DO PETS HAVE BEST FRIENDS?

Have you ever noticed your pet following someone everywhere - or curling up next to another animal? That might be their version of a best friend!

Animals form bonds in different ways. Some love company and feel happiest in a group, while others prefer a quieter, more independent life. Let's explore!

Animals That Love Company

Some animals are naturally social, which means they enjoy living with others.

- **Dogs** are famous for this - they come from ancestors that lived in packs, so they often love being around other dogs and people
- **Guinea pigs** are happiest with a friend and can become lonely on their own
- **Rabbits** often bond closely with another rabbit and may groom each other
- **Budgies** (parakeets) love chatting and playing with their flock

These animals may form strong friendships, play together, and even comfort each other.

Animals That Prefer Their Own Space

Other pets are more solitary, meaning they like having their own territory.

- **Cats** can be social, but many prefer to choose when they want company
- **Hamsters** usually live alone and may fight if kept together
- **Some reptiles**, like geckos or snakes, don't need companions at all

These animals can still love their humans - they just don't always want another animal around!

How Pets Show Friendship

Even if pets can't talk, they show friendship in lots of ways:

- Sitting or sleeping close together
- Playing gently (no hissing or growling!)
- Grooming each other
- Following each other from room to room

newton clarke veterinary surgeons

Keeping the Peace in a Multi-Pet Home

If your family has more than one pet, it's important to help everyone get along.

Here's how you can be a Pet Peacekeeper:

Give everyone their own space

Separate food bowls, beds, toys, litter trays and quiet areas can prevent issues between pets

Introduce pets slowly

New pets should meet gradually, with a grown-up supervising

Share the fun fairly

Make sure each pet gets playtime and attention - no one likes to feel left out!

Watch their body language

If a pet looks scared, stiff, or grumpy, they might need a break

Respect alone time

Even best friends need space sometimes

Every pet is unique. Some love big groups, some prefer just one best friend, and others enjoy their own company. The important thing is making sure your pet feels safe, happy, and loved, whether they're part of a crowd or the star of their own solo adventure!

newton clarke veterinary surgeons