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THE LATEST DECORATING TRENDS FOR

PETS



I never really took into consideration how many designer pet products were available until we finally had the opportunity to adopt our own two little puppies. In a matter of a week, our two precious divas were sleeping in nicer beds than ours, using shampoo products more expensive than our own, relaxing on designer print pillows created just for them and enjoying la crème de la crème of dog food. Oh yes, and not to mention the “Roots” jackets that were a necessity for those cold winter days. When did a dog’s life get so good?

Manufacturers are definitely getting on board the bandwagon with creating incredibly stylish furnishings for pets. You’ll easily find luxury items such as designer sleigh beds, pet sofas slip-covered in custom prints and accessorized with matching pillows. If comfort isn’t enough, they can now eat their dog food from elaborate personalized porcelain serving bowls. Even the Designer Guys had the opportunity to incorporate crystal cat food dishes in their decorating plan for one of their clients. The list goes on and on while the prices creep higher and higher. Pampering your pet with all the good things in life is definitely one of the latest new trends.

Many pet owners today want to ensure their home is pet-friendly while maintaining the look

of elegance. There are a few things to keep in mind when planning out the pet decorating process for your home. Safety and maintenance should clearly be on the top of your list. When it comes to flooring, selecting a product that is scratch-resistant, such as ceramic tile or laminate, is a wonderful choice. Laminated, nonporous surfaces will resist stains and can be wiped clean without any problem. Hardwood and marble products may not be your best choices for flooring as they tend to scratch quite easily.

When it comes to fabric and upholstery, “ultra-suede” or “micro-fibre” is one of the hottest new fabrics available on the market. It’s both elegant and durable and comes in a wide range of colors, although the best quality micro-fibre does come with a higher price tag. When it comes to having pets, mid-tones or darker col-

ors are usually a better choice to camouflage any marks or stains. Slipcovers are also a great option that will protect your furniture. They are completely washable and will eliminate the hassle and expense of professional cleaning. Choosing fabrics with patterns will generally disguise stains better than solid fabrics. Some fabrics available are made with a protective finish that will last for years, even with regular washings. Choosing uphol-

stery fabric that has a tighter weave is another smart option for pet owners. Looser weaves are an invitation to sharp claws that may snag the fabric.

When it comes to having pets, drapery may also be on your list of concerns. For those of us who love the look of those extra-long drapery panels that puddle so elegantly on the floor, you may have to pack them away (even temporarily) if you find your pet prefers to use them as a playground.

Every animal reacts differently to things in your home, so it will take time and patience to come up with the best solutions to maintain your home without sacrificing style. **R**

E-mail your decorating questions and photos to studio180@shaw.ca or visit website www.studio180.biz.