



I hope that you are staying safe, especially in the snow and ice. Please give any pets in your life an extra treat or pat on the head from me!

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## Happy *Love Your Pet Day*

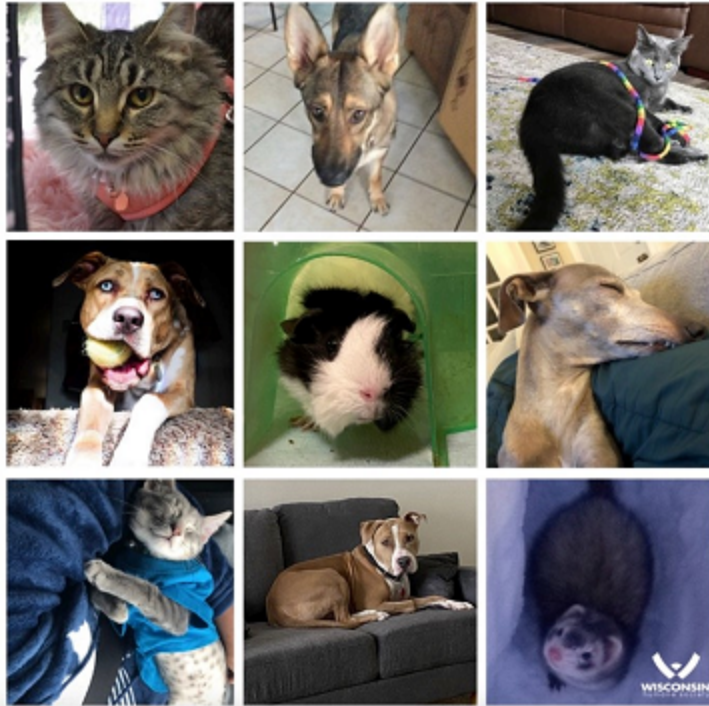


Photo credit: Wisconsin Humane Society

Pets are such an incredible part of our lives, and as members of our families they bring us more than just happiness, but also companionship, love, humor, safety, and sometimes have even shown that they are capable of [saving lives](#). Each session I try to make sure that our pets, and the rights of animals in general are not forgotten. These issues are often sadly overlooked, but can contribute so much to our society.

Especially under the conditions of the Coronavirus pandemic, pets have come to play an even bigger role in our lives because many of us are spending more time at home with them. This has definitely been true in my life recently, as I get to know more about what my two cats, Rufus and Logan, do all day when I am usually out of the house.

## Pets for Life

Programs like the [Wisconsin Humane Society's Pets for Life](#) program help the elderly and people living in poverty or those with disabilities continue caring for their pets. With millions of people across our country facing new challenges from COVID-19, the number of pets entering shelters has tripled, and others are suffering from a lack of resources.

## Pets Legislation

In previous sessions I have worked to pass [a bill that have improved the treatment of animals that are believed to have been used in crimes](#) against animals (dog fighting), making it more difficult for those people who have engaged in these crimes to reclaim possession of these animals.

Another [bill that I have worked on in the past allowed pets to be included in restraining orders](#) to protect them from being used to harm victims of abuse. And something that I have always thought would be meaningful would be to include a statue of a service animal in our State Capitol to recognize the great benefit that animals provide to the people of our state.

Please let me know if there are any issues related to pets and animals that have been on your mind that we can address as a state.

## Emergency Pet Plans

It is always a good idea to have a plan for your pets in case of an emergency either from a natural disaster, or if you were to suffer a medical emergency.

An important step is to ask yourself if there is anyone you know that you trust and is able to take care of your pets in the event that you cannot.

[This short guide has helpful tips](#) for thinking through a plan for your pets.

In cold weather like we have experienced recently it is also important to think about the different ways you can help your pets stay safe in extreme cold conditions. The American Veterinary Medical Association has [very helpful info](#).

## Identifying Safe Pet Products

Frustratingly products that are made for animal consumption do not always have to conform to what I and many would consider to be reasonable safety standards.

Toys may be decorated with lead based paint, and some treats can make pets sick.

[This article from VCA Animal Hospitals](#) has more information about what types of toys and treats you might want to avoid.

## Helpful Resources

[Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission \(MADACC\)](#)

- Adoption, volunteering, licensing, local info

[Wisconsin Humane Society](#)

- Adoption, volunteering, training, other info

[American Veterinary Medical Association](#)

- Animal health info

[Info about service animals](#)

[Info about pet regulations](#)

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