



# TAILS

WINTER 2021



**WINTER & PETS**  
**WINTER SAFETY TIPS**



**SHOW US YOUR**  
**FURRY VALENTINE**



# MADISON COUNTY MAINTAINS "NO-KILL" STATUS FOR THIRD YEAR



Madison County's Animal Care and Control maintains its no-kill status for the third year in a row.

"This is a huge milestone," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said.

Shelters with a live or save outcome rate of above 90 percent are considered no-kill. Madison County's save rate for 2020 was 97 percent for dogs and 98 percent for cats.

Prenzler praised animal control and the rescue groups for all the work they do to save the lives of the cats and dogs brought into Madison County.

"This is a combined effort between animal control and the rescues," Prenzler said. "Without their help we wouldn't be able to do this. We reached our goal long before the anticipated date set by the County Board."

In March 2017, the Madison County Board passed a resolution for the county to become no-kill by Dec. 31, 2021.

Prenzler said before he became chairman, the county euthanized more than two-thirds of the cats and one-third of the dogs brought into animal control.

Animal Control Manager Katherine Conder said the success comes from the relationship between the county and rescue groups along with a variety of policy changes.

"Every healthy dog and cat is finding its way into a home," Conder said. "It's what they deserve. It takes a team effort to do what we do."

Conder said 42 Illinois rescues took the animals as well as 12 from out-of-state. Metro East Humane Society and Partners for Pets still take the majority of cats and dogs from animal control.

"I am so proud what we were able to accomplish this past year," she said. "We hope to do even more this year."

Prenzler said the county has come a long way since passing the resolution.

"The numbers speak volumes," he said.

The number of cats and dogs saved during the past 5 years.

- **2016 — 796**
- **2017 — 931**
- **2018 — 1,309**
- **2019 — 1,393**
- **2020 — 1,356**

In 2020

- 1,205 animals were transferred to rescue groups
- 139 dogs were returned to their owners
- 12 cats were returned to their owners
- 1 potbellied pig went to a farm
- 1 rabbit went to a rescue group

Visit [Madison County Animal Control website](#) for more information and statistics.





# WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Some winter days, dog walks can feel like more of a chore than a good time. That's kind of the point behind January's designation as Walk Your Dog Month. During these coldest and shortest days of the year, we all need an excuse to jazz up the daily stroll with the pup and get outside regularly with our pets (and it's a great New Year's resolution, too).

We've got some ideas to help reinvigorate your routines and focus on good dog-walking behaviors, along with some great gear to make your walks healthy, fun, and safe.

**Be the pack leader.** Be in charge when you walk your dog. Your dog should walk beside you or slightly behind. If your dog does pull ahead, don't shout. Instead, reinforce good behavior by rewarding your doggo with a treat when they're walking by your side to keep them in stride with you.

**Choose the right leash.** Choose the right one for you and your dog.

**Bring the necessities.** Make the walk pleasant for you and your dog. Always carry bags for cleaning up, don't leave dog waste in public. Bring water for you and your dog. Take some of your dog's favorite bite-size treats. Also make sure to have a towel handy to wipe off your canine's paws before going inside, clearing the salt or drying from the snow.

**Change it up.** To make walks more fun for you and your dog, don't also go the same route. Know how far to go, especially when it's cold out.

However you do it, walking your dog—this month and year-round—is one of the easiest ways to bond with your pet and get the mutual benefit of exercise—above all, we hope you enjoy the time together!





# Prepping Your Pet for Winter Weather



If you have a dog that spends most of its time romping in your backyard, or a kitty that whiles away the day in a sunny patch on the front porch, winter's arrival may be a rude awakening. Sure, your precious pets are covered in fur. But many just aren't equipped to be out in frigid temperatures for prolonged periods.



So how can you make sure your four-legged friends are warm and well-cared for when the mercury dips?

It's like wearing a T-shirt when it's below freezing — your pet's toes, nose, and ears are even more vulnerable to the the chilly temperatures.


## Fur isn't Flawless

We may admire our pets' plush coats, but as beautiful as fur is, it's not a perfect insulator, especially when it's very cold.

In winter, pets can suffer from the weather extremes, including hypothermia. If an animal's coat gets wet, the fur loses much of its insulating ability.

For cats and dogs with short fur the protection is even more minimal.



That's why, in winter, pets need protection from extreme temperatures, which includes warm, dry, draft-free shelter; plenty of food; and lots of water. 

**When it's cold out protect pets by:**

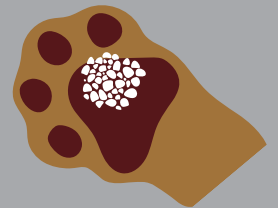
Limiting the the time outside



Providing shelter and warmth



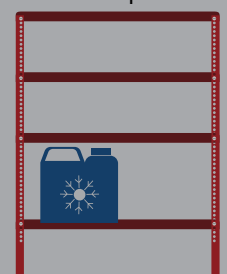
Checking their paws for salt



Checking under car hoods before driving



Storing antifreeze in a safe space





# PROTECT YOUR PET'S ORAL (AND OVERALL!) HEALTH

February is National Pet Dental Health Month

Does your cat's bad breath keep the two of you from snuggling? Do you wish you could give your dog a breath mint? Contrary to popular belief, "doggy breath" is not normal. In fact, it could be one of the first signs that your furry pal is developing dental disease.

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.

Maintaining oral health is crucial to keeping cats and dogs healthy and happy.



## 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





# PRECIOUS PETS

RESCUED  
FROM  
MADISON  
COUNTY  
ANIMAL  
CARE &  
CONTROL





# Show us your Valentine!

Send us a picture of your pet to be featured on Animal Control's Facebook page. Email a photo, with you and your pet's name and the town where you live to [Tails@co.madison.il.us](mailto:Tails@co.madison.il.us) and



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.



March 17 celebrates St. Patrick's Day, but it's also the feast day of this original cat lady Saint Gertrude of Nivelles — patron saint of cats.





# Foodie



## Salmon Cat Treats

10 oz canned salmon undrained  
1 egg beaten  
2 cups whole wheat flour small cookie cutters

1. Heat oven to 350°. Pulse 10 oz canned salmon (undrained) in a food processor and chop as finely as possible.
2. In a stand mixer, combine salmon, 1 egg (beaten) and 2 cups whole wheat flour until dough forms. If dough is too dry, add up to 1/3 cup water. If dough is too wet or sticky, add a bit more flour. Dough should be tacky but not sticky.
3. Roll out dough on a floured surface until about 1/4 inch thick. Use a 3/4-inch cookie cutter in the shape of your choice to create your treats.
4. Place treats on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. When they're slightly browned and crunchy, they're done.
5. Allow to cool before serving.
6. Store in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

## Red Velvet Pupcakes

1 beet (or about 3/4 cups worth)  
1/4 cup strawberries (about 3 large strawberries)  
1/2 cup applesauce  
1/3 cup nonfat yogurt  
2 eggs  
2 cups oat flour (blitz rolled oats in the food processor to make your own)  
1/4 cup carob powder  
1 tsp baking powder

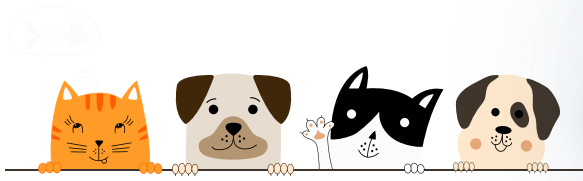
### FOR THE FROSTING

3 Tbsp non-fat yogurt  
1 tsp cornstarch  
1 block Neufchatel non-fat cream cheese  
1/4 cup strawberries or blueberries for color and flavor if you like

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Roughly dice beet and place in the bowl of your food processor. Add the applesauce and yogurt and blend until smooth. Add eggs and pulse until just combined. Add dry ingredients and pulse until just incorporated.
3. Pipe or spoon batter into mini cupcake pans making sure the tops are rounded and smooth and there are no bubbles.
4. Bake for 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.
5. Cool completely before frosting.







# Pets

So many \_\_\_\_\_ make \_\_\_\_\_ pets!  
(plural noun) (adjective)

Many families prefer a furry \_\_\_\_\_  
(noun, animal)

or a \_\_\_\_\_ to cuddle. Some people  
(adjective) (noun, animal)

enjoy having a \_\_\_\_\_ for a pet,  
(adjective) (noun, animal)

and still others prefer \_\_\_\_\_.  
(adjective) (plural noun, animals)

Most pets need \_\_\_\_\_ care, like  
(adjective)

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, exercise, and a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun, food) (noun, liquid) (adjective)

place to sleep. Some pets, like \_\_\_\_\_ live  
(plural noun, animal)

in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ but almost  
(plural noun) (plural noun)

everyone can agree that \_\_\_\_\_ are fun  
(plural noun)

for everyone!





LOVE  
WAS

A  
COLD  
WET  
NOSE

