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From: Edwin Ortiz <edwinfortiz59@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 12:52 AM
To: EngAGE@CDA
Subject: The value of pet support services

I am fortunate to know about the services PAWS offers to seniors and the disabled. It took me a while to get services from PAWS because of the long waitlist, but it was all well worth it. They provide invaluable pet support services. Like dog-walking, monthly dog-washing, in-home cat care, transportation to and from veterinary appointments, and a host of other services designed to keep seniors and their pets together. As a senior, I know what loneliness feels like, most of our families have families of their own, they live far away, and a lot of our friends are long gone. Some of us are fortunate to have a pet in our lives to care for, feed, walk and nurture so they could thrive. The way I see it, we need them as much as they need us. I don't know what would become of me if I were forced to give my Dexter up, I think I would just wither away. Please! Help us keep our pets; to some of us, they are all we have!

Regards,

Edwin F. Ortiz