

Proposed Article

Pet Weddings

By Mark Freed

One of the least known but fastest growing, businesses in Santa Fe is Pet Weddings Inc. on St. Michaels Drive. The owners, Patsy and Bob Ruhan have been performing pet wedding for just over two years and the business is booming. They are now scheduling ceremonies 6 months in advance.

“The idea of pet weddings first occurred to us when we went to visit my sister in Des Moines, who lives alone with her cat,” says Patsy. “We figured their relationship was every bit as deep as most human marriages and deserved to be consecrated in some way,” Since then PWI has married people and their pets and more recently pets with other pets. I asked Patsy what her favorite wedding was and she said the marriage of a mountain lion and a rabbit last year in Durango. “I love the predator/prey marriages,” she said. “They signify the unity and peace we hope will someday be achieved by humans.”

Of course these marriages are not recognized by state or county government, or the church. But PWI keeps a registry and issues a marriage certificate. They also provide or arrange other services that go with human/human weddings. Photography is standard and comes with the wedding package. But some people use the occasion to throw a party with music, dancing, and, of course, special food and toys for the animals.

This may be the next wave in the animal rights movement... the right to marry. The Ruhans are naturally worried that there might be a constitutional amendment some day banning animal marriages. Some conservatives argue that marriage must be between two members of the same species, specifically the human species, and anything else undermines the values on which this country was established. We'll just have to wait and see how the next election turns out. Stay tuned.