



Dear Barry

I love my dog! I got her after I lost my girlfriend. My friends say I am obsessed, but I have had my Sadie for 7 years and she is my "kid". I take her everywhere, and if she is not welcomed at a restaurant, friends or a hotel, I do not go. I cook for her and would rather stay home on a Saturday night watching a movie with her in my lap. I know I may seem obsessed, but she is the best companion I have ever had. Is it so wrong to transfer my affections to a "sure" loving thing than to want to get involved in the dating world again?

Signed – Bully for my Bull Dog

Dear Bully for my Bull Dog

Yes, an animal, especially a dog is a "sure" thing. In the book "The Mastery of Love" by Don Miguel Ruiz, he has a chapter on what a dog provides that a human might not. A dog is always happy to see you. It does not hold grudges if you get angry at them. It cannot talk back. It can be trained. Basically, a dog is the ultimate form of unconditional love.

Many people are animal lovers, but it does not replace human interaction. You obviously have been scared of putting yourself out there and to start dating again for 7 years. I do not know if your girlfriend died or dumped you, but either way, you have some severe grief issues that you have not worked thru.

I think that you have taken the "sure" thing a step to far. Your dog is not your lover. (At least I hope not) She is your pet or as some people put it, their kid. She is a companion in your home, and sometimes when you go out. But, to make conditions on the world, that if they will not let you bring your Sadie, you will not go, is a little over the top. Your dog is a dog and not a person.

You are asking if you have taken this too far. Personally, I think you have. If your dog is the best companion you ever had, it does not say much in your choice of companions. I would suggest you get some therapy to deal with your issues of relationships, companionship, and personal interaction with others, your grief issues and your choice of people in your life (present and past).

You might have to also look at what you expect from someone as a companion. If you're looking for a person to be with you a hundred percent of the time, keep the dog.