

CANINE CORNER

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Pet Cameras



Pet cameras have been around for a while now and, while not everyone will need a pet cam, it is worth us discussing the benefits of having one and when they will be most helpful.

A lot has changed in my life since the end of 2021. Namely my canine compadre, Izzy, passed away just after Christmas and only days after we took on a special needs foster dog named Rosie. Rosie was deaf and the original plan was that Izzy was going to be her mentor for hand signal training. As so many have learned in the years of the pandemic, it was time to 'pivot.'

I was not going to renege on my commitment as Rosie's foster home but I was concerned that I would need to leave her at home alone for periods of time without a doggy role model. This is why I opted to install a pet cam.

I chose the Petcube which was incredibly easy to install and upload the app on my phone. Being deaf, the option to talk to Rosie through the camera was not going to be helpful as it would be for a hearing dog. I used our pet cam for video monitoring only and to listen in to see if she was howling, whining or barking, which happily she wasn't doing.

This is the top reason to have a pet camera: to monitor your dog's behaviour.



Problematic behaviours such as constant barking, destroying furnishings or chasing the cat can be monitored as well as less sinister problems, such as confirming your suspicions that the dog is, indeed, getting up on the sofa when you are not home.

An upgrade to a monthly plan would have allowed me to save videos from my camera which would be a useful feature for pet parents who are needing advice from a trainer. As they say, a picture (or video) is worth a thousand words. The video record function would also suit owners who want to share videos on social media.

When I was out at night, a night vision capability allowed me to monitor activities at home to the same degree as during the day.

Some pet cameras have a treat dispensing feature which would allow you to positively reward the dog for good behaviour after calling them over to the camera. I guess the durability of those models would depend on how enthusiastic the dog is for treats...

Other models often have motion sensor capability to alert you when the dog is moving around the house by triggering the video. This capability served one of my clients very well. They had not fully latched the cupboard door where the dog food was stored and their motion sensor camera caught their German Shepherd making multiple trips over to indulge himself in extra dog food.

Like so many technology products, there are pet cams to fit most price points so it is worth assessing what your needs are and to buy a product to suit.

Just a word of warning: you cannot legally video a dog sitter, house cleaner or any other visitor to your home without their consent. Think twice about using a pet cam for human surveillance purposes. 🐾

As this issue was going to print, I discovered that Petcube products are designed and engineered in Ukraine. The company is encouraging its users to donate to animal welfare charities working with the animal victims of the Russian invasion. petcube.com