



Gemstones and Birthstones as Gifts from the Bond

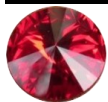
Laurel Lagoni, M.S.

For many people, gemstones are imbued with symbolic meanings. For instance, diamonds represent loyalty and faithfulness, making them the gemstone of choice for engagement and wedding rings. In the same tradition, amethysts and turquoise represent healing and protection, while opals help people enjoy their lives. When one is given a gemstone, it is believed that the qualities of the stone are also given to them.

When used as birthstones, those born during the month are thought to be empowered with the same qualities associated with the corresponding gemstone. The following brief descriptions* provide more detail about the 12 gemstones offered as decorative charms for ClayPaws® prints.

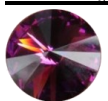


Garnet • January • Eternal Love



Garnet is often given to loved ones when they embark on a physical, emotional or even spiritual journey. As a symbol of eternal love, garnet symbolizes a return to love when some sort of separation has occurred. Stimulating the heart and blood, garnet works to heal emotions and is particularly helpful in the areas of guilt and shame. Garnet evokes hope and courage and is believed to heal all bonds of love that have been broken.

Amethyst • February • Peaceful Healing



Amethyst is often given to loved ones when they are grieving or dealing with the stress of illness or personal crisis. A symbol of peace and purification, amethyst evokes feelings of calm, balance and spiritual connection. Amethyst brings a feeling of being surrounded by love and its purple color helps heal the heart and mind.

Aquamarine • March • Soothing Support



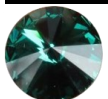
Aquamarine is often given to loved ones to relieve anger, confusion, or stress. Associated with the cool, calming effects of water, aquamarine connects with the subconscious, the domain of inner wisdom and deepest emotions. Aquamarine refreshes and soothes like a gentle waterfall, evoking relaxation, clarity, and truthful expression.

Diamond • April • Loyalty



Diamond is often given to loved ones as a symbol of loyalty and faithfulness. The word diamond stems from the Greek word *adamas*, which means unbreakable or unchangeable. The energy of diamond magnifies an emotional state, like love, making the feelings associated with it more pronounced. Diamond represents feelings of stability and dependability in a changing world.

Emerald • May • Unconditional Love



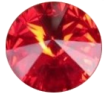
Emerald is often given to loved ones as a symbol of unconditional love. Associated with the heart's wisdom, emerald reveals a "path with heart," evoking feelings of compassion and helping to heal heartbreak. Known as the stone of courage, emerald brings forth prosperity, abundance, and good fortune.



(Cont.)

Alexandrite • June • Comfort and Joy

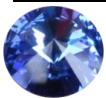
A stone of joy, alexandrite is often given to loved ones who are in need of comfort because they are dealing with sorrow. An excellent stone for processing grief, alexandrite is associated with the rapturous feelings that arise from connecting with Spirit. Alexandrite evokes a sense of inner resilience and harmony and, with the ability to change from red-purple to blue-green according to the light, alexandrite reminds one that circumstances can look different, depending on how they are viewed.

Ruby • July • Heartfelt Love

Ruby evokes feelings of confidence, enthusiasm, and passion for life. Ruby is given to loved ones as a symbol of heartfelt love. Associated with personal transformation, ruby is dull and greasy-looking in its raw state, but becomes a radiant, vibrant gemstone when cut and polished.

Peridot • August • Wellbeing

Peridot is a powerful stone for repairing and restoring a sense of balance and well-being in life. Given to loved ones who feel sad, lonely or simply “out of sorts,” peridot helps bring about good health, restful sleep, feelings of self-worth and peace of mind.

Sapphire • September • Strength and Wisdom

Sapphire is given to loved ones to evoke their inner wisdom and the strength and confidence that is earned through experiencing life’s ups and downs. Known for its ability to attract structure, discipline and organization, sapphire is associated with clarity of thoughts and the true expression of inner knowledge.

Opal • October • Enjoyment of Life

The dance of color and fire within opal is sometimes called the “holy fire.” Opal is often given to loved ones to remind them that life is meant to be enjoyed. It reminds one that grief, fear, anger, and other negative feelings will pass and helps make feelings of joy and gratitude more prevalent.

Citrine • November • Renewal

Citrine is often given to loved ones who wish to clear away feelings of sadness and depression. Known as the sunstone, citrine is associated with the cleansing properties of light and warmth and the restoration and renewal of one’s spirit. Citrine evokes creativity, helping one turn from what *has been* toward the potential of *what might be*.

Tanzanite • December • Compassion

Tanzanite is the stone of compassion for others and oneself. Its ability to evoke understanding and healing helps one forgive and release regrets. This deep understanding fosters emotional protection and stress relief, which are beneficial to an overall sense of well-being. Tanzanite evokes inner wisdom and trust in oneself, others and even a higher power or greater plan.

For more information, visit the Veterinary Wisdom® Resource Center at www.veterinarywisdom.com

**The qualities and comforting properties described for each Gemstone have been collected from various sources and are offered as an informational service. Gemstone charms are not meant to treat medical, psychological or emotional conditions and should not be used as replacements for medications or treatments recommended by healthcare professionals. World by the Tail, Inc., does not guarantee the validity of these statements.*