

THE GST GAZETTE

11th April 2021

Goldfish have a reputation as short-lived creatures, but given proper care, they can live as long as 30 years in captivity.



Cats don't typically meow at each other—that's a communication tool reserved for their humans.



National Pet Day Edition



“American Shorthair” is the designation reserved for pedigreed cats, while similar-looking cats of mixed or unknown origin are called “domestic shorthairs.”



The oldest known dog burial is from 14,200 years ago, suggesting dogs were firmly installed as pets by then.

National Pet Day

National Pets day is celebrated on 11th of April every year, but for pet lovers, there is no day that goes by when you don't celebrate your animal companion! People love pets. Pets are one of the most trusted companions one can have in their lives to make each day a little bit better than ever. But for the animals that don't have shelter, people around just ignore them instead of taking care of them and making them a part of their lives.

Having a pet, can be a very beautiful blessing-they are always available for us, they can cure your mood in a couple of seconds. Their pure and honest love is what makes us want them and love them back more. People who have pets are so much attached to their pets that they treat them as their family member. Pets can not only steal your hearts, but they contribute to overall cardiovascular health and keeps us away from all the negativity around us.

Pet day began in 2006 when Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Page decided to celebrate the joy these pets bring in our lives. She advocated for the adoption of pets and started creating public awareness for the animals awaiting homes in shelters. Page hopes that these numbers can

continue to decrease by celebrating pets. Encouraging pet adoption as a first choice is one of the main ideas of celebrating pet day. Animals and humans together can really be advantageous to make our world a better place to live in. Celebrate pet day by adopting a pet from a local shelter or any animal welfare organisation. Adoption of an animal can be a very great thing and can save life of one animal by providing shelter and love that creature deserves. Volunteer at your local shelter, feed stray dogs, donate food and provide them shelter and love, encourage people to adopt pets. All the love and joy the pet give us, we should also make sure to show that love to them and let them know their importance in your life. Hug your dog, bond with your bunny and play with your cute adorable cats. For most people pets are their best friends –at the end of the day, you will never find someone more loyal than a pet, right?

- Sakshi Gawali
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“Even though my parents didn’t allow me to keep a pet at our home, my dream was fulfilled by my uncle and I became best friends with Ronnie in just a few moments. From waking up at 3AM to take him for a walk to catching him around while giving him a bath, I enjoyed every bit of the time I spent with him.”

-Sajal Agrawal

Strays can make good pets too!

In my society there are three stray dogs and they have been living there for quite a few months now. Although we know how acute and heightened their sense of smell is, we are still astonished when we see them recognize all the society members. The society members have been bonding with them — providing food, petting them, the kids play with the dogs, the car parking has some place where they could rest or take shelter in rains etc. In short, the 3 dogs have been adopted as pets of the whole society.

Well, whenever there has been a talk about dogs and adopting them as pets, there has to be a story where the dogs have prevented robbery, theft or something like that and ironically, a similar incident occurred in our society. As mentioned earlier the dogs recognized all the society members and one fine day all 3 of them started barking on some strangers so loud that the secretary had to check what happened. There have been many people who visited the society – the relatives of someone, new tenants, but never the dogs had behaved in such a way with any of them. From what appeared of them they were new tenants and were going to stay for around 6-7 months for their supposed business. Well, they blended in well with everyone, were friendly with even the dogs so everyone was okay with these new guys. Some people even invited them for dinner sometimes, the clubhouse access was given to them even though they were tenants, so in short, they had the knowledge of most members of society, the structure of their houses and the ways in and out of the society. On that eventful weekday they did not board the bus to work as usual and when asked they said they were unwell but as dramatic as it may sound it was the night of the robbery. They broke into some houses of well to do families and also broke into the society office which had the society funds

to be deposited in the bank the next day. In total they had almost looted around 20 to 25 lacs of money and jewelry and were on the way to escape. From the noise they created our dogs knew something was wrong and saw these people running away. We always have been advised since we were kids that we should never run, in front of dogs and that day we knew why. The dogs chased these robbers, caught them and gave them a number of injuries by biting them, scratching them and what not.

The secretary and the watchman were on the scene with quite a few members of the society from the pandemonium caused by these events that too past midnight. The police were informed, the thieves were caught and the usual stuff but the dogs, our dogs had saved the society from being robbed. They are still strays not adopted by anyone, they live in the streets passing through the society and get only food from the members but still they were so loyal that they cared for the society and prevented any harm from happening. The dogs roam around the society till late night with the watchman and sleep in some corner of the parking lot.

We are in debt to them and they are still stray animals.

After the incident many people wanted to adopt dogs and to maintain a status in the society bought some expensive puppies and dogs of various breeds but did not adopt the stray dogs. Now they are ignored as most of them have a personal pet. The rest of us care about these dogs and take care of them. They were only strays and have proved that they can make better pets than the exotic breeds which are so expensive.

Let’s take care of our strays, adopt them as pets. They are no less!!

-Pradyumn Joshi



“He’s my best friend who is also like a brother to me. He’s also the most huggable and the goofiest friend I can ever have. Love you Coco!”

-Nipun Manghi

My foster pup befriending my elderly cat

I vividly remember the month of May, a few years ago, when my friend had to go to her native place, she asked me to foster her little pup. I took up little Hercules, yes that was the name of that little pup. He was familiar with me and therefore had no issue staying with me. The only thing that I was a bit unsure about was, ‘Will Hercules befriend, at the best tolerate Sir?’

Sir, or if I might say her full name Sir Fat Cat McCatterson is my cat. No, I didn’t name her. She is an orange, tabby cat who behaves as if she owns the house. So, Hercules had signed himself up for some hard work. When Hercules was dropped by my friend, everyone was excited about the new addition. Well, everyone except Sir. Sir didn’t try to mask her dislike in the slightest. She constantly kept hissing at H when he was getting attention.

It went on for some days. Mom and I tried to give both the pets equal attention. But my attention-seeking gremlin wouldn’t want to share anything. Hercules was trying to engage with Sir. But Sir wouldn’t spare a glance towards him. I thought they would never get along. But what I didn’t know was Hercules was stubborn. He was not planning on giving up.

The first active attempt I saw H doing was tailing Sir everywhere. Sir was annoyed, but it was quite amusing for us. Sir trying to nick some cat treats, H showed up. Sir trying to cuddle with me, Herc finding his spot beside me. The glare Sir was throwing at him made me wonder if she is a cat or an animagi, who is trying to live in peace but not being able to due to this annoying pup. Sir finally realized Hercules wasn’t going to give up.

The next thing I saw him do was trying to play with Sir. There she was, trying to play with the yarn, minding her own business. I didn’t realize what happened in a moment, but the ball of yarn was rolling down the hallway. And Sir being the lazy one, was not going to take the effort of running after the ball of yarn. But Hercules, always the enthusiastic pup that he is, ran like his life depended on it and got that ball of yarn back to Sir. From my point of view, it was a peace offering. Or maybe a start of the friendship, but I might just be exaggerating.

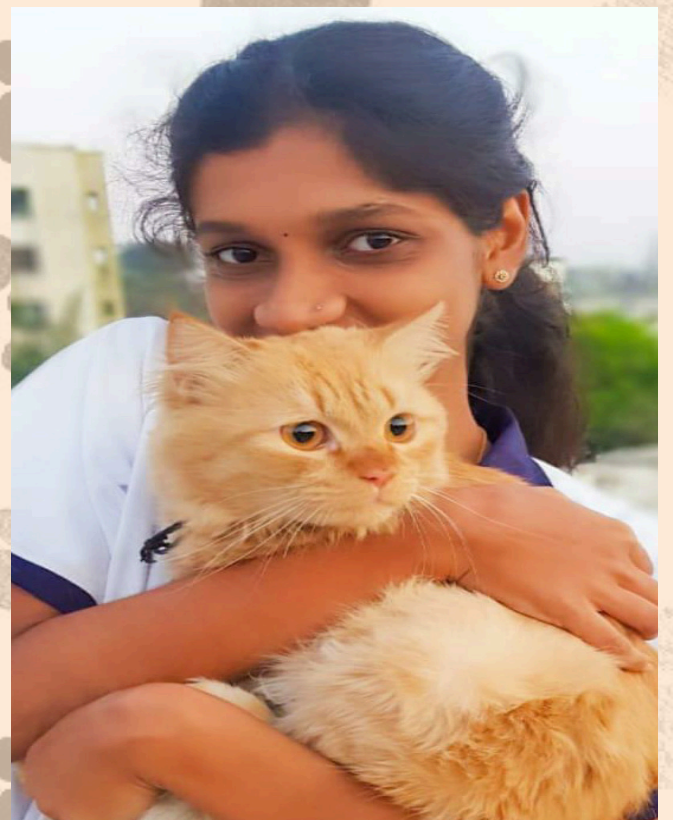
It had been like that for a few days. Hercules, playing with Sir, Sir, trying so hard to pretend that she is just tolerating him. What can I say, my cat is petty. But Hercules cancels it out by being playful. One night, while I was up reading till late, I heard some sounds from the living room. I got up to check and saw the most adorable sight I have ever seen. Sir was lying on top of Hercules as if he is a big pillow, but he is a fluffy pillow. I click a picture and send it to my friend with a caption, “They do get along” The next day, we were lazing around. Sir getting her share of belly rubs and H licking our faces. I never thought I would see this picture of Sir and Hercules getting along.

I was dreading the day Hercules had to go back to his home. We all could see how Sir would miss him. Hercules was reluctant to go. And then my friend arrived to take her pet home. Sir and Hercules had become inseparable in few days. But we promised them a lot of playdates and, then it was settled. And that’s how my cat befriended my foster pup.

Pradnya Talekar



Meet Mange



Smruti Kotian

Advantages of having a pet

Day by day the quality of life of human beings boosted, which lead to the need. People preparing for self the things is necessary, enhancing mental and physical health and they begin to care for not only themselves but also the animals that are pet. Currently, Pets become more and more popular, there are many people keeping pets. Enhancing health, Widening relationship, Being more responsibility, Having security. It indicates that having or raising pets offers more advantages than disadvantages. Therefore, people should have one for themselves. Pet, any animal kept by human beings as a source of companionship and pleasure. While a pet is generally kept for the pleasure that it can give to its owner, often, especially with horses, dogs, and cats, as well as with some other animals, this pleasure appears to be mutual. Thus, pet keeping can be described as a symbiotic relationship, one that benefits both animals and human beings. As the keeping of pets has been practiced from prehistoric times to the present and as pets are found in nearly every culture and society, pet keeping apparently satisfies a deep, universal human need. Keeping pets also a way to raise awareness making man has responsibility. Pets are known to affect people's health in a beneficial way. Just by their sheer presence, pets can

lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels, and reduce stress. For people who've had a heart attack, the odds of survival jump from 1 in 87 to 1 in 15 for dog owners. Owning a pet also seems to help people recover more quickly from illnesses and hospital stays. Parkinson's patients can have problems with ,freezing when their feet freeze in place but the rest of their body keeps moving, causing the patient to fall. Helper dogs are trained to spot the freeze. When it happens, they touch the frozen foot and this miraculously makes the foot unfreeze. This phenomenon is still a medical mystery, no one knows why it works, but it does. Other dogs are trained to detect low blood sugar in diabetic patients, giving them time to correct their blood sugar levels before something serious happens. You've probably always known that having a pet makes you happy. It gives you a friend to do with, a pal during walks and car rides, and a furry face to pet at the end of the day. But you might not have known all that your dog or cat is doing for your health! From lowering stress to getting you out of doors, the benefits of pet ownership are so many and so varied, they're really too great to count.

-Madhuri R



"I found her when I was trekking through snowy taiga and when I gave her a bone, she followed me back home! We chill together virtually because my mom won't get me a real one."
- Vipul Vekhande

My hooman

Hello everyone, Woof woof!

I am Dude, I know you all and I remember you too! I am the one that you might have seen in the park next to your neighborhood. I am a brown, hairy breed with strong features and a bark that scares the hell out of malicious threats and a playfulness and charm that draws all the love in the world towards me. My playfulness wins everyone's hearts and attention. But mostly I feel blessed and overjoyed when every day in the morning, I see my loving owner get as excited as me, to take me on long walks and feed me with the best food. I love to go out for very long walks and to play Frisbee. Balls are the most exciting thing in the world. You know why? Because they bounce back at you! Isn't that the coolest thing you ever saw! I love to learn and acquire skills that my master teaches me. One special thing that me and my master share is that even in a big crowd I can always find my master and reach out no matter what happens, and then I wag my tail when I'm happy to see them! My master is my one true hooman and I love him with all my heart!

like? Maybe it would be the difficult way of life. I would wake up before its dawn and mark my area with my signature. I would have to hunt down or arrange my own food and then make up or find an appropriate shelter. I would fulfill all of my desires of living a wild and adventurous life but there would be something deep missing – a sense of belonging. I would be on my own.

Yes, it may sound selfish but I want to be wanted. I want to be cared for. I want to be a part of something greater than myself and so, I will always be a loyal and a dog of honor capable of the most difficult things. I would do my best no matter what sacrifice it takes of me to be able to come to the point where my master would look back and remember me.

And then, maybe one day when my masters would sit at the dinner table, they would remember me and laugh and cry about the things that we did together and about the times when they couldn't imagine life without me.

Sometimes I imagine a day in the wild, what would it be

Chetana Jade