

April 11 2022



How did National Pet Day begin?

Colleen Paige, animal welfare advocate and pet and family lifestyle expert, founded National Pet Day in 2006 to celebrate the joy pets can bring to us. Colleen also wanted to bring attention to the ongoing needs of many pets of all kinds waiting in shelters to be adopted. She encouraged people who want purebred dogs and cats to contact rescue organizations instead of going to a breeder. “Don’t shop! Adopt!” has become the holiday motto. News of this caught on and spread through social media, celebrity support, etc. leading to this holiday being celebrated internationally.

National Pet Day Top Events and Things to Do

- Spend time with your pet. Play with them, get them a gift, and show them you love them.
- Donate to a pet organization or charity that helps improve the lives of cats, dogs, and other animals.
 - <https://ontariospca.ca>
 - <https://www.canadahelps.org> › category › animals
 - <http://www.ontariowildliferescue.ca>
- Watch a movie exploring the bond between people and their pets. Here are our suggestions:
 - *Hachi: A Dog’s Tale* (2009) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TII2o1hm1F4>
 - *A Dog’s Way Home* (2018) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pKdCHvH310>
 - *Old Yeller* (1957) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uG-J7dYweU>
 - *We bought a Zoo* (2011) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Krh1koDU2uE>
- Read a book and share stories with your pets and family

Fun Fact: MOST POPULAR PETS

- #1: Dog (45%)
- #2: Cat (30%)
- #3: Fish (9%)
- #4: Bird (e.g. parakeet, cockatiel, parrot, etc.) (5%)
- #5: Hamster/gerbil/mouse (2%)
- #6: Horse (2%)
- #7: Snake (2%)
- #8: Guinea pig (1%)
- #9: Lizard (e.g. iguana, chameleon, gecko, etc.) (1%)
- #10: Tarantula (1%)