National Pet Month

May is National Pet Month, a time to reflect on the importance of pets and pet ownership. Pets bring a lot of joy into people’s lives. However, like so many of life’s everyday joys, it’s easy to take pets for granted. Not this month, though! Started over 20 years ago in England, where it is celebrated in April instead of May, Pet Month has 5 specific goals.

-To Promote the Benefits of Pet Ownership:
Science can’t measure the happiness that a pet’s love brings to its owner. However, it can measure the positive effects that owning a pet has on a person! For instance, did you know that medicine is less effective in controlling blood pressure than pets are? Or that it has been proven that pets reduce stress?

-To Support Pet Adoption:
Every pet owner knows that their pet is not a possession – it is a family member! So if you’re thinking about getting a pet, consider this: who better to share your love with than a creature with no family of its own? Visit our website to see animals that we have available. Also, you can go to www.petfinder.com to search available animals based on breed or zip code.

-To Promote Responsible Pet Ownership:
The happiness and wellbeing of a pet depends on how seriously the pet owner takes the responsibilities of ownership. It is important to consider the health needs of your animal. Are they eating right? Are they getting enough exercise? Are they overdue for a visit to the vet? Also, are you prepared for a pet’s unexpected injury?

-To Increase public awareness of services available from professionals who work with animals:
Let’s hear it for veterinarians! They perform a valuable service and its time that they got their applause. National Pet Month is a good time to recognize your vet’s good work.

-To Raise awareness of the role, value and contribution to society of service animals:
If you believe that pets are simply for enjoyment, think again – they can provide valuable social contributions! Service animals are specifically trained to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities. The majority of service animals are dogs, however miniature horses, cats, and monkeys can also be service animals!

No matter your reason or how you do it, celebrate your pets this month!
Technology and Your Pets

For many families, pets are a huge part of their daily lives. Now there are thousands of apps available for your phones and tablets that make it easier to find information, keep your pet information, and have fun with your pet. Here are some of the most popular apps available today.

1. Tagg
Tagg is essentially a GPS attachment for your dog’s collar, and because of its many features, it can give you peace of mind. The app will track your dog’s activity and send you a message if he goes beyond the boundaries you set. Not only that, Tagg allows you to make sure your dog is getting enough exercise by measuring movement.

2. DoggyDatez
DoggyDatez is a mobile social platform for dog owners and their dogs to make friends. The main idea is that you can "mark your territory" and see who else visits your spot. You’re also able to search for other DoggyDatez users by gender, age, dog gender, dog age and/or dog breed.

3. Pet Phone
The Pet Phone app lets you track your dog’s health with ease. You can keep track of vet appointments, medications, allergies and food preferences for each of your pets, and the app can be synced with your calendar to get reminders.

4. Bring Fido
Traveling with a pet is made easier with the Bring Fido app. You can find pet-friendly hotels, places to walk your pet and all types of pet-friendly businesses in the areas you are visiting.

5. Pup Tox
Specifically for dog and cat owners, PupTox provides a list of over 250 items that can be toxic to your pet, with descriptions of how each item can cause harm.

6. Petfinder
Search more than 370,000 pets from 14,000 adoption groups! Find your perfect pet and share profiles via Facebook, Twitter, and email! Flag your favorite pets and leave notes for future review, read heartwarming adoption stories, and more.

7. Finding Rover
Returning a lost dog’s a snap with facial recognition. Using revolutionary technology, we’ll scan the unique features of your dog’s face and keep it on file in case he or she ever gets lost.

8. Dog Whistle
With a nifty slider for frequency sounds, you can create your own specific whistle frequency or use one of the presets and then save the one that works best for your dog. You can also use the super high frequency setting to get dogs’ attention, and reportedly, to keep mosquitoes away.

9. Watch My Puppy Grow
Create a video of your puppy, captured in daily or weekly images by you, to make a fun morph of your puppy from her first day to her full growth. You can also have it made into a slide show.

10. Map My Dog Walk
Besides logging your route, the app tracks and displays time, distance, pace, speed, and elevation in real-time and calculates the calories you’ve burned on your walk.

11. Puppy Coach
Takes the headache out of training your new pup by breaking it down into nine easy-to-follow topics, like crate training and teaching sits, each with its own set of bite-sized, trainer-led instructional videos.

12. Paint for Cats
Strictly for entertainment purposes, Paint for cats allows your cat to chase a mouse on your tablet and paint at the same time!

13. Weather Dog
It’s not really useful for your dog but it updates you on weather. The reason it’s called weather dog is because it has a dog that keeps changing its mood according to the weather.
Fosters Needed

It’s soon to be kitten season at the Shelter again! While cats can get pregnant year round, it is during late spring and early summer when shelters around the world begin to see a steady influx of nursing moms and babies.

In most cases, litters of kittens must stay at the shelter for several weeks while they finish nursing and grow to a safe size for surgery. Mother cats and kittens may have a harder time handling the stress of a shelter environment and may not be able to maintain their babies or their own health, for an extended stay.

The best options for these families is to be placed in foster care. In foster homes, the animals tend to be less stressed and not exposed to as many potential illnesses.

We are looking to expand our Furbaby Foster Family. If you have the space and time, we would love to have you join us in saving lives. We most frequently need fosters for mom cats and their litters. This could be anywhere from 1-10 kittens!

It is best that they stay in their foster homes until 8 weeks of age. They are still building their immune systems then. We also ask that they come in for weekly checks so we can make sure they are growing properly, get updated on vaccines, and routine medications as needed.

If you are interested in helping save lives, please contact Marilee at the Shelter at (812)948-5355, or you can email us at nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com.

If you unable to take any animals into your home, don’t worry! We can always use donations for the babies, too. Some of our most used items are bath/hand towels, wet kitten food, KMR milk replacement, NutriCal for Cats, ping pong balls, low edge litter pans, stainless steel non-spill food/water bowls, and various cleaning supplies.

We hope to expand our Furbaby Foster Family so that every litter can grow up in a home!

Meet the Staff:
Adoption Specialist, Marilee

Meet Marilee Snider, our Adoptions Specialist! When you enter the NAFC Animal Shelter, Marilee’s smiling face is usually the first one that you see. She has been at the shelter for almost 10 years, and her professionalism and front desk skills are vital to the operation of our facility! She has many tasks other than helping customers with adoptions, licensing, intakes and return to owners. She also does the newsletter; assists with Furbaby Fosters, and volunteers. She also worked as an Animal Care Specialist before stepping into her current role, making her able to assist in animal care as well.

Besides loving her work, Marilee has a very active family life. Working full time, and being married with two small children leaves her little time for herself. Her boys are three and a half and seven months old and her off time is spent enjoying time with them as they grow!

The Snider household also has a few rescued pets. Who could work at the shelter and not bring your work home? Their home is completed by Lola, a lab mix, Stiggy a chihuahua mix, and a cat named Jasper. The children and dogs are a great example of how pets and children complement each other.

Marilee enjoys activities that keep her family active. They love to visit local attractions, hiking, going to area parks, camping, and being in the outdoors. She also is very creative, and loves to look for new projects on Pinterest! She is also very adept at using her creativity in media and adoption campaigns.

The NAFC Animal Shelter and our community is very fortunate to have employees like Marilee. They are vital in the success of our shelter and our ability to serve our mission.
Happy Tails: Roscoe

Harley, now known as Roscoe, is an adorable little pekenese that was adopted from our shelter about two years ago.

His new family feels truly blessed to have this little rotten guy be a part of their family. His cute little face brings them so much joy. How could you not love that smile!

He is pretty lucky, too! Not every dog gets a coat when it's cold, and popsicles when it's hot!

Roscoe is one lucky pooch to have landed in such a great and loving home!

Please send us your happy tails adoption story along with pictures to our email at nafcanimalshelter@yahoo.com and help

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**NAFC Animal Shelter Information**

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<td>Monday - Friday</td>
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<td>9:00-4:30PM</td>
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**Adoption Prices:**
- Cats over 4lbs - $20
- Cats under 4lbs - $60
- Dogs - $80

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**Information Corner**

**Hot Cars and Hot Dogs**

While there haven't been to many hot days yet, the summer heat is just a few weeks away. As the temperure rises, so does the dangers to your pets.

Pets left in the car, even with the windows cracked, can easily begin to over heat. The temperature inside of the car can easily be 20-30 degrees higher than the temperature outside!

It is best for animals to stay home during errands. If they MUST go, bring a friend that can stay in the car while you run inside, or go to pet friendly places where they can go inside as well.

It can take only a few minutes for an animal to overheat in a car. Don’t take any chances of maybe being somewhere a little longer than expected. It’s not worth the risk!

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**Kid’s Dentistree:**

Kids Dentistree is still collecting donations for the shelter to help the animals at the shelter!

Also, from now until July 1, enter to win an iPad Mini and a $50 iTunes gift card at Kid's Dentistree New Albany.