Living with and Loving a Pet with Behavior Problems

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What is the experience of the pet owner?
Problem behaviors impact the pet & the pet owner.
Positive

“... even though it was challenging in the beginning, the improvement he showed the more we worked with him caused me to feel a sense of pride and happiness on all the progress he's made.”
There are definitely feelings of resentment, anger (at times), guilt, hopelessness, and overall disappointment for a life which we had not imagined with a dog.
**Negative**

“I'm anxious regularly in anticipation of his behavior... I worry about how my spouse is feeling as we often don't discuss [because] of the emotional nature of this issue.”

**Negative**

“I worry about his anxiety and his quality of life. I worry that others might see me as a bad owner.”
Stress

Impact on Human–Animal Bond
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“...we do have an intense bond but I don't feel it's particularly healthy. I would love to work toward a less codependent relationship.”

People love their pets
People love their pets

“I love him & think his issues are minor compared to the love we get from him. It’s frustrating and definitely a source of stress though.”
Impact on the day-to-day

Limited time away from home
Impact on relationships

Household relationships
Blame

“There are no bad dogs, just bad owners.”
Lack of understanding
The struggle
The struggle

“The most difficult thing was deciding to give her back. One of the hardest things I’ve done as an adult.”

The struggle

“I made the hardest decision anyone would ever have to make and laid him to rest…Forever have a piece of him in my heart.”
REACH OUT

Our collaboration
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Questions?