

Public Abstract

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Graduation Term:FS 2016

Department:Human Development & Family Studies

Degree:PhD

Title:The Effects of Care Recipients' Companion Animals on the Caregiving Experience

This study examined the impact of older adults' companion animals on informal caregivers' instrumental and emotional experiences. Individuals requiring assistance meeting their own needs are likely to need assistance in meeting the needs of their companion animals. Consequently, the care recipient's companion animal may be an important, though presently overlooked, factor in the caregiving experience. The results of this study found that care recipients' companion animals are likely to impact both the instrumental and emotional experiences of informal caregivers for older adults.