

Protecting Our Pets: One Step at a Time

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If you recall, March was *Pet Poison Prevention Awareness Month*. Well, April is just as important to our pets' safety. Not only is it *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month*, but it is also:

National Heartworm Awareness Month

National Pet First Aid Awareness Month

Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs Month

Our pets mean the world to us, so doing whatever we can to keep them happy and healthy is at the forefront of being a pet owner. But where to begin? *The American Heartworm Association* can help.

Their mission is to spread the word on what heartworm is, how it can be prevented, how it can be tested for, and how it can be treated. Their website offers an extensive look into how they're working to reduce the incidences of heartworm and how pet owners can help. They also provide tips on how to continuously protect your pets throughout their lives. For more information, check out their website and their [Pet Owner Resources](#).

Pretty basic stuff, right? But what about Pet First Aid? That doesn't sound as simple, does it? But once you know the information, you're good to go! And lucky for us, *the American Veterinary Medical Association* has got us covered! Take a look at this excerpt from their website:

[First aid supplies](#)

Our handy checklist tells you all the supplies you should have on hand for pet first aid. Print out a copy to use for shopping, and keep a copy on your refrigerator or next to the first aid kit for your family, for quick reference in emergencies.

[How to handle an injured pet](#)

Knowing how to comfort an injured pet can help minimize your pet's anxiety and also protect you and your family from injury.

[Basic pet first aid procedures](#)

Read our simple instructions for providing emergency first aid if your pet is suffering from poisoning, seizures, broken bones, bleeding, burns, shock, heatstroke, choking or other urgent medical problems. Print out a copy to keep with your pet emergency kit.

[First aid when traveling with your pet](#)

A few simple steps can better prepare you to help your pet in first aid situations while you are traveling. Remember: pet medical emergencies don't just happen at home.

[Pets and disasters](#)

Whether confronted by natural disasters such as hurricanes, or unexpected catastrophes such as a house fire, you need to be prepared to take care of your animals. A pre-determined disaster plan will help you remain calm and think clearly.

Additional pet first aid links

- American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)/Healthy Pet: [Pet First Aid](#)
- The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine: [Basic First Aid for Your Pet](#)
- American Red Cross: [First Aid for Pets](#)
- VeterinaryPartner.com: [First Aid and Emergency Care](#)

April is also *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month*, a crime that continues to sweep across our nation and the world. The ASPCA leads the way on recognizing the importance of this issue, and is often the first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions animal cruelty and the prevention of. Now, during this month, and the rest of the year, you can help animals in need and in danger.

If you're unsure of how to help, the ASPCA put together a list of ways to get involved in 2017:

[April Is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month!](#)

You can get involved locally, as well, even if you don't have pets of your own! Look into volunteering at the [Metro Animal Shelter](#), or if you can't spare time, [DONATE](#) to FAYMAS to help the furry friends waiting at the shelter for their Forever Families! Whatever you do, no matter how big or small, remember: YOU are making a difference!

