

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAPPS Encourages the Celebration of Two Pet Holidays

NAPPS Suggests Ways to Celebrate Love Your Pet Day and Walking the Dog Day

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. January 31, 2012 – With the start of the new year, it is time to show your pet some extra love and care by celebrating the upcoming pet holidays. The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a nonprofit trade association dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, encourages pet parents and pet sitters to support Love Your Pet Day on Feb. 20 and Walking the Dog Day on Feb. 22.

“Love Your Pet Day is a great opportunity for pet parents to give their pets some additional love, attention and pampering,” said John F. D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. “With pet obesity on a constant rise, there is no better way to show your pet you love them than with a long walk on Walking the Dog Day for some fun and exercise.”

In celebration of these two holidays, there are various ways that pet parents and pet sitters can express their love for their pets:

- Take your pet out to do its favorite activity- whether it be a game of fetch, a walk to the park or some quality time together.
- Give your pet a day of grooming.
- Reward your pet his or her favorite treat.
- Simply rub your pet’s tummy. Pets appreciate the smallest gestures!
- Make a donation to a shelter or rescue organization in your pet’s name.
- Take an adventure with your pet – perhaps trying out a new trail or walking route.
- Let your pet sleep alongside you. Whether it's in your bed or on the floor, your pet will appreciate the company.
- Get pet insurance or set up a fund for vet emergencies. Protect your pet by being prepared for a medical emergency.

Pet obesity has become an increasing issue. According to a recent study by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, approximately 53 percent of cats and 55 percent of dogs are overweight or obese. The best way to combat this is with exercise and a healthy diet. Playing some games with your pet on Love Your Pet Day and taking your dog for a walk on Walking the Dog Day are great opportunities to provide pets with that needed exercise. Jump-start your daily exercise routine in honor of Walking the Dog Day on Feb 22. Following a fitness plan will help both you and your pooch keep off the extra pounds. If your schedule doesn’t allow for regular walks, NAPPS recommends using pet sitters to ensure your pet stays healthy and fit.

Love Your Pet Day and Walking the Dog Day are not just for pet owners. For animal lovers without pets, these holidays are great opportunities to adopt or volunteer at a shelter. They are also a great way for pet sitters to show the love they share with their clients.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national nonprofit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as "the most respected authority in professional pet sitting." It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide "Pet Sitter Locator" at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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Media Contact:

Linda Woody

856-642-4420

lwoody@ahint.com