

Issue #7

PAW-SOME PET NEWS

April 10th, 2026



Spring into Pet Health



Purr-fect weather

April arrives with longer days, fresh energy, and a full calendar of meaningful pet-related awareness events. From Heartworm and Lyme disease awareness to spring dangers, and pet ID safety, this issue is packed with helpful reminders to support the health and happiness of every pet in our community.

Why Heartworm Awareness Matters

Heartworm disease is one of the most serious — and completely preventable — threats to pets. Raising awareness each April helps remind families that protection isn't optional or seasonal. Mosquitoes can appear during unexpected warm spells, survive indoors, and stay active long into fall, which means pets are at risk far more often than people realize.

- Heartworm disease is life-threatening. Once infected, treatment is lengthy, expensive, and physically demanding for pets.
- It only takes one mosquito bite. Even indoor pets can be exposed.
- Prevention is simple and safe. Monthly preventives and annual testing keep pets protected year-round.
- Awareness saves lives. Many pet owners underestimate the risk — your reminder may be the reason a pet stays healthy.

Ask us how to get your pet started on Heartworm and Flea prevention today!

Meet Sylvie

Meet Sylvie, a sweet 1-year-old Mini Schnauzer rescue who came to us already undergoing treatment for heartworm disease.

Despite her young age and cheerful personality, she's facing a condition that is entirely preventable



-Sylvie

— and her journey is a powerful reminder of why year-round heartworm prevention matters. With proper care, monitoring, and lots of love, Sylvie is on the road to recovery, and her story helps raise awareness for pets everywhere.

Let's talk Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is an infection caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is transmitted through the bite of an infected tick—most commonly the black-legged (deer) tick. Dogs don't get Lyme disease directly from other dogs or from people; it always comes from a tick bite.

As spring brings warmer weather, ticks become more active — and so does the risk of Lyme disease. Many pet owners underestimate how quickly ticks can latch on or how common they are in backyards, parks, and wooded areas.

- Use year-round tick prevention. Consistent protection is the most reliable defense.
- Check pets after outdoor time. Pay special attention to ears, between toes, under collars, and along the belly.
- Keep grass trimmed and yards tidy. Reducing tick habitats lowers exposure.
- Know the signs. Lethargy, fever, joint pain, and lameness can indicate Lyme disease.

Paws and smell the flowers

As the world starts blooming again, so do the risks for curious dogs and cats.

Spring brings a variety of seasonal toxins that can cause anything from mild stomach upset to life-threatening emergencies. A quick reminder now helps keep pets safe all season long.

Toxic Spring Plants

- Many popular spring plants are dangerous if chewed or ingested:
- Lilies (extremely toxic to cats)
- Tulips & Daffodils (bulbs are especially harmful)
- Hyacinths
- Azaleas & Rhododendrons
- Fertilizers & Lawn Chemicals can be toxic if pets walk on treated grass or lick their paws afterward. Keep pets off lawns until products are completely dry and store chemicals securely.
- Insecticides & Rodenticides. As pests return, many households use sprays or baits. These products can be extremely dangerous if ingested by pets. Choose pet-safe options whenever possible.

Chip Happens

National Pet ID Week is a great reminder that the simplest way to protect a pet is to make sure they can always find their way home. A secure collar with an up-to-date ID tag, paired with a registered microchip, dramatically increases the chances of a safe reunion if a pet ever gets lost. A quick check now can prevent heartache later. Check the microchip at the next appointment.



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