

NATIONAL

# LOVE YOUR PETS DAY GUIDE



WE LOVE  
PETS!

Presented by

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NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PETS DAY IS FEBRUARY 20TH





# National Love



**Lucy Kubash**

**Pet Lover**

## The Pet Corner

Some good news to report this month is that Animal Aid will hold kitty adoption days this Sunday, February 16, at The Market, 301 Main Street in St. Joseph, from 1-3pm. Come visit and cuddle the many cute cats and kittens looking for their forever homes. Even if you are not looking to adopt, it helps with socialization for the animals to have contact with friendly folks. A socialized pet has a much better chance of being adopted.

More good news is the name change for Berrien Animal Control to Berrien County Animal Services. The shelter has been full up but adoptions are also up, and they are always looking for volunteers to help walk the dogs and get them out of the kennels for a while. Fosters are also needed, who can take a

dog home for the weekend and give them a break from shelter life. It all adds up to a better behaved and less stressed dog, who is more apt to find a new home. Check their Facebook page at facebook.com/BerrienCountyAnimalServices for more information on volunteering. Thanks to Friends of Berrien County Animal Services for their help in making the shelter what it is today.

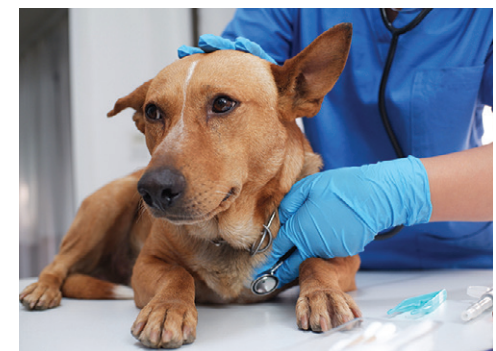
Shelters and fosters are always in need of the following items: wet and dry kitten and cat food, baby food meat, and litter. The Humane Society Yeager Family Pet Shelter lists Purina One dog food, large Milkbones, wet and dry kitten and cat food, cat treats, hand soap, 33-gallon trash bags, toilet bowl cleaner, and Tide pods as needed items. You may leave them in the donation bins at the shelter or at any Forte Coffee shop in the area. The bins at Paw Mart in St. Joseph are always out for donations large and small. Remember the BOGO offers work great for making donations. Buy one item for your own pet, give the sale/free item to those less fortunate.

Since this is Valentine's Day weekend, here are a few thoughts on the unconditional love our pets offer us. They're always happy to see us and ready to make a bad day better. It's hard to stay sad or mad or lonely when a pup brings you a toy and wants to play or while a kitty purrs on your lap. In return, they ask for little; food, shelter, a kind hand, and our undivided attention at least a few times a day, even if it's just for a pat on the head or a tummy rub. But most of all what they would like from us is a promise of a forever home. When you think about it, in the span of a pet's lifetime, forever really isn't that long.

## Did you know?

According to the National Canine Cancer Foundation, certain dog breeds are more likely to develop cancer than others. The NCCF notes that data supports the notion that genetic characteristics contribute to higher rates of cancer, though more research is needed to understand precisely which factors are behind a greater cancer risk. The Merck Veterinary Manual notes that Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, and Rotweilers are more likely to develop cancer than other breeds. Cancer is a more notable threat to dogs, particularly purebred canines, than some dog

owners may recognize. In fact, the NCCF reports that 25 percent of all purebred dogs die of cancer. Those figures are even higher among purebreds that live beyond 10 years, as 45 percent of such dogs are likely to succumb to cancer.



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# Your Pets Day Guide



## Prevent pets from fighting like cats and dogs

Animal interactions are often portrayed as confrontational. Many people have undoubtedly watched a cartoon mouse outsmart a cat, or laughed as the Road Runner stays a few steps ahead of Wile E. Coyote. Common companion animals also have reputations for confrontation when forced to coexist under one roof.

Reality often differs from such depictions. Potential pet owners can rest assured that many animals of all different breeds and species have the potential to cohabitate peacefully. It's just a matter of doing your homework and facilitating the process of companionship. Here's how to get started.

### Plan an initial meet and greet

When thinking about welcoming a new pet into the home, particularly one who has not previously bonded with another animal that you are adopting together, you should always bring your current pet along to gauge their interactions. Also, it is wise to get a disposition report from the rescue about whether the available animal has a history of confrontation with other pets. Rescues typically let prospective pet parents know if a pet is good with dogs, cats, small animals, and even children.

### Create safe spaces

Whether it is two dogs, two cats, or one of each, animals may need time to spend alone, particularly if they have different energy levels or needs. The Animal Humane Society says sanctuary rooms can be set up so pets can separate. Rooms should be secure,

with a door and a ceiling. These also are good spots to place new pets as they get used to the smells and sounds of other pets and the people in the home.

Think about placing items that smell like the other pet in the new pet's area along with treats, so that the new animal comes to associate these items with good things, suggests the American Kennel Club.

### Utilize a gate or screen

After a few days, new pets can be given a chance to see one another separately through a baby gate or screen door without the risk of fights. When the pets are calm enough to meet without barriers, arrange the meeting in a neutral room, rather than in a sanctuary space.

Offer equal measures of attention

Pets may covet their owners' attention, and that could lead to jealousy, especially

among particularly needy pets. While it's not always possible to be equal, offer adequate time with both animals, including time where each gets individualized attention.

### Sometimes it's a no-go

Pets may not be able to get along. For example, a dog with a very high prey drive, such as a breed that has been bred to flush out small animals or birds, may find a parakeet or guinea pig simply too tempting to leave alone. A large snake may not work out in a home that has gerbils or hamsters, as rodents are snakes' natural food sources. Always take a pet's breed, disposition and natural inclination into consideration before bringing in a new pet.

Various strategies can be employed to help pets peacefully coexist. Pet owners who may need some additional guidance can work with qualified animal trainers.



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# National Love



## Tips to care for outdoor cats

Pet preferences vary across the world, but dogs and cats are beloved companion animals in many corners of the globe. According to the 2022 Statista Global Consumer Survey, dogs have a good lead over their feline counterparts in the United States, mainland China, the United Kingdom, and Japan. However, in Germany, cats and dogs are kept by a nearly equal number of pet owners.

Even though cats may not be as popular as dogs, they are widely found in homes. They also may be spending time outside of homes. While there are plenty of feral cats, or those that have grown up outdoors with little to no social interaction with humans, even many domesticated cats spend ample time outdoors.

Most veterinarians feel it is safer to keep cats indoors, where they are not exposed to disease or trauma. However, many cats are simply not happy without fresh air. In such instances, here's how pet parents can care for cats who need some breathing room.

### Leash-train the cat

The American Humane Society suggests leash-training cats that want to be outdoors. Much like having a dog on a leash prevents the pet from running off and getting lost or injured, cats who may be a little too independent for their own good can be curtailed with leashes.

### Vaccinate and fix the animal

Cats that are exposed to the outdoors are more susceptible to diseases that can be harmful or even fatal. Speak

with a vet about which vaccines the cat will require if he or she is going to be spending considerable time outdoors.

Also, while it is recommended for all companion animals to be spayed or neutered, it is especially important for those with access to the outdoors to prevent unwanted mating that can exacerbate overpopulation issues. Plus, animals that are fixed are less likely to roam or fight.

### Create a shelter

In addition to providing free access to the home by way of a cat door, outdoor access cats may benefit from a home in the yard. This can protect the cat from weather or other animals. A pet owner can build a shelter or purchase pre-made varieties that resemble a chicken coop. It's also best to ensure cats have access to fresh water while outside. Regularly inspect the shelter to keep it clean and in good repair.

### Consider a "catio"

Some cats will be satisfied with something that lets fresh air in without having to be completely outdoors. A "catio" is an outdoor ledge or enclosure for cats that is covered by grating or mesh, according to Habitat Have. It can be attached to a window or be freestanding in an area of the yard, providing a lounging spot that is outdoors but protected.

### Provide identification

Cat caregivers can microchip cats and ensure they are wearing the proper identification. If the cat cannot find its way home, there is a greater chance the animal will be found if identification is present or a chip has been installed.

Although cats are safest indoors, with some precautions, cats can enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.




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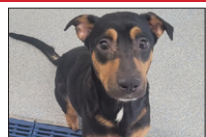


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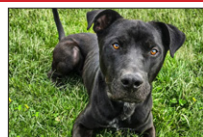
**Alice**  
Female Terrier Mix



**Bernie**  
Male Bernese Mountain Mix



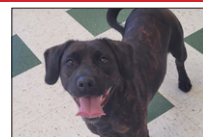
**Biscuit**  
Male Shar Pei Mix



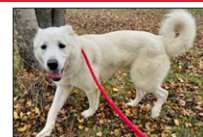
**Cubby**  
Male Lab Mix



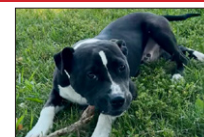
**Gus**  
Male Lab Mix



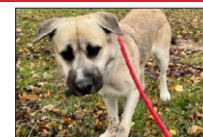
**Malini**  
Female Hound Mix



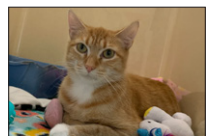
**Moose**  
Male Great Pyrenees Mix



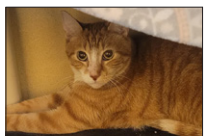
**Push Pop**  
Male Terrier Mix



**Radio**  
Male Anatolian Shepherd Mix



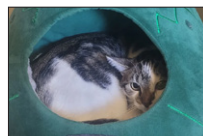
**Barista**  
Female



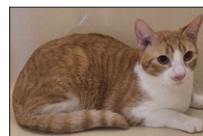
**Carrington**  
Male



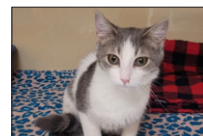
**Dunkin**  
Female



**Foster**  
Male



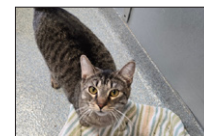
**Hemingsworth**  
Male



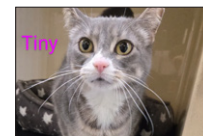
**Roxy**  
Female



**Shadow**  
Female



**Tara**  
Female



**Tiny**  
Female

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# Your Pets Day Guide



## Protect pets both inside and outside the home

Newly adopted pets waste little time becoming beloved members of a household. But much like young children, pets are a significant responsibility, and they rely on their human caretakers to ensure their safety.

Pets are susceptible to illness and injury just like their human companions. The Pet Poison Hotline reported a 51 percent increase in the volume of calls between 2020 and 2021. Banfield Pet Hospitals also saw about half a million more pet visits in 2020 than in 2019. Furthermore, Dogster reports that 47 percent of pet owners had to deal with a serious medical issue or took their pets to emergency care in 2021.

Keeping cherished pets safe in and around a home is no small task. But with some diligence, it is possible to ensure health and happiness for companion animals. Follow these tips, courtesy

of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Old Farm Veterinary Hospital and Security.org.

- Consider an indoor and outdoor security camera system. Having eyes on pets while you're away from home enables a quick response should something happen.

- Avoid leaving pet food outdoors overnight. Dog and cat foods can attract other animals, such as bears, raccoons, foxes, and opossums, depending on where you live. Wild animals grow accustomed to receiving easy meals and this could decrease their trepidation about being around a home or yard. Run-ins between your pets and wild animals should be avoided at all costs.

- Skip the retractable leash. Walking a pet on a non-retractable leash allows better control

of the pet in the event of an encounter with a person or another animal.

- Be cautious with chemicals. Carefully consider any chemicals you use in your yard, including pesticides and weed killers, as well as any cleaning products used indoors. Pets can ingest or inhale these products and get sick.

- Pick up potential choking hazards. String, small pieces of toys, rawhide bone fragments, and other items can be choking hazards to pets. Be diligent about removing these items from the floor so that pets will not swallow them.

- Tap on your car hood. Families who allow their cats outdoor access should thump on the car hood when it is cold outside, as sometimes cats take shelter near a warm engine block. Cats can become injured if you start the car while they are under the hood.

- Stay up-to-date on vaccinations. Whether pets never step outdoors or have free rein, always vaccinate companion animals against common parasites and other pests.

- Microchip your pets. Microchips not only protect pets should they get lost, but they also can help track down animals that may have been stolen. Remember to keep microchip data current to ensure a swift recovery.

- Keep foods and medicines out of reach. Many human foods can be toxic to pets, as can medications that are kept in a home. Pets can be curious and easy access to these items may make them quite ill.

Pets need their owners to take key steps to safeguard their well-being.

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# National Love



## FAQ about pets and microchips

Pet owners generally want to do all they can to safeguard the well-being of their companion animals. This includes taking steps to ensure that pets can be returned safely should they get lost while outdoors. Utilizing collars with identification information on them is one option, but that does not offer peace of mind if the collar comes loose and falls off. However, microchipping is a permanent solution that is ideal for pets.

### What is a microchip?

A microchip is a small device that is injected under the pet's skin. It is about the size of a grain of rice. Unlike collars or tags that can fall off or become illegible, a microchip always contains the data that has your identification. Here are some common questions about microchips and answers collected from

PetLink™, HomeAgain, The Humane Society, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

### Does the microchip have a battery or charge?

No, a microchip is simply an electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder. It is activated when a scanner sending out radio waves is passed over the chip, which then transmits the ID number to the scanner. The microchip is known as a transponder. You do not have to worry about replacing batteries or recharging the chip. Typically microchips last for 24 years, well past the average life span of many pets.

### Is insertion of the microchip painful?

Veterinarians assert that injecting the microchip is no more painful than a typical vaccination. However, the needle to place the microchip is slightly larger. The procedure can be done during a routine office visit and does not require anesthesia. Some vets will implant

the chip during a procedure for spaying or neutering so that the animal will be calm and still under anesthesia.

### Who can read the chip?

Virtually all shelters and veterinarians have scanners that can read microchips. Beginning in 2004, the 134 kHz microchip was introduced with specifications developed by the International Standards Organization (ISO). This frequency is usually considered the global standard for pet microchips and the one that most scanners will read.

### Where is the microchip placed?

Most dogs and cats are microchipped along the dorsal midline, which is just between the shoulder blades. Horses are injected along the left side of the neck, about an inch below the mane. Birds receive the implant in their breast muscles because they have less mass than other animals. These

locations make it easier for scanners to find the chips.

### Can a microchip migrate in the body?

Usually your pet's subcutaneous tissue will bond to the chip within 24 hours, preventing it from moving. There are rare instances when a chip migrates elsewhere in the body.

### How can I register my pet?

The microchip is only effective if it is programmed with the pet's contact information. Microchip registries coordinate with the chip used. You'll simply make an account and link the chip to your name, phone number and other identifying information. It is important to update this data as needed when you move or get a new phone number.

Microchips, when used in conjunction with collars and ID tags, offer the best protection for pets.



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Lucky Dog will be built like a dog neighborhood, with streets, community playgrounds, a pond, and a store for our human and canine guests.

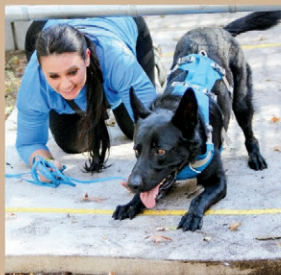
In the future, Lucky Dog will be building an indoor turfed facility for daycare, training, boarding and grooming- all open to the public. Money earned from these services will help to run the non-profit, with the hope of helping 100's of dogs per year find their forever homes.



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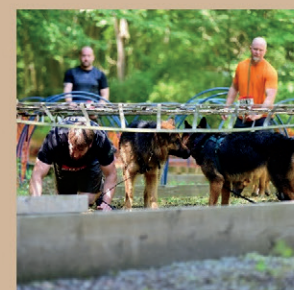
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And don't forget to sign up for the annual Midwest Canine Obstacle Run on June 7th! Check it out on the website below or on Facebook - Spots are limited so register today!

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