

# Fido

Take your dog's viewpoint

# comes

when deciding

# first

where he'll live.



PAMI MARKS/BORDER TERRIER

He seemed anxious. He didn't want to be left home alone. He grew more destructive. In short, Jack Russell Terrier Flash wasn't taking his owners' separation well. So when the couple later divorced, Sherry Woodard and her husband took that reaction into account and came to what may seem a novel arrangement: Flash would live with Woodard's ex, but Woodard could visit and would pet-sit during vacations.

She also could take Flash to work with her at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah, when her ex-husband faced extra-long workdays; this way, the little dog wouldn't feel neglected.

"We knew it was going to be very difficult

for him," Woodard, a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and Best Friends' dog training consultant, says of the divorce.

Flash embarked on his new life — one that Woodard predicts more dogs around the country will experience in the wake of divorce or relationship breakups. She predicts that instead of shutting out one person from being part of the dog's life, couples increasingly will develop some sort of shared custody, whether informally arranged (as in her case) or legally spelled out.

**BY SALLY DENEEN**

## Every case differs

Half of U.S. marriages end in divorce, and some attorneys and mediators report

## Where will your dog be happiest?

handling a range of dog-visitation agreements, including shuttling pets between households. Divorce Court TV's certified mediator Deanie Kramer handled a case in which a TV news presenter routinely flew his dogs between New York and Los Angeles per a visitation agreement. Fort Lauderdale attorney John N. Lambros' firm arranged for one childless couple with two dogs to rotate the pets for a week at a time. Other couples that Lambros' firm helped rotated pets on weekends or simply required the other party to watch the pet at vacation time. Still other couples traded pets and kids at the same time with "a great deal of success," Lambros says.

Kramer, who also works at the mediation firm she founded, Divorce Resource

