Four legs good, two legs can wait for some couples who choose to direct their maternal and paternal instincts towards pets. TEO CHENG WEI reports

The revelation list of life is, let us add two more—a son and a cat. No wonder then that some people treat their pets like, well, their own.

This is especially true for Drs. Leong and his wife, Jennifer. "It's everything," says Leong. "We don't call them our dog or pet. They're our kids."

Even though some may argue that there's no substitute for a human, Prof. Strengarian feels that animal companionship is still healthy as it constitutes a relationship. "It's better than nothing," she says. "Can't live without you."

Dr. Leong offers a different perspective.

"Advantage people to think long term after having seen couples who realise their 'instant' love isn't all it's made out to be. And a person grows older, biological needs like company become more acute."

Dr. Leong notes that these are the people who are more successful and less likely to have kids. By the time they change their mind, it may be too late.

FURRY KIDS

What's in a name? For dog lovers, you can call them your pet. Jennifer and her husband, Dr. Leong, both call their pet puppies. "They're our kids," says Leong. "We carry backpacks with them and take them everywhere we go."

The couple's favorite time of day is anywhere between 8 and 10 in the morning when they can finally take a walk. "Our dogs love their morning walks," Jennifer says.

As for the couple, they still love being able to get away whenever they want. "We can't wait to have a baby," says Leong. "But until then, we're sticking to our lovely little family."

DAUGHTER PEACHES

At the annual pet show last week, the couple was awarded the Best Dog in Show. "Our dog, Peaches, is a natural," says Leong. "She's not afraid of anything and loves to be around people."

Leong notes that Peaches has brought a lot of joy to their lives. "She's brought happiness wherever we go," says Leong. "And now that she's growing older, we just want to make sure she's happy."

SON POSH

The couple has been planning for a family since they were young. "We've been saving for this," says Leong. "And now that we have Peaches, we can't wait to have another little one."