



PAWS A WHILE

HUMANE SOCIETY OF TUOLUMNE COUNTY

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Four Fun Facts You May Not Know About the Month of April

April Is Named for Aphrodite- April is named after the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. In the Roman calendar, the fourth month April is spelled Aprilis, meaning "to open."

The name *Aprilis*, then, fits April, because in so many places in the northern hemisphere April is the month when trees and flowers begin to bloom and go on to flower.

April's Honorary Flowers Are Daisies and Sweet Peas- Two flowers signify the month of April: the daisy and the sweet pea. The daisy symbolizes innocence, loyal love, and purity; but it also means "I'll never tell!" The oldest daisy on record is the *Bellis perennis*, known as Daeges eage (or Day's eye) in the Middle Ages because its petals close at night to cover the yellow center.

Today there are more than 90 varieties of flowers that are called daisies, and they come in red, yellow, purple, orange, blue, and pink colored petals, and vary widely in size. And they are, as director/writer Nora Ephron once wrote, "the friendliest flower."

The sweat pea signifies blissful pleasure, and are used to say goodbye. Sweet peas may be a pretty flower, yet they are also one of the oldest food crops on our planet, domesticated by humans about 11,000 years ago.

Noah Webster Copyrighted the First Edition of His Dictionary in April-

The famous language expert Noah Webster was a bit of an April fool: one of his dearest wishes was to reform English spelling for Americans, to make it simpler and more obvious. While millions of school children could go for that; Webster's proposals included removing all double vowels. Bread would be spelled bred; friend would become frend; tuff for tuf, laf for laugh, kee for key, and speek for speak. He also wanted us to spell machine masheen, and pique for peek.

His successes included changing plough for plow and draught for draft; but if you're a poor speller, you might just peek your frends curiosity and attribute that to your fondness for April's Noah Webster.

Leonardo da Vinci Was Born in April- What can you possibly say about Leonardo in 100 words? He was a painter, a scientist who painted many pieces of religious art; he was fascinated by the flight of birds and the mechanisms of guns. He was a Renaissance genius for his and any other time, capable of turning his hand to anything. And he was also born in April.

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Five Essentials to Enjoy a Rainy Day Dog Walk!

With warmer temps ahead, we can't wait to get our pups out and enjoy more outdoor walking time with them! That being said, there is a reason for the age-old saying, "April showers bring May flowers." Here are some tips to help you make the most out of the warmer, and possibly rainier, days that are ahead!

Pick A More Relaxed Route - Due to the rainy weather, there are puddles that a car passing by could splash you and your dog, which can become chaotic especially if your dog isn't a fan of being wet. Cars can also sound louder in this type of weather, which can give some pups more anxiety from the loud noise. Picking a quieter and less trafficked route will help the walk be more enjoyable!

Consider Using A Safe & Sound Harness - The Safe & Sound Harness is specifically made to help relieve walking anxiety through the "real-feel" heartbeat that is rested against your dog's chest. A pup's anxiety could increase during a walk in the bad

weather, but this harness will help avoid distractions and loud, unfamiliar noises to ensure a more comfortable walk.

Choose A Reflective Collar and/or Leash - Your dog will be less visible to traffic in the rainy weather, especially since it is typically darker outside due to the stormy clouds. Making your dog more visible on a walk will keep them safer, so consider a reflective collar or simply add reflective tape to their leash to help.

Have Towels Ready at Home - Your dog is likely to get wet, and sometimes muddy, on their walk so make sure you have towels ready by the door! To help keep them dry and warm, make sure you dry them off right away, and of course that will help save the mess they may make inside the house.

Enjoy the Walk with Your Pup - Lastly, the most important part is to enjoy the walk with your dog. You already know it is raining before you leave, and most likely your dog is enjoying this walk so why not have some fun! Channel your inner child and let your dog jump in a puddle or let them chase you and give you some love even though they might have muddy paws. It's only water, and it can be as fun as you allow it to be.

Happy walking!



April Pet Holidays

Here are some of the Pet Holidays to celebrate!

Month-Long Celebrations

- Canine Fitness Month
- National Adopt a Greyhound Month
- National Heartworm Awareness Month

Week-Long Celebrations

- April 11 – 17 – Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week
- April 18 – 24 – National Pet ID Week
- April 23 – 29 – National Scoop the Poop Week

Day Celebrations

- April 6 – National Siamese Cat Day
- April 10 – National Hug Your Dog Day
- April 11 – Celebrate Shelter Pet Day
- April 19 – National Cat Lady Day
- April 21 – Bulldogs are Beautiful Day
- April 25 – National Pet Parents Day
- April 27 – National Little Pampered Pooch Day
- April 30 – Hairball Awareness Day & Show Your Support Adopt a Shelter Pet Day



Purrrtime...Five Things to Do With Your Cat

Playtime, or as we like to refer to it “Purrrtime” with your feline friend is one of the great joys of being a pet parent. There are so many fun things to do with your cat and cool new cat trends to follow. Yet what if your feline friend is bored with catnip mice and jingly balls?

You can both benefit from interactive play, yet kitties may become bored with the same old thing and turn to mischief. *Best Friends Animal Society* explains, "All animals, including pets, have natural behaviors and needs; to be healthy and happy, they must have opportunities to express those natural behaviors in appropriate ways." A great way to provide mental stimulation and alleviate boredom for your cat is to try out new ways to play.

With that in mind, here are five things to do with your furry friend, from low-tech to high-tech activities!

1. Hunting Prey - Indoor cats retain their innate hunting instincts, which is why a seemingly sleepy kitty may suddenly pounce on your foot or zoom after a dust bunny. One way to indulge their inner predator is by playing hide-and-seek with a stuffed animal. Hide behind a wall or piece of furniture and make the plush critter "peek" around the corner, and then wiggle it a few times. You also can launch it across the room to make it look like it's running and they'll love charging after it! Amp up this activity by using a stuffed animal that is larger than their usual cat toys so they have the added satisfaction of taking down substantial "prey."

2. Mechanical Toys - Another hunting option is to use wind-up or battery-operated toys, especially those designed to look like small rodents. Your cat is attracted to the unpredictable movement of these toys as they zigzag across the floor (hard surfaces work best). The exercise helps to sharpen their stalking and pouncing skills and keeps them away from your feet. Placing obstacles in the toy's pathway increases its erratic movement, making it even more entertaining for your cat.

3. Cat Food Puzzles - Kitties love the excitement of a mental challenge and a tasty tidbit, so why not combine the two? Feline behavior researchers explain in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* that food puzzles provide both physical exercise and mental stimulation. Keeping your kitty's mind sharp is important for keeping them happy and engaged. This activity is easy on the budget as well since you can repurpose items in your home, such as a cardboard box and dry cat food, for a DIY cat puzzle project.

4. Cat Obstacle Course - While it's true that cats are creatures of habit, they're also curious and enjoy investigating enticing, non-threatening changes to their environment. Construct a maze-like structure by placing cushions and pillows around the room. You can include chairs that offer them a high perch for jumping, too. The best way to keep your cat interested in this new set-up is to plant pieces of cat food at various points throughout the maze. As *Animal Planet* notes, cats have a surprising ability to learn and remember new skills. Your kitty is no lab rat, but they'll learn to run mazes for a healthy treat!

5. Cat Apps - It may come as no surprise that many new cat trends incorporate electronic technology. Did you know that there are apps that your cat can play with by themselves? Now, your cat can catch fish, paint or chase lasers on a screen, according to *PC World*. However they'll need human intervention for you to operate the smartphone or

tablet. If you've ever caught your cat watching television, you know they're enchanted by the quick movements and vibrant sounds of electronic devices. Yet make sure to check with your vet to be certain that the screen brightness won't damage your pet's eyes.

Trying out new fun things to do with your cat benefits your fur baby physically and mentally. Get creative, as kitty bonding will never be the same!

Dear Tabby



How many permanent teeth does a typical adult dog have? The typical adult dog has 42...four canine teeth, 10 molars, 12 incisors, and 16 premolars.

Why do cats knead? One theory is while settling down to rest, some cats will knead soft places as if to prepare it to lie down comfortably. This may be from a time when vegetation would be knocked down to make a safe sleeping spot. Another is that kneading cats are marking territory with special scent glands located in the paws while another is that kneading may be a form of stretching or it just plain feels really good.

In the movie Lassie Come Home, who was the first collie to play that celebrity dog? Pal was the first collie to play the role of Lassie in 1943's Lassie Come Home. Since then ten generations of male collies have played Lassie and although Lassie's character is female, male collies have been used as their coats are thicker and the thicker coats show up better on film.



A Variety of Genius Ways to Exercise Your Dog Indoors

Most dogs need a healthy dose of exercise each and every day. The trouble is, often times the weather just doesn't want to cooperate.

Depending on where you live, it could be frigid temperatures, heatwaves, rainstorms – or all of it! Or, as we've learned of late, you may have to stay indoors due to health concerns.

These conditions can make walking your dog precarious, if not downright dangerous. Unfortunately, your dog will still need its daily workout.

So what do you do?

All is not lost, as there are still ways you can give your dog a solid workout indoors. Here are a few ideas to try out.

1. Play fetch inside - The space may be smaller, but you can still get in a pretty vigorous game of fetch indoors.

Depending on the size of your dwelling, you might have to rearrange a few things to make space. And it's definitely a good idea to move valuable and breakable things out of the way entirely.

Since the distance is a lot shorter than it would be at the park, this method might take a bit longer to tire out your dog. Yet, it's a great way to get in some intense exercise and wear out your feisty furball.

2. Start a game of tug of war - If your dog is physically up for it, a game of tug of war is another awesome indoor idea. For this, a rope toy works best as they're durable and decent for your dog's teeth. When playing this game, just make sure your dog is having fun and doesn't get too aggressive.

3. Run the stairs - This is a simple one. If you have stairs in your house and your dog is physically able, why not encourage them to run up and down the stairs for a bit?

To get the game going, you can stand at the top of the stairs and throw a ball down, then encourage your dog to bring it back up to you. Or, if you're feeling energetic, you can always run up and down with them.

4. Search for treats - Another idea is to play hide and seek with dog treats. Ask your dog to sit and stay, then go out of sight and hide the treat in a location that's challenging for your dog to find, but not too tough.

Also, make sure they know the general area where you've hid it, otherwise they might be searching for hours. Although, that might not be a bad thing!

5. Buy an interactive food toy - Here's how these toys work. You remove the top and fill the inside with dog food. After securing the top back on, you put the toy on the floor and encourage your dog to push it around the house in hopes of getting bits of food here and there. It's a great motivator!

Without a doubt, dogs get much better exercise going on walks or romping around outdoors. But in a pinch, these activities can work wonders.



HSOTC Continues By Appointment Only!

Given that we are starting to see signs of improvement in the ongoing pandemic, we are continuing to provide for the viewing and adoption of our animals by appointment only as we

remain committed to the health and well-being of our staff, our animals, and the community we serve.

If you are interested in scheduling an appointment, please call 209-984-5489 anytime Tuesday - Friday from 9:00AM - 1:30PM.

To help protect one another, HSOTC staff members are required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing. If you have a scheduled appointment we ask that you wear a face covering and if you do not have a face covering we will provide you with one for your usage upon arrival. Once again, we appreciate your understanding as we all continue to stay safe and healthy.

You can help us
continue to save one
more animal at a time.

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