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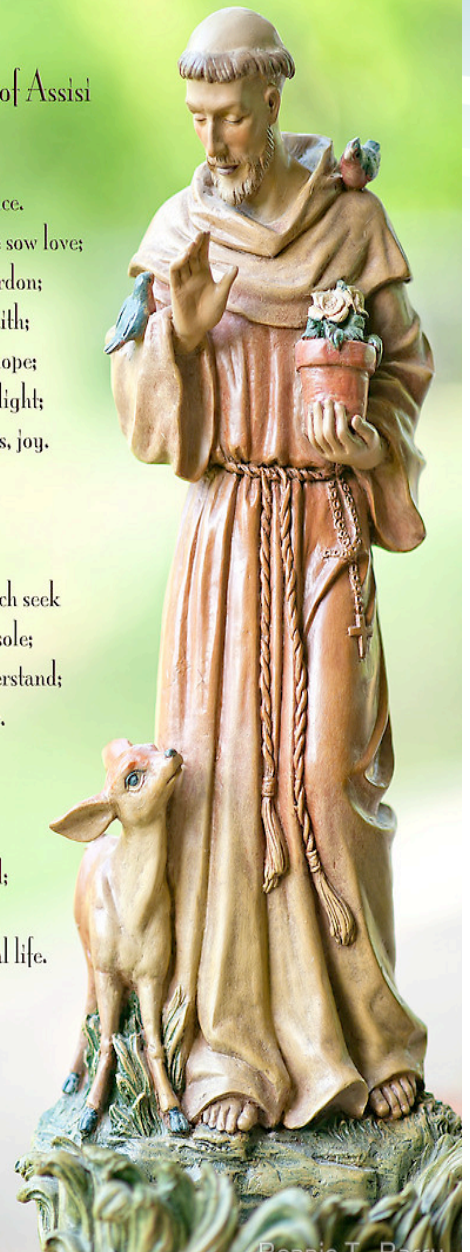
Animal Welfare

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving
that we receive;
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.

Amen



If you have men who will exclude
any of God's creatures from the
shelter of compassion and pity, you
will have men who will deal
likewise with their fellow men.
~ St. Francis of Assisi

Animal welfare is everyone's business!™



For thousands of years, humans around the world have been concerned that animals are suffering. Through research we have learned that many species are sentient (able to perceive or feel things). It is now thought that most if not all vertebrates and some invertebrates including squid and some crustaceans have some ability to evaluate the actions of others in relation to itself and third parties, to remember some of its own actions and their consequences to assess risk, to have some feelings and to have some degree of awareness.

Welfare - Welfare concerns the quality of an animal's life, not how long the life lasts (quantity) When an animal is dead he or she can no longer have experiences and his/her welfare is no longer a concern

Death - How an animal dies is a welfare concern. High mortality rates are indicative of poor welfare

Animal Welfare covers three basic areas of concern:

- Is the animal functioning well such as is the animal in good health, productive, etc.?
- Is the animal feeling well, in pain, active, eating and urinating and defecating regularly?
- Is the animal able to perform natural/species-typical behaviors that are thought to be important to them like, grazing?

There are three conditions to consider when reviewing the environment and welfare of an animal

- Physical - the welfare of an animal in regard to how it is thriving in its environment
- Mental – the welfare of an animal in regard to the feelings it has regarding its environment
- Aspects of Naturalness – the welfare of an animal in regard to its natural behaviors and normalcy of its exhibited actions

If an animal is showing signs of fear, anxiety, pain, frustration or if its care inhibits natural behaviors or the animal's needs, it is considered to be suffering.

Animal welfare impacts human welfare. There are shared risks to animals and humans from many diseases and environmental practices. These risks affect animal welfare and flows over into the lives of humans. When animals are not vaccinated, housed well or slaughtered humanely the risk of disease and environmental hazards become public concerns for the well-being of the human population. Each of us must decide if we have an obligation to animals because;

- animals have an intrinsic value
- animals have value to humans
- animals are useful to us
- animals can suffer
- animals (certain species) can become endangered

Animal welfare is a complex concept because;

- It requires research regarding how different environments affect an animal's health and feelings
- It involves ethics, how humans should treat animals from a national and worldwide perspective
- It involves laws regarding good and ethical treatment of all animals and the appropriate implementation and regulation of the laws

References: Dr. David Main (University of Bristol) in 2003. It was revised by World Animal Protection scientific advisors in 2012 using updates provided by Dr. Caroline Hewson.





8 Things Veterinary Professionals Want You to Know About Pet Care

It can be difficult to stay on top of what's best for your own well-being. So knowing what's good for your pet may seem a little confusing. Keep your feline friends and canine companions healthy and happy by following the pet care tips below.

1. **Regular Exams are Vital:** Just like you, your pet can get heart problems, develop arthritis, or have a toothache. The best way to prevent such problems or catch them early is to see your veterinarian every year. Regular exams are "the single most important way to keep pets healthy," says Kara M. Burns, MS, Med, LVT, president of the Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians. Annual vet visits should touch on recommended vaccinations, (for optimal health, pets need regular vaccinations against common ills, such as rabies, distemper, feline leukemia, and canine hepatitis), parasite control, dental exam, and health screenings and nutrition and weight control. Overfeeding is the leading cause of obesity. Keeping our pets trim can add years to their lives. Because pets need far fewer calories than most of us think -- as little as 185-370 a day for a small, inactive dog; just 240-350 calories daily for a 10-pound cat -- talk to your vet, who can make feeding suggestions based on your pet's age, weight, and lifestyle.
2. **Spay and Neuter Your Pets:** About nine million pets end up in U.S. shelters every year. Some are lost, some have been abandoned, and some are homeless. Spay and neuter your cats and dogs. It's a procedure that can be performed as early as six to eight weeks of age. Spaying and neutering doesn't just cut down on the number of unwanted pets; it has other substantial benefits for your pet. Studies show it also lowers the risk of certain cancers and reduces a pet's risk of getting lost by decreasing the tendency to roam.
3. **Prevent Parasites:** Fleas are the most common external parasite that can plague pets, and they can lead to irritated skin, hair loss, hot spots, and infection. Fleas can also introduce other parasites into your cat or dog. All it takes is for your pet to swallow one flea, and it can end up with tapeworms, the most common internal parasite affecting dogs and cats. Year-round prevention such as regular flea and intestinal parasite control, as well as heartworm prevention in endemic areas are key strategies to prevent pet parasites.
4. **Provide an Enriched Environment:** An enriched environment is another key to the long-term health of your canine and feline friends. Pets need mental stimulation, say the pros, which may mean daily walks for your pooch, and scratching posts, window perches, and toys for your cat. It means play time with you, which not only keeps your pet's muscles toned and boredom at bay, it also strengthens your bond with your four-footed companions.
5. **ID Microchip Your Pet:** Only 14% of pets ever find their way home after getting lost. Fortunately, micro-chipping allows for the pet to be reunited with its family, no matter how far away it is when found. About the size of a rice grain, a microchip is inserted under the skin in less than a second. It needs no battery and can be scanned by a vet or an animal control officer in seconds. Be sure to register the chip ID with the chip's maker. A current registration is the vital last step in making certain your pet can always find his way home.
6. **Pets Need Dental Care, Too:** Your pet can suffer from gum disease, tooth loss, and tooth pain. And just like you, regular brushing and oral cleanings help keep your pet's teeth strong and healthy. Dental disease is one of the most common preventable illnesses in pets, yet many people never even look in their pet's mouths. It's estimated 80% of dogs and 70% cats show signs of dental disease by age three, leading to abscesses, loose teeth, and chronic pain. In addition to regular dental cleanings by your vet, periodontal disease can be avoided by proper dental care by owners. Owner care includes brushing, oral rinses, and dental treats. Your vet is a good source of information about brushing techniques, oral rinses, and dental treats.

7. **Never Give Pets People Medication:** Medicines made for humans can kill your pet. In 2010 the ASPCA listed human drugs in the top 10 pet toxins. NSAIDs like ibuprofen and naproxen are the most common pet poisoning culprits, but antidepressants, decongestants, muscle relaxants, and acetaminophen are just a few of the human drugs that pose health risks to pets. Human drugs can cause kidney damage, seizures, and cardiac arrest in a dog or cat. If you suspect your pet has consumed your medication -- or anything toxic -- call the 24-hour ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888) 426-4435). Also be sure to immediately check with your vet, and if it is during evening or weekend hours when your regular veterinary clinic may be closed, check for a local 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic and take your pet there for an examination. Always know, in advance, where an emergency clinic is and have its phone number handy.

8. **Proper Restraint in a Vehicle:** You buckle up for safety when you're in the car, shouldn't your pet? Unrestrained pets in a car are a distraction to the driver, and can put driver and pet at risk for serious injury, "or worse". To keep pets safe in transit:

- Never allow pets to travel in the front seat, where they're at risk of severe injury or death if the airbag deploys.
- Don't let dogs ride with their head out the window or untethered in the back of a truck bed.

Both practices increase the risk of being thrown from the vehicle in the event of an accident. To keep cats safe, confine them to carriers. Secure the carrier with a seatbelt. For dogs there's the option of a special harness attached to a seatbelt.

2017 Reviewed By Audrey Cook, BVM&S



Italy - Animal Welfare and Cultural Issues

Italians have always worked alongside animals, especially dogs. Farmers keep dogs to protect their livestock from foxes and wolves, some keep them to hunt rabbits, while still others rear dogs to sniff out truffles. Truffle hunting is very common in Italy, as an experienced truffle hunter can earn approximately 6,000 US dollars per season. However, there are certain differences in the way animals are perceived in Italy as compared to the US, the UK or most parts of the world.

Attitudes toward pets

- Pets in Italy are rarely kept in the house. They are kept in the backyard or are even set free to roam around with the other dogs in the area.
- Neutering is often dismissed on the grounds that it is expensive and unnatural, and as a result, the number of stray animals is quite high. Many pet owners prefer to feed their pets scraps off the table rather than animal food, so dogs in Italy tend to be more familiar with pasta than kibble. This does not mean that owners mistreat their pets or that they do not care for them; it is simply that this is considered to be the “normal” way to raise pets. It is important for expats to keep an open mind towards pet care, and avoid criticizing the pet care methods of Italians, or offering advice unless asked for – in the same way that one would not criticize someone’s child rearing skills or offer unsolicited advice in that area. At the same time, it is not necessary for expats to adopt the local practices when caring for their own pets, at least to the extent that pet food and other supplies are available. There is a marked difference in the way people in the cities treat their pets as compared to those in the surrounding villages and hamlets. People in Italian cities tend to have less traditional methods of pet care, and have willingly accepted pet food, regular health check-ups, and animal dentistry as part of a healthy pet care regimen.

Superstitions

- There are several Italian superstitions that surround animals, and while most of them are fairly harmless, some can have unpleasant consequences that many expats find horrifying. For instance, black cats are still thought to bring bad luck, which has led to the widespread killing of these animals. It is estimated that approximately 60,000 black cats are killed annually in Italy. Black cats are also killed as part of black magic rituals carried out by certain cults. However, this attitude does not extend to all cats – for example, in Italy it is considered good luck to hear a cat sneeze. In general, owls, foxes, and black cats are considered unlucky, and when people see them, the typical response is to stop and wait for another person to pass them by. The idea is that the bad luck that would have struck you will instead pass on to the unfortunate soul who overtook you and crossed the path of the animal.
- A common superstition relating to birds is that they should not be kept as pets within the house, as they will bring the homeowners bad luck. In fact, it is thought that if a bird simply flies into the house, the owners will suffer bad luck too. Some people take this even further and avoid keeping bird feathers in their house – peacock feathers are considered to be particularly unlucky due to their unique design, which allegedly resembles the “evil eye”.



Animal welfare and rights

Italy has several laws against cruelty to animals and relating to animal welfare in general, but many of these laws are considered outdated and inadequate. As popular attitudes to animals have progressed, efforts have been made to update the laws, as well as the infrastructure available to care for animals and support animal welfare. The Italian Animal Welfare Party (Partito Animalista Italiano) is a minor political party whose main focus is around animal rights and animal welfare, and you can find out more about their programs and activities at www.partitoanimalista.it/INDEX_English.htm.

The LIDA (Lega italiana dei diritti dell'animale), which translates to the Italian League for Animal Rights, is another organization that describes its activities as "a public and non-violent struggle against all the injustice and suffering inflicted on weak human and nonhuman beings by Homo Sapiens". The Italian Horse Protection Association (IHP) is a center for confiscated and mistreated horses, and is the only one of its kind in Italy. The organization strives to help mistreated horses with their psychological and physical recovery, and to raise awareness regarding the proper care and treatment of horses. You can read more about them at –

<http://www.yardandgroom.com/Employer/Italy/Firenze/lhp-Italian-Horse-Protection-Association/103794>.

The Italian national organization for animal protection is the ENPA (Ente Nazionale Protezione Animale) and they manage rescue centers across the country. The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals (AISPA) is a UK-based charity that raises funds for medicines, rescue vehicles, and surgical equipment for Italian animal welfare organizations.

No animal deserves to suffer. There are humane methods to care for all animals. Regardless of purpose...all animals should be treated with dignity and respect in a stress and pain free environment. All individuals have the responsibility of ensuring good care and the wellbeing of animals world wide. The following is a brief list of animal welfare organizations. Find one that you can learn from and support today.

National
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
www.asPCA.org

Arizona Humane Society - www.azhumane.org

AZ Animal Welfare League - www.aawl.org

AZ Italian Greyhound Rescue - www.azitaliangreyhoundrescue.org

National Wildlife Federation - www.nwf.org

World Animal Protection Organization
www.worldanimalprotection.org

International Fund for Animal Welfare
www.ifaw.org/united-states

FACEBOOK: Esdaw - Italy, Malta, San Marino, Vatican City State Community Page about Esdaw - European Society of Dog and Animal Welfare

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Interested in the history of the Italian Greyhound dog breed? The Italian greyhound has been around for many centuries, but exactly how and when this miniaturized greyhound was developed has been lost in time. Evidence of dogs resembling the Italian greyhound can be found in art dating nearly 2,000 years ago from Turkey, Greece and other areas around the Mediterranean. By the Middle Ages, miniaturized greyhounds could be found throughout southern Europe, but they found special favor with Italian courtiers. The breed came to England in the 17th century, quickly becoming as popular with nobility there as they had been in their Italian homeland. In 1820, the Italian greyhound was one of only two toy breeds mentioned in a book

about dogs. The Italian greyhound continued to find favor, reaching her peak during the reign of Queen Victoria. After that time, her numbers declined, however, and the breed dwindled to such an extent that she almost disappeared in England after World War II. One possible reason for her decline was a degradation in quality, because dogs were bred for tiny size, often without regard to soundness and health. Fortunately, Italian greyhounds had come to America in the late 1800s, and even though their numbers were small, these dogs were of high quality. They, along with other imports, helped revive the breed in Europe. Since then, the Italian greyhound has risen gradually in popularity and is now enjoying a second renaissance. Italian Greyhound Dog Temperament: A sighthound in a small package, the Italian greyhound shares her larger relatives' characteristics. She loves to run and chase. She is extremely gentle and sensitive. Reserved, often timid, with strangers, she is devoted to her family and is good with children, and other dogs and pets. However, these small dogs can be easily injured by boisterous children and larger dogs. Italian Greyhound Dog Care: The Italian greyhound likes a daily romp outdoors, but she hates the cold. Her exercise needs are best met with a good walk on leash or even a rollicking game indoors. She also likes to stretch out and sprint in a fenced area. This breed cannot live outdoors. Care of the fine short hair is minimal, consisting only of occasional brushing to remove dead hair. Regular brushing of the teeth is important in this breed. Italian

Greyhound Dog Health Major concerns –
- periodontal disease

Minor concerns –
- epilepsy
- leg fractures
- patellar luxation
- PRA
- Tail fractures

Knee and Eye examinations should be scheduled regularly

Life span: 12-15 years

