

TeenReads

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#FurBaby

Why are fur babies trendy?

Paws for Applause

Therapy animals

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Spirit of the Bear

#FurBaby

Have you ever heard of fur babies? They may not be what you picture when you think of a baby. In the past few years, it has become a hot trend to own a fur baby. This is true for teens more than ever.

So, What Are Fur Babies?

Fur babies are pets that people treat like their own children. They can be furry friends like dogs, cats, rabbits, and even hamsters.

These pets become a big part of their owners' lives.

The term "fur babies" is a way to show how much these pets mean to their owners, just like a human baby means to their parents.

Why Are Fur Babies So Trendy?

A fur baby can bring joy, comfort, and friendship. That is one reason they are a trend. Many teens turn to their furry friends during hard times. Fur babies can listen without judgment and can offer love without strings.

Why else are fur babies popular? Some people say it is the rise of social media. Teens like to share fun pictures and



Alphaspirit | Dreamstime.com

In the United States, people spent more than \$100 billion on their pets in 2020. [\(Source: American Pet Products Association\)](#)



Manon Ringuette | Dreamstime.com

The bear claw on this necklace is a symbol of strength and protection. It also gives the wearer a way to recognize their roots.

teens who are learning to be both vulnerable and strong in their own lives.

We live in a fast-paced world. Often, we are far away from nature. The belief in spirit animals offers Native American teenagers a special way to connect with their culture. It can help guide them through life's ups and downs. Bears, with their deep symbolism, become a source of inspiration. They are a reminder that, within, teens carry the strength to face whatever comes their way.

So, the next time you see a Native American teenager proudly wearing bear claws, remember it's not just a piece of jewelry. It's a symbol of a rich culture and a deep connection to the past. It's a source of strength for the future. Embracing the spirit of the bear, these teens are not just honoring tradition. They are carving their own path. They are doing so with courage, wisdom, and a deep understanding of their place in the world. Like Yona, they know that they are not alone on their journey.

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Spirit of the Bear



This totem pole was carved by the Southern Kwagiutl people of Canada. Totem poles are monuments. This totem shows a bear holding a human. Bears are seen as protectors.

The bear holds a special place in the heart of Yona, a Cherokee teen. Even as a little girl, Yona has felt that the bear is her spirit animal. She proudly wears a bear claw necklace as a symbol of strength and protection. To Yona, it is a way to show her identity. It is a way to connect to the roots of her culture.

Within many Native American cultures, it is said that animals have special powers. Since ancient times, this belief was based on a key idea. You can connect the natural world to the spiritual world. The animals are the messengers. They bridge the gap between the worlds. Animal symbols are deeply woven into the art and stories of many Native American cultures.

Today, for many Native American teens, spirit animals are protectors. Each animal reflects special traits. The bear is a symbol of strength, courage, and wisdom in Native American lore. Bears embody the idea that one can be both gentle and strong. This is a concept that rings true for many



A study found that, if you interact with pets on social media, it can have a positive impact on your well-being. You are more likely to have less stress. (Source: [University of Leeds](#))

videos of their fur babies. These posts often go viral. Then, these pets gain fame online. People follow them to see cute moments that bring smiles to their faces.

It's Not All Fun and Games

A fur baby can also teach a sense of duty. If you own one, you have to make sure its fed. You have to groom it. It must get check-ups from the vet. It's a big job. Just like real babies, fur babies need lots of care. They have feelings and need love too. Teens can learn about the needs of the pet they want. Then, they can make sure they can give them a loving home.

In sum, the trend of fur babies is all about love, friendship, and caring. Fur babies have become a big part of many teens' lives. They can bring joy and comfort in a world that can feel like too much at times. As long as people treat their fur babies with care and love, this trend will continue to bring warmth to hearts.

Paws for Applause

In many high schools, you can find a dog like Max. Max is a superhero with fur. She spreads joy wherever she goes. She listens to instructions and provides comfort to those in need. Max is a therapy dog, known for her patience and popular presence among students.



Most students like to interact with therapy dogs. They say they feel more calm and ready to learn. [\(Source: ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)

How helpful are therapy animals? A recent study offers proof. For teens, they help stress levels to come down. Many schools now welcome service animals. School leaders understand their positive effect. They see how therapy animals support the well-being of students and staff alike.

The idea that animals could help people to feel better is not new. Take cats, for example. Since ancient times, people have thought cats can be great friends. Cats are highly intelligent. They can give people emotional support. Then, during World War I, the world observed how animals could help soldiers overcome emotional challenges. Ever since, animals, particularly dogs, have been trained to help people with a wide range of needs.

Can Your Dog Become a Therapy Dog?

You might wonder, can any dog be a therapy dog? Well, it takes more than just being cute and cuddly. First, dogs are

tested to see if they have the right traits. They need to be friendly and calm around all sorts of people. Second, dogs that have these traits must undergo specific training. They can't bark or jump around when they are told not to do so. They must learn to obey commands like "sit" and "stay." They might even learn some fun tricks to make people smile.

But being a therapy dog isn't always a walk in the park. Sometimes, they face tough challenges. For example, some

people can be allergic to dogs. That limits the time some people can spend with these therapy animals.

Moreover, therapy dogs, like Max, have feelings too. It can be emotionally tiring to interact with lots of people for long periods of time. This is especially true when people are sad or under stress. That's why their owners make sure they have time to relax and play, just like any other dog.



Some dog clubs report an increase in therapy dog tests. This shows that interest is up in the use of dogs for therapy. [\(Source: American Kennel Club\)](https://www.american-kennel-club.org/)

So, can your dog be a therapy dog? Well, it depends on whether your dog has the right traits. It also depends on whether you're ready to train your dog. But, even if your dog is not trained to be a therapy dog, it can still be your best friend. Dogs can help comfort you when you feel sad or stressed. Any dog can be a superhero to those who give it love and care.