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My daily life would not be fulfilled without my adopted puppy named Cutie. He is my best friend, my playmate, and my protector. As a sixth grader, I naturally feel that my daily life is quite “stressful” even though my parents might not think so. Look, every day I go to school to learn and I try as much as possible to follow all kinds of rules. After a long day at school, I really look forward to going home to that friendly, cute and loving little furry face with a bushy tail – my puppy – the “best listener” in the whole world! There really are so many benefits to having a pet like Cutie.

Just like every pet owner, I never feel alone when I am with my puppy. Cutie welcomes me home from school every day and then “listens” to how my day went. He patiently sits next to me when I do my homework and cuddles with me when I watch TV, or play video games. His soft fur feels comforting and it keeps me warm in the winter. He follows me everywhere and even waits for me outside the restroom. Cutie also likes to follow me outside to get the mail and helps to carry it in his mouth back to the house. Pets really make everything in our daily lives more interesting and fun.

Many pet owners, including myself, like to exercise with their pets. My puppy loves to fetch baseballs after I bat them into the outfield. This comes in handy when there are no other kids to play with! Quite frequently, I see dogs jogging, or walking along with their owners, which makes them a great exercise companion too.

Another benefit of having a pet is that they are excellent for home security. For example, my neighbor’s cat scares rats, snakes, and other unwelcome wild animals away. My puppy’s barking is like our burglar alarm – it notifies us when strangers approach our door, or enter our property. Our pets therefore help us to feel safer inside and outside our homes.

By taking care of my puppy, such as bathing him, feeding him and keeping him healthy, I learned to understand that love and having fun also comes with great responsibilities. Ever since I adopted Cutie from the animal shelter, I have become a more responsible boy. I believe my parents would agree that this is a great benefit to them!

I strongly encourage every sixth grader to adopt a pet so they too can experience the wonderful benefits that these animals bring us. Let’s also support the very important work of the City of Arlington Animal Shelter through our volunteer work and donations. In this way, even more people will have the opportunity to adopt pets from the animal shelter, which will not only help the animals, but it will benefit their new owners as well!