

Other People's Dogs

A lot of Boomers have dogs and love them dearly. I am one of them. But I will never have another dog.

In many cases, the dog or dogs (frequently plural here as many Boomers go crazy and own two dogs) become substitutes for children who have grown up and moved on. They also fill up a lot of unused time for Boomers as well. That's great, and I hope these people enjoy their new canine family members. If you're one of these passionate dog lovers, skip the rest of this page and move on to the next one.

But if you're a Boomer without a dog and thinking about getting one, STOP!

Dogs are the biggest financial, time and energy drains in all of America. They need to be fed, walked constantly, nurtured, played with and loved.

Plus, they need to be taken to the veterinarian regularly for expensive checkups, procedures, and medicines. You will be shocked at how expensive dog medicine is, with no co-pays or insurance to defray the costs. This is the truth.

I spend over \$3,000 every year for my basset hound, Lulu. She has a microchip embedded under her skin. Curiously, the breeder forgot to tell us about all the common ailments a basset hound typically gets during its life. Or maybe I forgot to ask.

She is a total family love object but the financial responsibility for the dog is draining. I love her, but I wish the guy next door owned her.

The only people in America wealthier than dentists are likely veterinarians. Their business is thriving. That's because the Boomer market has exploded with people getting dogs and they spend money like crazy on them.

Cease and desist! If you don't have a dog, don't get one. Enjoy other people's dogs. That's right. Get down on the sidewalk and pat the next dog that comes by your house. Enjoy your neighbor's dog fully, maybe ask to take it for a walk by yourself on Saturdays. The owner will be thrilled. Or borrow your son's dog.

Just don't get one yourself. Then you won't have to walk it every three hours and pick up the dog's mess in a plastic bag and put it, warm, in your jacket pocket as you stroll the neighborhood.

Dogs are like children, only much worse. They never grow up. They will always wait by the door to be taken out. They are expensive. If you want to travel in your Boomer years, the dog is a major impediment to that activity. If you want to be adventurous in the middle of the afternoon

and go see that Oscar nominated movie, the dog needs to be walked first. Spontaneity goes out the window.

Find another best friend. If you want to survive in your Boomer years, dogs aren't part of the formula.