



# TAILS

Winter 2020



**DENTAL HEALTH**

**BABY IT'S COLD  
OUTSIDE** ❄️

 **HONORING  
WAR DOGS**

  
*Madison County  
Animal Care & Control*





# Baby It's Cold Outside: Does Winter Weather Require Dressing Pets?

If you want to celebrate  
**National Dress Up Your  
Pet Day** on Jan. 14 then the  
answer is YES!



The celebratory day started 10 years ago by Celebrity Pet Lifestyle Expert and Animal Behaviorist Colleen Paige.

Follow your dog's lead: if your dog is unhappy in clothing, don't make him wear clothes. Some dogs just don't like wearing clothing, even in cold weather enjoy sweaters and coats.

Your dog's outfit should not be too restrictive or tight; he needs to be able to go about his daily routine comfortably.

Inspect the costume for loose or small parts that they could chew or swallow.

Don't leave your dog unattended in clothing.

Make sure your dog isn't getting overheated in his clothing

Cats don't typically care for clothing, but for those that do make sure to inspect the clothes and any accessories for loose or small parts that your feline could chew or swallow. Yarn or long, loose threads are especially problematic; your cat's rough tongue can send the yarn into his digestive tract where it can be life-threatening.

Consider a simple outfit. While some cats enjoy elaborate getups, many will only tolerate a collar and something like a bow tie.



Send pictures of your pets all dressed up  
to [tails@co.madison.il.us](mailto:tails@co.madison.il.us)



# Madison County reunites cat and owner

A U.S. Air Force veteran and his cat were reunited with thanks to Madison County Animal Care and Control.

"I can't believe the way Madison County went above and beyond like this," Scot Freier said.

Madison County made delivered Freier's cat to him in Florida after it was brought into Madison County Animal Care and Control on Oct. 4 as a stray.

"Like we do with any animals brought into Animal Control we scanned the cat for a microchip and found out she was adopted from the Humane Society of Missouri," Animal Control Manager Katherine Conder said.

Conder said the rescue shelter provided Freier's name, so she contacted him about his cat. She learned Freier just moved to Florida to look for a new job and a friend agreed to take care of the cat.

"I was surprised by the call," Freier said. "My girlfriend agreed to take care of Neeka until I found work and got settled in to come back and get her. I had only been gone about 10 weeks."

Freier said it was a little bit of a shock to find out Neeka was at Animal Control in the first place

"I'm glad I was able to get her," he said. "I'm happy she's with me again."

Freier adopted Neeka when she was a kitten from the Humane Society's Maryland Heights location more than three years ago.

"I just moved to St. Louis from Texas and didn't want to be all alone," he said. "I was living in an apartment and didn't want a dog and I've always liked cats. They are much easier to maintain."

Freier said he liked the comfort Neeka provided too. Freier, who enlisted in the Air Force in 1991 one month after graduating high school, served in Kuwait/Iraq and in the United States.

After receiving an honorable discharge in 1998, he stayed in Texas where he lived with his family. Freier said he moved back "home" to the Midwest following his divorce for a change of scenery.

"I'm really looking forward to her coming here," he said.

He said he is happy that Neeka was microchipped and they were able to track him down so the two could reunite.

"I didn't want to leave her behind, but I thought she was in a good spot," he said.

Conder said she's arranged for Neeka to be transported to Melbourne, Fla. where Freier is living. She adopted cats and dogs are microchipped, but this should serve as a reminder for all pets to be microchipped.

"It just shows how important so we can be reunite a pet with their owner," she said.

Chairman Kurt Prenzler said he's thrilled that Animal Control found the cat's owner. He said microchipping a pet is important.

In August 2017, Prenzler found a lost dog roaming a neighborhood in Edwardsville and went to the Metro East Humane Society it scanned.

"They were able to locate the owner because the dog had a microchip," Prenzler said. "They were able to get the dog home to her owners, who had just moved to Edwardsville from Texas."





# Clean those teeth!

February is National Pet Dental Health Month



Dental disease is more than just a cosmetic issue. When your feline friend or canine companion has red gums, yellow teeth, and stinky breath, it could be a sign of serious oral disease that could, if left untreated, lead to devastating affects on your pet's quality of life.

Neglecting your pet's teeth and gums can cause chronic pain issues that may even be at the center of certain behavioral problems. That's why National Pet Dental Health Month, observed all through February, is so important.

The **American Veterinary Medical Association** (AVMA) reports 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats have some kind of oral disease by the age of 3. It's one of the most common problems faced by our four-legged family members. Take this month to check your pet's oral health, and make sure you know how to properly care for their teeth. **National Pet Dental Health Month** is the perfect time

to call your veterinarian and schedule a dental check up for your furry family members.

Pets with developing gingivitis and periodontal diseases often paw at their face or mouth frequently, have excessive drool, and may also exhibit an unwillingness to eat harder foods.

As with many health issues, prevention is always the best medicine. One way you can take a proactive role in preventing oral disease in your pet is by using an important tool that many pet owners neglect to purchase for their four-legged friends: a toothbrush.

A soft-bristled toothbrush should be used to clean your pet's teeth daily to remove any food particles and prevent the build up of tartar and plaque deposits. Also, make sure to only use toothpaste specially formulated for use on pets.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**70%-80%**

of dogs and cats show signs of oral disease by age three.



**60%**

of pet owners don't provide the dental care that is recommended as essential by veterinarians

**16 million**

pet owners think dogs' saliva can heal human wounds



**FACT:** Allowing a dog to lick a cut or scrape can cause a life-threatening infection.



**1 in 3 pet owners**

assume bad breath is normal for pets

**FACT:** Bad breath is not normal. It's a sign of potentially painful oral disease.

Over **25 million**

pet owners believe any type of chewing is good for a dog's teeth

**FACT:** Chewing hard objects like bones and ice cubes can cause tooth fractures





# Honoring the Dogs of War



They protect our military and serve vital functions that would be difficult or impossible without them. They are indispensable to the defense of our country and deserve full military honors and respect.

March 13 marks National K9 Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history.

It was on March 13, 1942, that the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," according to American Humane, marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The rest, as they say, is history. Officially a part of the service of not, the dogs of war span centuries and include such heroes as Sgt. Stubby, the original war dog, Chips, the most decorated dog in World War II and Lex, who retired with his fallen owners family and Cairo, the Navy SEAL working dog on the bin Laden raid.

Today's military dogs are valued as important members of their military units and even have their own retirement ceremonies, awards and medals and memorial services.



## Five Famous K9 Veterans



**Sgt. Stubby** —Pit Bull, WWI, Army



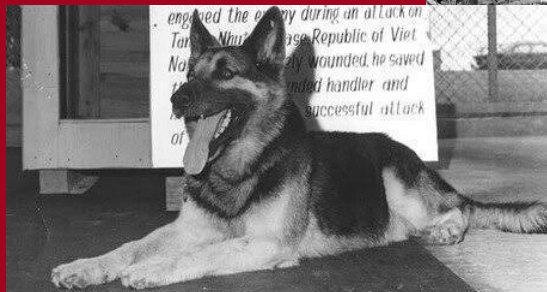
**Smoky** — Yorkshire Terrier, WWII



**Chips** — Collie/Shepherd/Siberian Husky mix, WWII, Army



**Kaiser**— German Shepard, Vietnam, Army



**Nemo** — German Shepard, Vietnam, Air Force





# Cats to the Rescue for Rodents Running Rampant



Working cats aren't suited for indoor living, but what they are good at spending their time doing is helping to control rodent and pest populations in warehouse, mills, barns and atop levees. All they ask for in return is shelter, food, water and care.

In June 2019, Metro East Sanitary District adopted dozens of cats to assist with its rodent population living along the levee. The cats are part of the Metro East Humane Society's Working Cat Program.

MEHS collaborated with Madison County Animal Care and Control to offer the program.

"We adopted the cats to help with the infestation of moles, voles and other burrowing animals along the levee system," MESD Director Stephen Adler said.

Adler said MESD tried fighting the unwanted pest problem on their own, however it was doing more damage than good.

"Certain methods in trying to get rid of the rodents do not work, but rather destroy the integrity of the levee even more," he said.

Adler said that burrowing animals are a serious threat to the performance of a levee. He said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers looks at the issue when it inspects the district's 37.5 miles of levees for certification.

"The voids created by the burrowing critters can contribute to a collapse of an embankment," he said. "It undermines the levee's protection."

So far, \$170 million has been invested into levees in the Metro East and work will continue to upgrade the system.

Prior to coming to MESD, the cats were spayed/neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped and ear-tipped.



"These are true working cats," Madison County Chairman Kurt Prenzler said. "This program is an unemployment agency for feral cats."

Prenzler said he sees the program as a success and it's helped the county on becoming "no-kill."

Feral and stray cats produce around 80 percent of all the kittens born in the U.S., according to the Humane Society of the United States. Since the program started in Madison County, hundreds of cats have been fixed and relocated.

The program isn't exclusive to Madison County; other communities across the country have implemented similar programs.

Anyone interested in adopting one of the cats, call 618-656-4405 or e-mail [info@mehs.org](mailto:info@mehs.org). The cats are free, but MEHS recommends they be adopted in pairs.



# WINTER EVENTS

click on a picture to find out more information

Dec. 25  
MERRY CHRISTMAS



.HAPPY.  
*New Year*

Jan. 10



Jan. 25



Feb. 8



HIGHLAND ANIMAL SHELTER



HOPE  
ANIMAL RESCUES  
HOPERESCUES.COM

METRO EAST  
HUMANE  
SOCIETY





# WINTER EVENTS

click on a picture to find out more information

Feb. 9 - 11



144th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

Feb. 15



March 17



Saint Gertrude of Nivelles Day—  
patron saint of cats.

## WORLD SPAY DAY



MUTTS (c) 2017 Patrick McDonnell

World Spay Day is **Feb. 25**. The annual campaign created by the Doris Day Animal League in 1995 as Spay Day USA, World Spay Day is recognized by nearly 70 countries, shining a spotlight on the power of affordable, accessible spay/neuter to save the lives of companion animals, community (feral and stray) cats and street dogs who might otherwise be put down in shelters or killed on the street.



### Turns Out, UPS Drivers Have a Facebook Group About Dogs They Meet On Their Routes

UPS Dogs is a wholesome Facebook group that documents the canine-loving "big brown truck" drivers who post pictures of the pups they become acquainted with along their delivery schedule.





# Foodie



## **Homemade Dog food for the sensitive stomach**

DIY dog food made in a slow cooker. Food that's healthier and cheaper than store-bought, and it's freezer-friendly!



### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 1/2 cups brown rice
- 1 (15-ounce) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 1/2 cups chopped butternut squash
- 1 1/2 cups chopped carrots
- 1/2 cup peas, frozen or canned

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Stir in ground beef, brown rice, kidney beans, butternut squash, carrots, peas and 4 cups water into a 6-qt slow cooker.
2. Cover and cook on low heat for 5-6 hours or high heat for 2-3 hours, stirring as needed.
3. Let cool completely.

## **3-ingredient Cat treats**

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 10 ounces canned salmon (undrained)
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 2 cups whole wheat flour

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Pulse the canned salmon in a food processor and chop finely
2. Combine salmon, egg, & flour in stand up mixer until it forms a dough
3. Roll out dough to 1/4 inch thickness on a floured surface
4. Use a cookie cutter (a 3/4 inch cutter recommended) to cut into pieces
5. Put the treats on a baking sheet & bake at 350°F for 20 minutes





SMILE

