

NATIONAL

LOVE YOUR

PETS DAY GUIDE



NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PETS DAY IS FEBRUARY 20TH

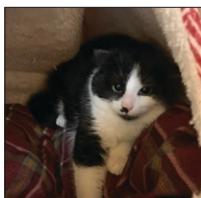
Presented by MailMax

LOVE A NEW PET THIS YEAR!

Stop by and see all the wonderful pets available for adoption.



Annette  
3 y.o. Mixed Breed  
Female



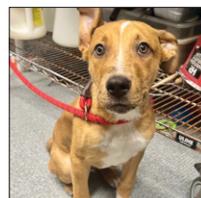
Barton  
Male



Clover  
1 y.o. Shepherd Mix  
Female



Carrington  
Male



Dave  
4 month Mixed  
Breed Male



Cookie  
Female



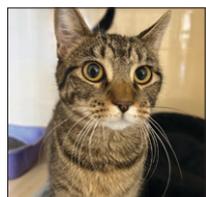
Honey  
2 y.o. Mixed Breed  
Female



Cinnamon  
Female



Lola  
1 y.o. Basenji Mix  
Female



Finni  
Male



Joey  
1 y.o. Lab Mix Male



Manny  
Male



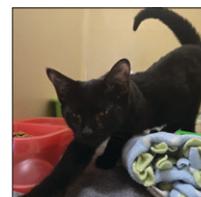
Ozzy 1 y.o. Border  
Collie/German  
Shepherd Male



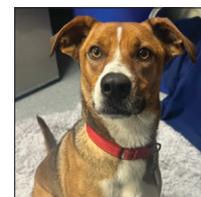
Kenji  
Male



Push Pop  
1.5 y.o. Pitbull Mix  
Male



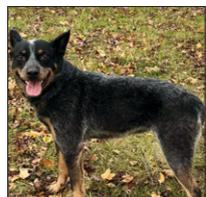
Gabbi  
Female



Rambo  
1.5 y.o. Mixed Breed  
Male



Sierra  
Female



Savannah  
1 y.o. Cattle Dog  
Female



Twix  
Female



Toby  
2 y.o. Mixed Breed  
Male



Rosita  
Female



Frank  
7 y.o. Australian  
Shepherd Male



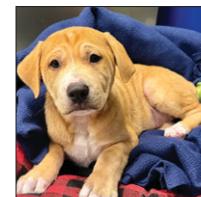
Stubbs  
Male



Blaze  
3 y.o. Mixed Breed  
Male



Canello  
Male



Della  
10 wk Mixed Breed  
Female

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# National Love Your



## Tips when traveling with pets

Traveling with pets can be a rewarding experience that enables individuals to share new adventures with their companion animals. Bringing pets along on vacation has become quite popular. According to Top Dog Pet Travel, a central Florida agency specializing in pet-friendly bookings, there has been an uptick in people traveling with their pets since 2024. A report from the American Pet Products Association indicates 22 percent of both cat and dog owners reported taking their animals on at least three flights in 2024.

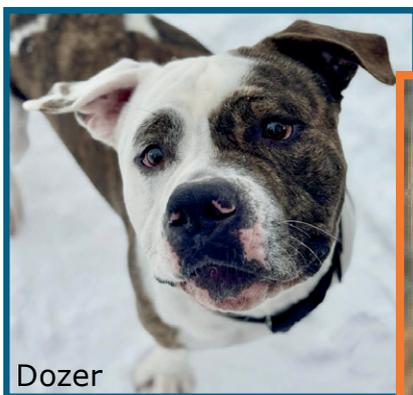
Although traveling with pets can be fun and cuts down on costs for pet boarding or alternative care, it also requires careful planning to keep pets safe, comfortable and free from stress throughout the trip. These practical tips can make traveling with pets a smooth experience, whether one is traveling by car, plane or just off on a weekend getaway.

- Plan ahead. Research any pet regulations and restrictions prior to traveling. Some hotels, airlines and rental properties have specific rules or fees for pets. Always confirm if companion animals are allowed, and determine if there are restrictions on size, breed or the number of pets. Every airline has different rules for in-cabin versus cargo travel for pets. International travel may require certain vaccinations or quarantine periods, so it pays to start planning well in advance.

- Visit the vet. A checkup with the pet's vet is a good step prior to any trip. The vet will make sure the animal is current on vaccinations and well enough to travel. Getting a copy of the pet's medical records and vaccination schedule is helpful, as some airlines or destinations may require it. Also inquire about medication for motion sickness or anxiety, if necessary.

- Bring familiar items. Animals like consistency and routine. Keeping familiar items nearby can help reduce anxiety in unfamiliar environments. Bring along food, bowls, leashes, and preferred toys or bedding.

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Dozer



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Billy Blue



Fuego

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FRI: 9am - 2:30pm  
SAT & SUN  
Appointments Only

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# Pets Day Guide



- Stick to routine. Give the pet time to adjust to the new surroundings and adhere to the same meal, walk and play schedules the animal is accustomed to at home. Regular feeding helps avoid stomach upset, as does bringing bottled water or water from home.

- Pack some patience. Even the most well-behaved pet may act out a little when in unfamiliar territory. Also, it's possible to encounter individuals who may not be as amenable to sharing surroundings with pets. Pets will take emotional cues from their owners, so projecting calm can be beneficial.

Traveling with pets is becoming increasingly popular. Planning ahead and working with pet-friendly venues can ensure that everyone in the family enjoys some time away.



ANIMAL AID presents **fuzzy butts**  
at **FuzzyButz Pet Bakery**  
**SUNDAYS 1-3pm**  
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**FuzzyButz**  
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## Did you know?

Training a dog can help dog owners ensure the safety and well-being of their furry friends and foster a stronger relationship between an owner and their pet. The professional trainers at the Texas-based Dog Alliance report it typically takes four to six months to teach basic obedience commands. But no two dogs are the same, and some may take to training more readily than others. Other dogs may experience behavioral challenges that extend the length of time it takes to train the animal. The Dog Alliance also notes that additional variables unique to each dog, including age and breed, also can affect the time it takes to train a dog.

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# Love Your Pets Day Guide



## FAQ about pet health insurance

Through the years veterinary medicine has become more technologically advanced and that has led to longer life expectancies for beloved pets. But as care offerings expand, the cost of such care increases. Pet health insurance is designed to offset many of the costs of keeping a pet happy and healthy.

Pet insurance wasn't always as readily available as it is today. The first insured pet in the United States was Lassie, the famous television collie, who was insured back in 1982, according to the Insurance Information Institute (III). Today, there are 5.36 million insured pets in the U.S., according to Forbes, with 80 percent of them being dogs. The North American Pet Health Insurance Association says there was a 12.7 percent increase in the total number of insured pets from 2023 to 2024.

### What does pet insurance do?

Pet insurance reimburses a person for a percentage of veterinary expenses relating to a pet's illness or injury. While pet insurance isn't required, it provides peace of mind to owners in case their companion animals need expensive treatment or routine care.

### What is covered?

Policies vary regarding pet insurance. Some cover accidents and illnesses, others accidents only, and others will include wellness, which reimburses owners for routine and preventative care. Wellness plans typically are add-ons to other coverage, but increasingly they are becoming standalone policies, says U.S. News and World Report.

### What is the cost?

Cost of coverage is based on the animal's age, health profile and the level of care chosen. Older animals usually cost more to cover, and some companies place age limits on their

policies, says the III. That being said, Forbes reports the average monthly premium for accident and illness pet insurance in the U.S. is about \$53 per month for dogs and about \$32 per month for cats. The North America Pet Health Insurance Association State of the Industry Report 2022 and 2023 indicated the top paid medical-related pet insurance claim for dogs was \$60,882.

### Are there exclusions?

It is important to thoroughly research potential pet insurers before purchasing an insurance plan. Some may exclude preexisting conditions, including any disease and conditions the pet has now or has had in the past, advises the American Veterinary Medical Association. Pet owners are urged to learn how each provider defines preexisting conditions. Also, in some cases providers will not insure a specific pet or breed of pet, or they may limit the number of pets one can insure, if the pets are considered "high risk." Individuals should make sure that they can choose their own veterinarians for pet care and that there isn't a required provider.

### How do you get paid?

Most pet insurance plans are reimbursement plans. That means the pet owner pays the bills up front and then is reimbursed by the insurance provider. The timeframe for reimbursement varies by provider. It's best to know about the average time to process and pay out claims.

Pet insurance can offer peace of mind to pet owners. While it isn't a mandatory purchase, new pet parents may want to consider it to help manage the rising cost of pet care.



## Where Compassion Meets Action

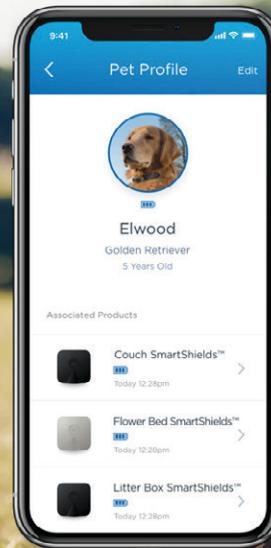


Adoption Events: Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>  
1pm to 3pm at PetSmart  
1042 Fairplain Drive, Benton Harbor, MI 49022



Paws of Hope is a volunteer-only foster-care-only nonprofit animal rescue group serving Berrien County.  
<https://www.pawsofhope.org/>

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