Welcome to The Pet 'N Player, a free monthly newsletter from Pet 'N Play - Your Personal Pet Sitters. We hope you enjoy it!

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Fat cats on a diet: Will they still love you?
The New York Times

Maya has had a tough time slimming down. After 16 months of dieting, she's dropped 10 pounds and 6 ounces. True, that's more than 40 percent of her body weight. At her heaviest, the domestic shorthair cat tipped the scale at 24.9 pounds. She looked like a furry Pilates ball. The decision to lose weight was not Maya's; it was her owners', Larissa and Doug Peluso, of Eatontown, New Jersey. Maya's mobility was decreasing: She could no longer jump on their bed, and they knew she might be suffering from joint pain and facing diabetes. Their vet said they had to help her regain her feline figure. Still, they hesitated. Read More

This month's pet trivia (answers below):

1) Where is a dog's withers?
A) Between it's shoulders  B) On it's legs  C) On it's tail  D) Across it's tummy

2) A cat with Pica does which of the following?
A) Measures things  B) Eats strange non-food items like wool, plastic bags and yarn  C) Sheds profusely  D) Hides from strangers

3) What are Belton, Merle, Roan and Domino?
A) Famous circus dogs  B) Dog breeds  C) Famous military dogs  D) Dog colors

4) Hemingway cats are felines that have what?
A) Written a best-selling book  B) An abnormally large head  C) A cropped tail  D) Extra toes

There are a lot of very well behaved dogs out there, and some not so well behaved. Should dogs be allowed to be off-leash everywhere?
Last month's poll question:

**Neutering dogs is found to increase some health problems, such as hip dysplasia, lymphatic cancer, and more. Should pets be neutered?**

The results: everyone agrees that pets should be neutered to decrease the unwanted pet population in shelters and on the streets, although half of you would allow the exception of breeding pure-bred pets.

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"Lots of people talk to animals... Not very many listen, though... That's the problem." - Benjamin Hoff, *The Tao of Pooh*

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**Magnetoreception molecule found in the eyes of dogs, primates**

*ScienceDaily*

The magnetic sense in migratory birds has been studied in considerable detail: Unlike a boy scout's compass, which shows the compass direction, a bird's compass recognizes the inclination of the magnetic field lines relative to Earth's surface. Now scientists report that dog-like carnivores and some primate species may have a magnetic compass similar to that of birds. [Read More]

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**April Pet Holidays:**

- **National Greyhound Adoption Month.**
- **National Heartworm Awareness Month.**
- **National Pet First Aid Awareness Month.** This event is an effort by the American Red Cross to draw attention to the need to know specialized pet first aid.
- **Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs Month.**
- **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month.** (ASCPA)
- **National Pet Month.** (UK)

April 1-7, 2016: **International Pooper Scooper Week.**

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There are LOTS of great pictures of puppy Bentley on our Facebook page!

[See all of our past Featured Pets here!](#)
April 2, 2016: Every Day is Tag Day. Always the first Saturday in April.


April 10-16, 2016: Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week. 2nd full week in April.

April 11, 2016: National Pet Day.

April 17-23, 2016: National Pet ID Week.


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April 18, 2016: Pet Owners Independence Day.

April 21, 2016: Bulldogs are Beautiful Day.

April 22, 2016: Earth Day.

April 26, 2016: Hairball Awareness Day.


April 30, 2016: Adopt a Shelter Pet Day.

April 30, 2016: World Veterinary Day. This event from the World Veterinary Association is always...

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**Is Your Dog Stressed? Watch for These Signs**

Vetstreet

![image of dog]

Is your dog feeling anxious? Stressed? Worried? You may think he can't tell you if he is, but he often will, in nonverbal ways. Your dog communicates his emotional state through his body language and behavior. Decoding these cues is mostly a matter of knowing what to look for. [Read More]

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"I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the "lower animals" (so called) and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man. I find the result humiliating to me." - Mark Twain, *Letters from the Earth*, 1907

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**Video: Teach Your Dog to Jump Through a Hoop**

Vetstreet

![image of dog and trainer]

One of the more impressive tricks a **dog** can do is jump through a hoop. It's a dramatic-looking feat, but it can be taught in a few easy steps. Watch the video above for a step-by-step tutorial on how to train your dog to jump through a hoop.
celebrated on the last Saturday in April.

Looking for that perfect holiday or birthday gift for your favorite pet lover? Click on a banner ad to check out the products. Or visit our web site for other unique and fun products for pets and pet lovers alike!

Fun facts about pets:
A male cat can begin mating when he is between 7 and 10 months old. Who first thought of using dogs to guide blind people? At the end of World War I, the German government trained the first guide dogs to assist blind war veterans.
A female cat can begin mating when she is between 5 and 9 months old. Walt Disney’s family dog was named Lady (as in Lady and the Tramp). She was a poodle.

We hope you get a laugh at one of the comics below. There are new comics every day on our web site, just click on a comic. They are brought to you by Andertoons.

“I dunno, something’s not right.”
“What I sacrifice in balance, I make up for in style.”
Pet Sitter's Corner

Each month in the Pet Sitter's Corner we will keep you up to date on changes with Pet 'N Play, local events, and other interesting news.

If you find yourself on the west side of the state this first weekend of April, take the time to visit the 11th Annual West Michigan Pet Expo! It runs April 2-3, and features the Wild World of Animals, trick dog show, vendors, and much more. Fun for the whole family! Find out more here.

There is still plenty of time to plan for the upcoming Humane Society of Huron Valley's annual Walk & Wag and Run event! Sign up now to sponsor a fundraising team. Or put it on your calendar to attend. It's Saturday, May 21, from 8-1, at Rolling Hills Park in Ypsilanti. Find our more here.

Do you love walking your dog? Are you, or someone you know, looking for a part-time job? Pet 'N Play is now hiring for a part-time dog walker to work in Ann Arbor Monday-Friday during the day! We are looking for a mature, responsible person that will work year-round for us (this is not a summer job). You must own a reliable, insured vehicle, have a cell phone, and have daily access to email. You must be willing to work in all kinds of weather (rain, snow, heat, cold).

This can be a fun and rewarding job, but it is also work that requires dedication and attention to detail. If you are interested, and would like to find out more, or to apply, please visit: www.pet-n-play.com/employment.

Thank you for reading our newsletter! We hope you enjoyed it.

And please feel free to share it with anyone and everyone.

Send any pet sitting questions you have to us at: info@pet-n-play.com

Trivia answers:
1) A - Between it's shoulders 
2) B - Eats strange non-food items. Dogs and people can have this eating disorder too.
3) D - Dog colors 
4) D - Extra toes. When a cat has
more than 18 toes, it's called a "polydactyl," but nicknames include mitten cats, thumb cats, boxing cats and Hemingway cats.

Check out past issues of The Pet 'N Player here