

# Pet Tracks

*For The Ultimate Pet Owner*  
*March 2017*



## How to Keep Your Pet Safe This St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is coming up! (St. Pawtrick's Day for all the pet parents and animal lovers out there!) Shamrocks, rainbows, leprechauns - this holiday has it all. Named after Saint Patrick, the most recognized patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick's Day will be paw-sitively event-filled. For pet parents out there, St. Patty's can mean a lot of craziness and can be overwhelming for pets (and pet parents)! Here are some great tips for keeping your pet safe this St. Pawtrick's Day.

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## Do you know a senior who needs help caring for their pet? Seniors Pets Assistance Network (SPAN) may be an answer.

The mission of the **Seniors Pet Assistance Network (SPAN)** is to serve the needs of **Dallas County low-income seniors**, 67 years and older with basic veterinary care and pet food.

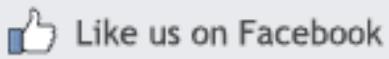
We accomplish this by:

- Providing financial assistance for basic veterinary care which is defined as annual shots, preventive heartworm and flea medication. Other veterinary services will be considered on a case by case basis and are contingent on available funds.
- Pet food provided by the Aunt Louise's Pet Food Pantry.

We serve as a **volunteer resource** to the elder support programs of Dallas-area senior organizations and in doing so, the organization also **strives to improve the quality of life for seniors' pets**. A private 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, SPAN is funded solely through private donations and

operated by volunteers.

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## LEPTOSPIROSIS IN DOGS



Reports of cases of leptospirosis have increased recently across the United States.

Consequently, I am hearing concern from pet caregivers about whether they should or should not have their companion dogs vaccinated against leptospirosis. Let's take a moment here to review leptospirosis disease, causes,

symptoms, the vaccines, and treatment options. Other issues surrounding leptospirosis are also discussed.

### What is Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterium. Over 200 leptospirosis strains exist and most do not cause disease. Thus far, approximately seven of the leptospirosis strains (serovars) are considered clinically important for dogs.

### How Leptospirosis is Spread

Leptospirosis is spread through skin or mucous membranes from contact with tissue, urine, blood, or other bodily fluids, except saliva. Most commonly, dogs acquire the disease by closely sniffing or walking through urine-contaminated water, soil or food. They could also get it from contaminated bedding, a bite from an infected animal or by eating infected tissues or carcasses. Very rarely, dogs contract leptospirosis through breeding or from the disease breaking through the placental wall. Raccoons, skunks, foxes, moles, squirrels, opossums and rats are considered common carriers and can excrete the bacteria occasionally or continuously for several years.

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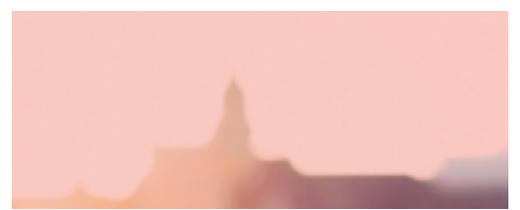
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## When Your Time is Limited, Learn How to Exercise Your Dog.

Dogs tend to be lively and active animals, especially when they are young, so it's **vital to provide your pet dog with ample exercise**, even when it gets old. Plenty of exercise for your dog has many positive benefits. In old age your pet will be less likely to get diseases and will stay healthier for longer, thereby giving your pet a much more fulfilling life. **You owe it to your dog to provide it with a life of exercise**, and the following 5 exercise tips for dogs should be enough to get you started.

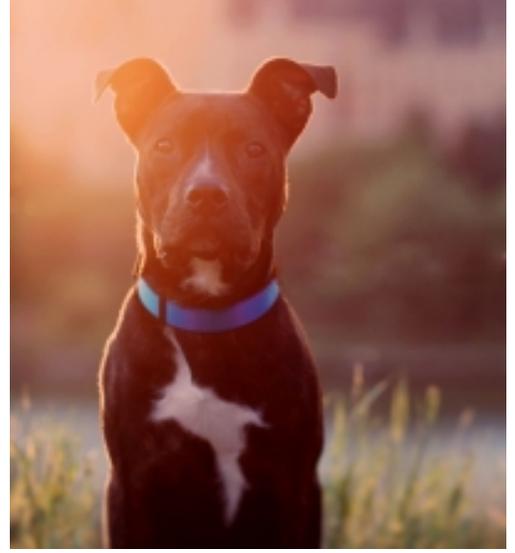
1 - **A daily walk is a must.** Aim for at least two daily walks of 30 minutes each, if possible, but more is always better. Don't exhaust your dog, though. If you try to entice it out for its tenth walk of the day, don't be too surprised if your pet slinks away under a chair or table. Make the daily walk a special occasion. In that way

your pet will be excited or eager for the walk, and the



your pet will be excited and eager for the walk, and the resulting exercise will be natural and beneficial.

[Click Here:](#)



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## 10 Tips For New Cat Owners



Cats make great companions. Not only do they look good, they also keep mice away and have built-in motors. That's pretty cool.

But there's more to owning a cat than having a cute, soft, purring companion. Before you get one, there are a few things you should think about, and a few things that are just plain good to know.

**PetMD shares 10 tips for cat owners:**

1. Cats are indeed independent by nature, but they're not quite able to take care of themselves. Before you adopt, make sure that your lifestyle can make room for a feline. How busy you are and the amount of time you spend at home will dictate the kind of cat you should get -- very busy people may find it difficult to find the time for a cat that needs a lot of grooming and attention, especially the highly intelligent and active cats. But, there are cats that are ideal for the working lifestyle. Do your research.

2. What if your circumstances change after the adoption? Or if you work long hours and still want a friendly face to greet you at the door at the end of the day? Adopting a buddy for the cat to play with can be an excellent solution.

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## Does Your Lizard Like Attention?





## Celebrate Pet Holidays

### March

Professional Pet Sitters Week - 2nd week  
13th - K9 Veterans Day  
National Poison Prevention Week - 3rd week

### April

National Greyhound Adoption Month  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month  
11th - National Pet Day  
11th - National Therapy Appreciation Day



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