down the aisle or took your relationship to the next level, both people and pets will need time to adjust to a new living situation. Maybe Fido is getting kicked out of his favorite spot on the couch, or Whiskers has never been around a pooch. Pets need to get comfortable with new animals and with a new person giving orders. As the household adjusts to different personalities, changed schedules and new ways of doing things, experts offer tips for a seamless transition. Pets thrive on consistency, so if you have to change the rules, do it during the move-in — teach pets what's expected of them and stick to it, said Dr. Katherine Miller, a certified applied animal behaviorist for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York. Pets need to know their boundaries: can they sleep on the bed, sit on the sofa, play ball in the house? Where are the litter boxes, is there a doggy door, are there walks, where's the water?

Every pet-person relationship is different, but each is a two-way street, Miller said. "When it comes to introductions, gradual is better and patience is a must. It can take weeks, months or a year," she said. Rebecca Hjorten and Gavriel Kohlberg know all about taking time to adjust to a pet. The New York City couple started dating in medical school seven years ago, and Hjorten wanted a dog from the get-go but Kohlberg always came up with a reason to avoid adopting. Two years ago, despite his continued worries, they went to a shelter and got a year-old Siberian Husky mix they named Maya. There were problems: Someone had taught Maya to use the shower as a bathroom. The couple hired a behavior expert and trainer, and they still work on it. But despite the potty training issues and early objections, Kohlberg easily fell in love with Maya. "It was one of the best things we ever did," Hjorten said. Kohlberg recently took Hjorten and Maya for a walk in Central Park and proposed to both. Sometimes it's a more difficult transition. If there is friction between a pet and a partner, the whole household must work it out.



Associated Press photos

When Gavriel Kohlberg, left, proposed to Rebecca Hjorten, right, it was to both Hjorten and Maya, the Siberian husky mix the couple adopted together two years ago.

"Ask your partner to be the bearer of all good things for your pet each day," Miller said. Don't be afraid to use a pet's stomach to reach its heart. If a man just moved into his girlfriend's dog-friendly house, he should feed the animal and provide treats and rewards. And she should reward her dog for sniffing, approaching or its other investigation of the boyfriend. "Encouraging this social behavior will grease the wheels of

affection," Miller said. Don't punish a pet for failing to bond instantly, Miller said. Tension is always highest at the first meeting, so it helps if you can make the introductions on neutral territory like a park. "It's hard to expect everybody to just get along, so it's good to have a couple of low-key dates," Miller said. Don't force interaction, she warned, and never lock animals in a room. People have to take relation-

ships with their pets seriously, looking ahead to how their lifestyle will change and talking with their partner about it, Miller said. Sometimes the transition doesn't work out, as Angela Gonzalez knows. The 56-year-old from Carrollton, Texas, and her 9-pound Pomeranian named Peaches have been together for 12 years. When Gonzalez brought her new boyfriend home two years ago, he seemed to like Peaches. "I love my animals like my children," Gonzalez said. "He knew going in how I felt about Peaches." After 18 months, he started spending more time at the house, and Gonzalez knew there would have to be little compromises:

- He didn't want Peaches in the bed, so the dog learned to sleep on the floor.
- He thought she spent too much time brushing Peaches, so she got the dog's hair cut short.
- He said it was the dog's fault they couldn't go out on weekends, so she hired a pet-sitter.
- He said Peaches barked too much and suggested a shock collar. Or maybe, he said, she would be happier somewhere else.

That wasn't an option for Gonzalez. Now, Peaches is back in bed, the dog's hair is growing out and the boyfriend is history.