





# Get Ticked-Off

## Lyme Disease Prevention Month

Nothing ticks off a pet owner more than the a pesky creature that attacks their fur-ever friend.

Ticks can cause Lyme Disease and May marks Lyme Disease Prevention Month. So what is Lyme Disease and what can you do to stop it?

Lyme disease is an illness that affects both animals and humans — what is known as a zoonotic disease — and is the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the United States, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Transmitted through tick bites, the disease can be difficult to detect and can cause serious and recurring health problems.

The bacterium that causes Lyme disease , which is a worm-like, spiral-shaped bacterium is carried and transmitted primarily by the tiny black-legged tick known as the deer tick. Deer ticks are found in forests or grassy, wooded, marshy areas near rivers, lakes or oceans.

People or animals may be bitten by deer ticks during outdoor activities such as hiking or camping, or even while spending time in their back yards. Named after numerous cases were identified in Lyme, Conn., in 1975, the disease has since been reported in humans and animals across the United States and around the world.

Dogs are most susceptible to tick bites and tickborne diseases. Although cats can get it, it's less common.

Tick bites on dogs may be hard to detect. Signs of tickborne disease may not appear for 7 to 21 days or longer after a tick bite, so watch your dog closely for changes in behavior or appetite if you suspect that your pet has been bitten by a tick.

The most common sign of Lyme disease in dogs is arthritis, which causes sudden lameness, pain and sometimes swelling in one or more joints. Other signs include fever, lack of appetite, dehydration, inactivity and swollen lymph nodes. In severe cases, the



infection can cause kidney failure and death although this does not occur commonly in dogs.

The signs of heart and nervous system dysfunction seen in infected humans are not often seen in animals. The signs of Lyme disease usually regress rapidly in response to treatment. If the disease remains untreated the disease becomes chronic and can cause kidney damage although dogs are much less likely to develop chronic disease than are people.

Vaccines are not available for most of the tickborne diseases that dogs can get, and they don't keep the dogs from bringing ticks into your home.

The best method of prevention is to avoid tick infested areas, especially in the spring when the young ticks are most active. When returning from a tick-infested area do a thorough search for ticks on both yourself and your animals.

Lyme disease is a reportable disease – which means that health care providers and laboratories that diagnose cases of Lyme disease are required to report those cases to their local or state health departments, which in turn report the cases to the CDC.

Remember that early removal of ticks reduces the chance that the tick will transmit Lyme disease.



# Happy Camper, Happy Kitty



**Name & Age:** Percy, 2, Arty 1

**Breed:** Bassett Hound

**Occupation:** Therapy Dog; Sleeper

**Owner:** Katherine Conder, Animal Care & Control Manager



## **Favorite Place?**

Percy — Camp at Kennelwood pet Resorts

Arty — Home on my cat perch, I mean really why would I want to go anywhere else.

## **Favorite Food?**

Percy — Nyla bone healthy edibles.

Arty — I will eat anything. I love my cat treats, but give me some people food. Yummy!

## **Squeaky or Bouncy?**

Percy — Ooh, Ooh, I like the plush squeaky ones.

Arty — I play with Percy's toys. I'm not allowed cat toys because my "kitty" brother ate one and needed surgery.

## **Guilty Pleasure?**

Percy — Whatever will get me into trouble. Katherine's always telling me "No!"

Arty — FOOD. Gimmie, gimmie, gimmie it all.



## **Do you have any special talents?**

Percy — I'm also a therapy dog and provide comfort to kids. I've also "Jedi mind tricked" my human and have her wrapped around my paw.

Arty — I stand on my hind legs and beg for food. I can also bring my bag of treats from the basket where they are kept.

## **It's the weekend, what are your plans?**

Percy — Headed to Kennelwood or my grandpeeps.

Arty — Chillin' at home.

## **What's something annoying your person does?**

Percy — Of course telling me "No!"

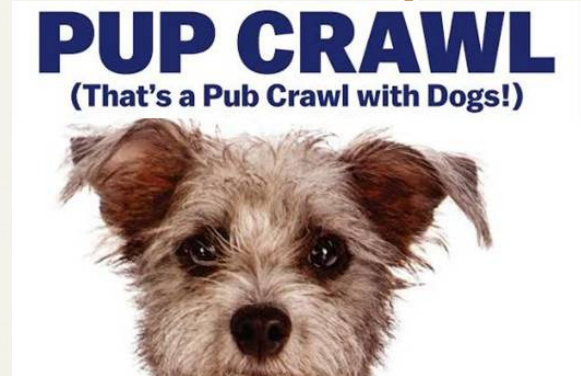
Arty — When she pushes me off her lap when I'm sleeping because she has to get up.





# May Events

click photo to find out more





# National Adopt-A-Shelter Pet Day

County employees along with the general public stopped to visit with the three puppies, kitten and adult cat brought by the rescues. By the end of the event, all three puppies had found their “fur-ever” home.

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is a day to recognize pets in need of a home and remind the community that this is an opportunity to save a life.

Animal Control also held a raffle for a variety of baskets and gift cards and gave out snacks and dog treats. SNIP Alliance also attended the event and presented information about spay and neutering pets. — which is the first line of defense against pet overpopulation.

Prenzler commended Conder's hard work.

“She works hard to find rescues to take in the animals that are brought into us and at the same time is saving lives,” he said.

The number of animals saved at the county's shelter in 2016, were 39 percent for cats and 67 percent for dogs. In 2017, it went to 80 percent for dogs, 61 percent for cats; and in 2018 the save rate was 92 percent for dogs and 93 percent for cats.



Officials deemed the National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day held April 30 at Madison County Administration Building a success.

Chairman Kurt Prenzler praised the event. He said that Animal Care and Control works hard to prevent the deaths of animals brought into the shelter by finding rescues to take them in and adopt them out.

“Without the rescues assistance we wouldn't be able to save the lives of animals,” Prenzler said.

Animal Control Manager Katherine Conder said her mission since she came to work for the county in 2018 was to reduce the euthanasia rates. She said she couldn't do that without the assistance from the rescue groups.

“We couldn't do what we do without them,” Conder said. “It's a collaborative effort all around.”

The county wanted to recognize the two rescue groups that pull the majority of its cats and dogs from the shelter by hosting the adoption event at the county. Metro East Humane Society (MEHS) and Partners for Pets each brought adoptable animals.







## Peanut Butter & Bacon Dog Treats

- 1 cup natural creamy peanut butter
- 3/4 cup nonfat milk
- 1 large egg (or 1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce)
- 2 cups whole wheat flour\* (measured correctly)
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup oats (either whole-rolled or quick oats are fine)
- 2-3 strips cooked bacon, chopped

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, gently mix the peanut butter, milk, and egg together with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula. Add the flour and baking powder. You may need to turn the dough out onto a floured work surface and use your hands to work in the flour. Mix in the oats and bacon. The dough is extremely thick and heavy.

3. Using a floured rolling pin, cut into shapes using cookie cutters or a knife. Arrange on the baking sheets. Bake for 18-20 minutes, or until very lightly browned on the bottom. Remove from the oven, and flip the treats to bake the other side for 10-12 more minutes.
4. Allow to cool completely before serving to your pup. Store at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.
5. Make ahead/freezing: Since the pups can't eat the whole batch in a week, I usually freeze them. Jude loves them right out of the freezer too! The treats freeze well up to 2 months.

## HELP!

Animal Control needs bleach. If you would like to provide some please contact us at (618) 296-4950 or drop it off at our office at 8501 State Route 143, Edwardsville.



"Everything is better  
with a unicorn." ~  
unknown.



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