

① - C-SPAN

B R Y A N A+ L A M B

Thank you Bryan for 5C-SPAN

So much better than Tom, Peter or painted-hair Dan
Because of Connie, Bruce, Susan and Lew

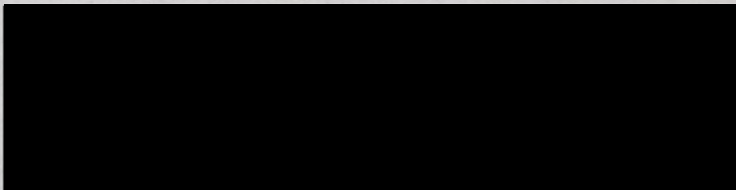
We sure do owe a lot 2 U
Your programs of course are superb

Free from the terrible commercial blurb
Please keep up the good work

Saving us from the network jerk
Why does BOOKNOTES show only once a week

Two or more is what we seek
By now you've had enough of this

So please give Connie and Sue a kiss⁽¹⁾



(1) Handshake for Bruce and Lew

Great Timing

Automatic Feeders and Waterers Are Perfect Choices for Today's Busy Pet Owners

BY KIMBERLY CEASER RICE

They store. They serve. They cool. They control. They operate automatically. What are they? Handy dandy automatic feeders and waterers—the perfect pet products for Americans on the go.

Today, adults are working long hours, taking business trips or squeezing in three-day vacations, so they're often out of the house for eight or more hours at a time. Those who own pets usually leave out bowls of kibble and drinking water, and then worry that Fluffy or Fido will wolf down the food and spill the water. Others ask neighbors, friends or relatives to check on the animals and refill food and water bowls.

However, busy pet owners don't have to settle for these inadequate, inconvenient and sometimes impractical options. When they use automatic feeders and waterers, which supply pets with standard portions of food at normal feeding times or ample amounts of water, they don't have to worry about their pets or ask other people for help, according to manufacturers.

Automatic Feeders

Automatic feeders are designed to serve anywhere from one to six fixed portions of food at specified intervals over a span of six to 96 hours, all controlled by timers. When the timer goes off, a lid on the feeder flips opens or rotates to reveal the meal.

These feeders can be used to control when and how much an animal eats—which is very important for pets that tend to overeat or diabetic animals that should eat on schedule. They also can be used to administer medication. In addition, they protect the food supply from contamination.

Because they reduce the need for pet sitters or kennels, automatic feeders give busy pet owners an extra measure of freedom as well as greater peace of mind, said Richard Herman, vice president of Ani Mate Inc. (Conroe, Texas).

"People can be completely independent."

Peace of mind is important to one Ani Mate customer who lives in Colorado's mountain country. Although the weather may be clear when he leaves for work, a snowstorm can hit any time and block the road so he cannot get home for a day or two. "He puts the food in the feeder and he doesn't have to panic about the animal while he's away," Herman said.

"It's convenience for the owner," said Richard Charney, vice president and general manager of Staywell, a division of Reilor Inc. (Horsham, Pa.). "You don't have the cat just gorging himself on food while you're away. You basically can separate the feedings based on what you think is ideal for the animal."

Staywell makes two automatic feeders that look similar but have different operating mechanisms. The Electronic Pet Feeder, which runs on a 9-volt battery, has four compartments for canned or dry food and serves meals every six, 12 or 24 hours. A light-emitting diode, like the light on a smoke detector, indicates that the battery is still working. An ice pack, to help keep canned foods fresh, is optional. It retails for \$50.

Staywell's Freedom Pet Feeder, which is wound like an old-fashioned alarm clock, has six compartments for dry or canned food and serves meals over a span of 36 hours. It retails for \$42.

According to Charney, both Staywell models have removable motors so they can be converted into regular feeding dishes.

Ani Mate, which has been marketing automatic feeders since 1985, offers a full line of battery-operated automatic feeders for pets. The C10, at the low end at about \$35 retail, has one food compartment and a 24-hour timer. The C20, retailing for about \$50, has two food compartments, an ice pack and two independent 48-hour timers. These models both feature pop-up lids.

Ani Mate's CD5 feeder, which retails for about \$45, has five food compartments and a reliable 48-hour quartz timer. The C50, at the high end of the line at \$69 to \$79 retail, is about the



The Ani Mate C20 automatic feeder.



The Staywell/Reilor Freedom Pet Feeder.

same size as a dinner plate but has five food compartments, twin ice packs and an easy-to-use 96-hour timer. These models both feature revolving lids.

All Ani Mate feeders are fitted with rubber feet so pets cannot push them around on the floor.

"They've been designed in a very mechanically simple way, and they have been proven very reliable," Herman explained. "The mechanism, the drive, is based on an electronic quartz clock. Everyone knows how reliable they are."

Classic Products (Oxnard, Calif.) offers three automatic pet feeders: the C10P, which has one food compartment and a 24-hour timer; the C20P, which has two food compartments, an ice pack and two 48-hour timers; and the C50P, which has five food compartments, twin ice packs and a 96-hour timer.

Ice packs, offered with many automatic feeders, are designed to keep canned food fresh but their benefits can be limited.