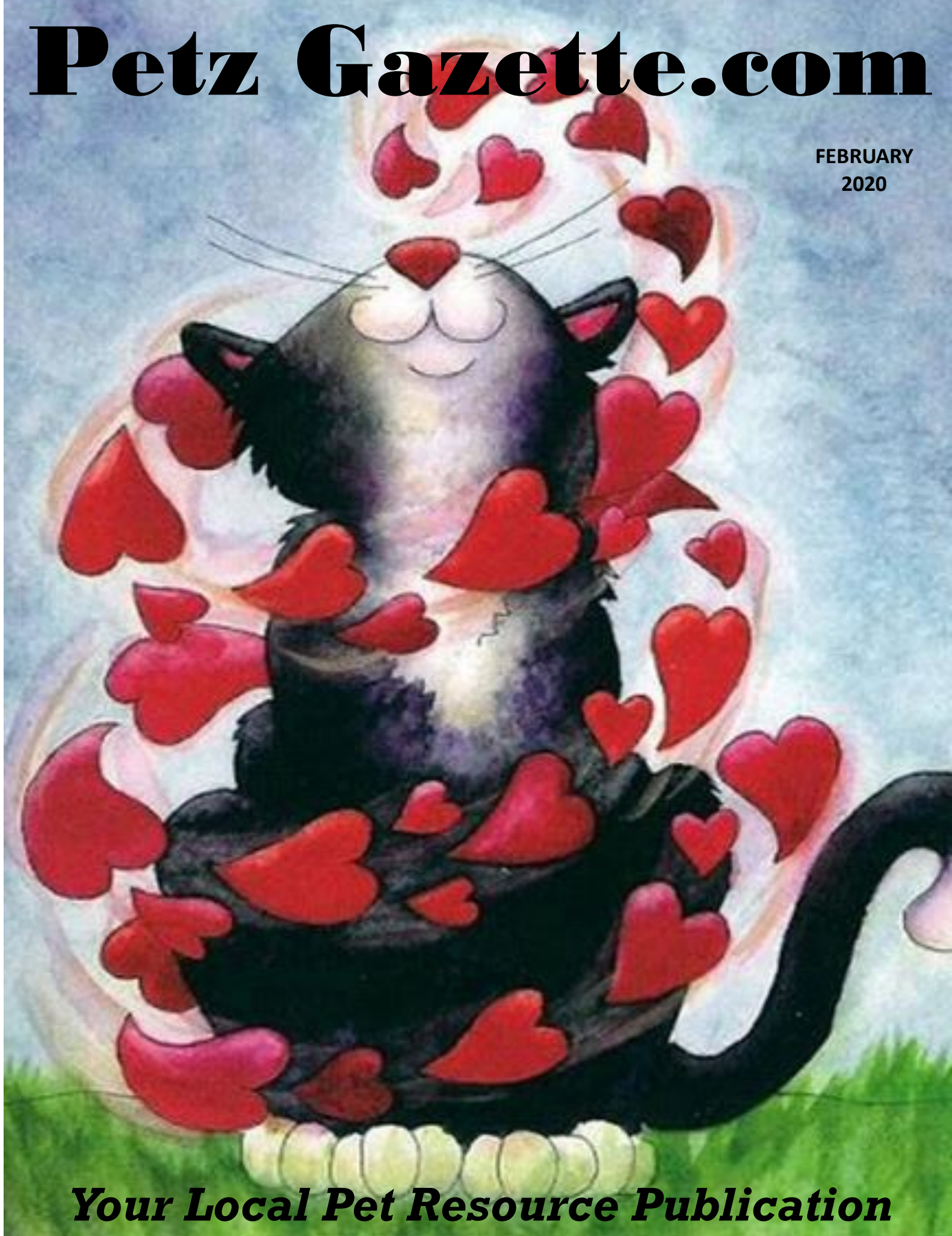


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Did you know . . . !

The most fantastic gift of love is the Taj Mahal in India. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife, who died in childbirth. Work on the Taj Mahal began in 1634 and continued for almost 22 years and required the labor of 20,000 workers from all over India and Central Asia.

Q: What is the largest generation of pet owners who will likely be sharing Valentine's Day with their pets?

A: Millennials (those born between 1980 and 2000) are the largest generation of pet owners, and they are doting pet parents who will likely be spending some quality time with their pet on Valentine's Day. They're often called "Generation Me," but perhaps they should be known as "Generation Pet."

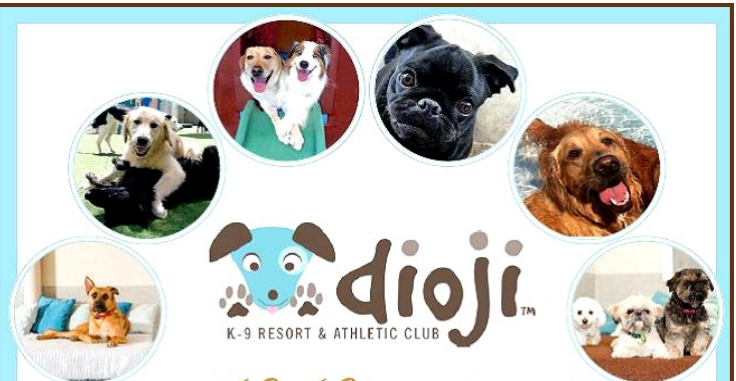
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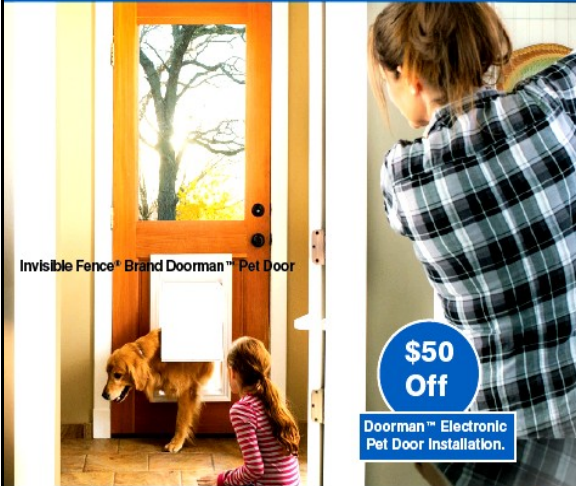
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Valentine Q & A

Q: In the Victorian era, it was considered bad luck to do what on Valentine's Day?

A: Sign a Valentine's card.

Q: What is the only other holiday that beats Valentine's Day in flower sales?

A: Mother's Day

Q: Before it became fashionable to give chocolates and flowers, what was the traditional gift given by a man to a woman on St. Valentine's Day?

A: A pair of gloves, symbolizing the request for a lady's hand in marriage, was the traditional gift a man would give to his sweetheart on Valentine's Day.

Q: What Valentine's Day film is about a blogger who meets a handsome veterinarian on Valentine's Day?

A: "All Things Valentine" is about a blogger who has been unlucky on Valentine's Day until she meets a handsome veterinarian.



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Canterbury to Cards

Valentine's Day goes back centuries and there are many people to thank for the holiday we enjoy today, not least we owe a special thank you to the "Father of English Literature", Geoffrey Chaucer. In the High Middle Ages, Chaucer was the first person to associate courtly, or romantic love with this holiday, referencing St. Valentine in a poem. Chaucer lived from 1343 until 1400 in England, he is credited with developing English Literature at a time when the predominant literary languages were French and Latin. Today he is best known for the creation of *The Canterbury Tales*.



Fun Trivia



*The oldest known Valentine card was sent in 1415 A.D. by the Duke of Orleans to his French wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. It is held at The British museum in London, England.

*More than 40 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day. Caramel-flavored chocolates are the most popular in those boxes.

*Lovebirds are small parakeets who live in pairs. Male and female lovebirds look alike, but most other male birds have brighter colors than the females.

*About 5% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets. (but hopefully not chocolate as this is toxic to pets).

*On February 14, 1929, Alexander Fleming, Professor of Bacteriology at St. Mary's Hospital in London introduced his mold by-product called penicillin to cure bacterial infections .

*Verona, the place where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives approximately 1,000 letters every year for Juliet on Valentine's Day.

*The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Red stands for strong feelings which is why a red rose is a flower of love.

*The first televised tour of the White House aired on February 14 in 1962. First Lady Jackie Kennedy hosted the tour.

*Wearing a wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand dates back to ancient Egypt, where it was believed that the vein of love ran from this finger directly to the heart.

JOKES

Cat Jokes

* There were 3 cats. The first cat said, "Meow." The second cat said, "Meow." The third cat said, "Meow, meow." The first cat said, "Don't change the subject."

* Two female cats are sitting on the fence passing the time of day when a handsome tomcat walks by and winks at them. "Oh darling, did you see that one?" one of the felines opines. "I wouldn't mind sharing a dead mouse with him." "Oh, forget about him," her friend tells her. "I went out with him once, and all he did was talk about his operation."

* A college student is looking for an inexpensive room to rent. He finds one, but the owner warns him, "Yes, you can have the room. But we have a dog and two cats. I hope you like them." "No problem," beams the student, "I'm happy to eat anything!"



QUIZ



1. What is the animal for Chinese New Year 2020?
2. What year was Disney's "The Lady & the Tramp" released?
3. Where & what year was Valentine's Day declared as an official holiday?
4. What symbol is illuminated on New York's Empire State Building on Valentine's Day?
5. What is the scientific name for Love Birds?
6. What breed was the dog in the romantic movie 'Must Love Dogs'?

ANSWERS

1. Rat.
2. 1955.
3. England – 1537.
4. Heart.
5. Agapornis .
6. Newfoundland.



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Did you know !

*In 2011, a four-year-old cat named Tommaso, became the world's richest cat with an inheritance of £10m. I guess that's what you call LOVE!

*A lovebird is a small genus of parrot. Eight species are native to the African continent, with the grey-headed lovebird being native to Madagascar.

*Groundhog Day is observed on February 2nd, each year in the United States and Canada. For a nice welcomed break during the winter, on this day the groundhog awakens from his nap and goes outside to see if he can see his shadow.

*If you see a flock of doves on Valentine's Day, you will have a happy, and peaceful marriage.

PAW-SCOPES

DOGS
Your Valentine's pup is definitely an attention seeker. Not that they are needy, because they seldom are. They simply want to share their waking hours with you. When he or she is ready for the next adventure, they want you to come along and share in the fun.

CATS
This Valentine kitty can often be found sitting by its owner's feet, wrapping around legs, gazing into the eyes of his or her human, and "conversing" with a sympathetic cat sigh. Indeed, this loving creature often mirrors the emotions of his or her owner.


A Brief History

Early valentine cards were handmade, often containing handwritten verses and hand-drawn pictures. Many cards were hand colored and contained cutwork. The mass produced, machine made, chromolithograph cards began in the 1840s. In 1847, Esther Howland of Worcester, Massachusetts, established a company to make valentines that were hand decorated with paper lace and other materials imported from England. Howland valentines have a small "H" stamped in red in the top left corner. Howland's company eventually became the New England Valentine Company - NEVCO.

Lace paper was invented in 1834. Collectors identify the period from 1835 to 1860 as the "golden age" of lacy cards. Embossed paper was used in England after 1860. Embossed lithographs and woodcuts developed between 1830-1840, with early examples being hand painted.

After the Civil War, George C. Whitney and his brother founded a company that dominated the valentine card market from the 1870s through the first decades of the 20th century. They acquired several companies, among which was the New England Valentine Company.

Brothers Clyde and Russ Hall founded Hall Brothers, which eventual became Hallmark, in the early 1910s. Arthur Norcross established the Norcross Greeting Card Company in the mid-1920s.




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In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

SCIENTIFIC BIRD NAMES

- The scientific name for a Macaw is "Ara macao". The scarlet macaw is known for its beautiful, brightly-colored plumage.
- The scientific name for an Owl is "Tyto alba". The barn owl is one of the most widely distributed species of birds on the planet.
- The scientific name for an Eagle is "Haliaeetus leucocephalus". The bald eagle's scientific name literally means "sea eagle white head."

Ancient Celebrations

Valentine's Day is believed to have its roots in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15th. Sometime around 496, Pope Gelasius I renamed this pagan festival Valentine's Day and moved it to February 14th.

Groundhog Day - 02.02.20

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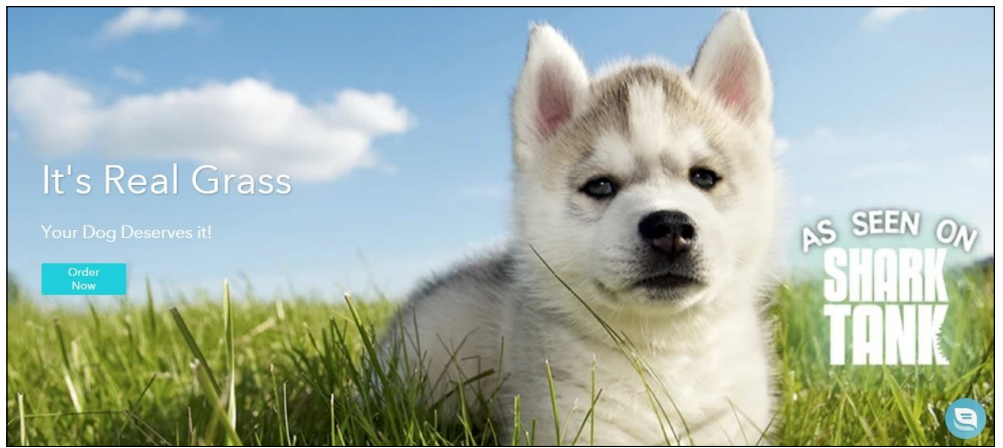
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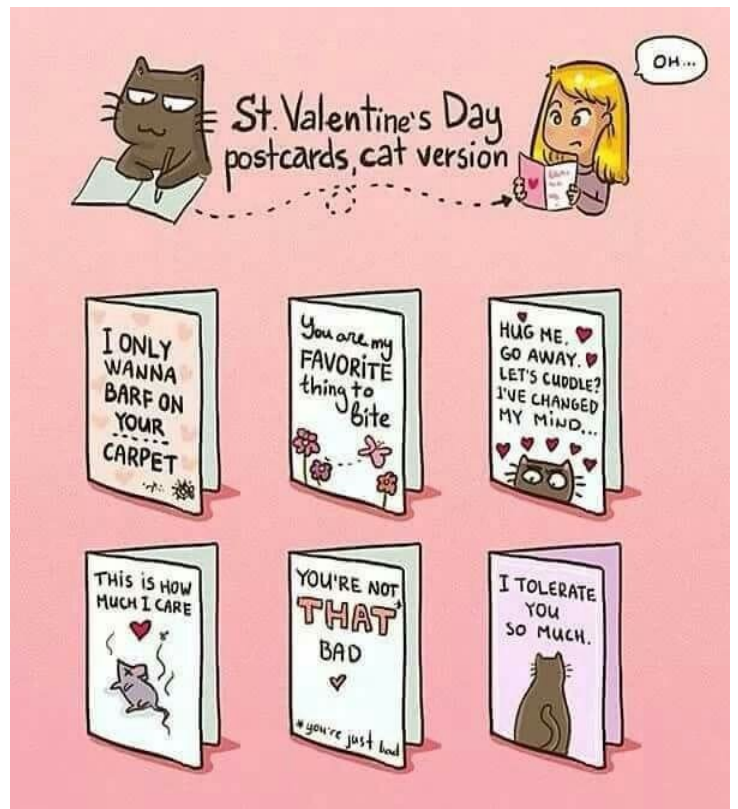
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Dogs leave
pawprints
on your heart



Why we love Cat's!

Gentle eyes
that see so much,
paws that have
the quiet touch.

Purrs to signal
"all is well"
and show more love
than words can tell.

Graceful movements
touched with pride,
a calming presence
by our side.

A friendship
that will last and grow,
small wonder
why we love them so.

...Author Unknown

And they call it "Puppy Love"

"Puppy Love" was a popular song written by Paul Anka in 1960. Twelve years later it was revived by Donny Osmond and was released on February 19, 1972.

Puppy love (also known as a crush, calf love or kitten love) is an informal term for feelings of love, romance, or infatuation, often felt by young people during their childhood and adolescence. It is named for its resemblance to the adoring, worshipful affection that may be felt by a puppy.

My Dog's Best Friend

Help me learn to disregard
Canine craters in my yard,
And show me how to be a buddy,
Even when my sofa's muddy.

Don't allow my pup to munch,
Postal carriers for lunch.
Please shield my neighbor's cat from view.
And guide my steps around the doo!

Train me not to curse and scowl,
When it's puppy night to howl.
Grant I shan't awake in fear
With a cold nose in my ear!

Give me patience without end...
And help me be...
"My Dog's Best Friend"

Author Unknown

VALENTINES DAY PET SAFETY TIPS



Flowers



All Lilies are fatal to cats. Roses can cause punctures to the mouth and paws, and possible bowel obstruction if swallowed.

Chocolate



Chocolate and coca are highly toxic to cats and dogs! Bakers chocolate is the worst! Do NOT feed them anything with chocolate!

Candy



Some candy and baked goods are made with a sweetener called xylitol. This is toxic to pets and can cause hypoglycemia.

Decorations



Tape, ribbons, bows, balloons, and wrapping paper can become a choking hazard. Dispose of them before your pet finds them!

Cocktails



A small amount of alcohol can cause illness, even coma or death. Keep cocktails away from pets and wipe up any spills ASAP!

Candlelight



Curious kittens can burn themselves by pawing at lit candles. Never leave candles or a fire unattended with pets.

Love Stories in History

The stories of lovers who believed in each other and their love even if the whole world was against them still inspire and often, make us sad. A closer investigation of the greatest love stories in history reveals that many of the most famous lovers met a tragic end. They did, however, show us that true love is stronger than anything else in the world. And it is the love that they had we are all hoping to find someday. Of course, with a happier ending.



Paris and Helen

According to Greek mythology, the love between Paris and Helen provoked the downfall of Troy. The story begins with the Trojan prince Paris being chosen to decide which of three goddesses – Hera, Athena and Aphrodite – is the fairest. He chose Aphrodite because in return she promised him the most beautiful woman in the world. And the most beautiful woman was Helen of Sparta who, however, was married to King Menelaus. A few years later, Paris went to Sparta and took Helen to Troy by which he triggered the Trojan War. Paris was mortally wounded during the fall of Troy, while Helen returned to her husband in Sparta.



Orpheus and Eurydice

The ancient Greek mythological hero Orpheus is best known for his beautiful music which charmed everyone, even the stones and wild beasts. But he is also known for his deep love for his wife Eurydice. When she died from a snake bite, Orpheus decided to go to the Underworld and bring her back. With his music, he charmed the gods of the Hades and they allowed him to take Eurydice back with him. But he was told he must not look back until they escape the Underworld. When they reached the portals of Hades, Orpheus turned back to see if Eurydice is following him and she immediately disappeared back in the world of the dead.



Cleopatra and Mark Antony

The love between the Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra and Mark Antony went into history for their tragic end. Both committed suicide after they were defeated by the Romans under Octavian (the later Augustus) although Cleopatra hesitated. After Mark Antony's suicide (he stabbed himself after receiving false news that his lover was dead), Cleopatra tried to negotiate with Octavian. According to most sources, she killed herself by inducing an asp to bite her when she realized that she cannot "charm" Octavian. Cleopatra and Mark Antony are said to be buried together but the location of their tomb remains a mystery.



Tristan and Iseult

Love story of Tristan and Iseult has been popularized in the 12th century France. It is thought to be inspired by an older Celtic legend. There are several versions of the story about the adulterous lovers but they all more or less follow the same outline. Tristan and Iseult who is supposed to marry Tristan's uncle King Mark ingest a love potion and fell madly in love on their way to Cornwall. Iseult marries King Mark but the love potion makes the lovers unable to resist each other. They pursue their affair until they are finally caught by Iseult's husband. They manage to escape death but Iseult is forced to return to Mark. Tristan leaves Cornwall and marries another woman named Iseult. But when he is mortally wounded by a poison lance, he calls for his only true love. The story ends with Tristan dying of despair, convinced that Iseult does not want to come to him, while Iseult dies of grief after finding her lover dead.



Lancelot and Guinevere

The story of Lancelot and Guinevere is a part of the Arthurian legend. It is thought to have been inspired or influenced by that of Tristan and Iseult. Just like the latter, Lancelot and Guinevere are adulterous lovers. Guinevere is married to King Arthur who, just like King Mark does not suspect anything at first. He eventually finds out about his wife being unfaithful to him with one of his most loyal knights.

The Knights of the Round Table split into two groups, supporting either Arthur or Lancelot. After several fierce battles between the two men, Guinevere returns to King Arthur but the destruction of the Round Table enables Mordred to challenge Arthur. The legendary king kills his rival but he is mortally wounded. Guinevere, devastated for being responsible for the destruction of the Round Table and subsequent Arthur's downfall enters a convent. Lancelot enters a hermitage and eventually becomes a priest. Both spend the rest of their lives in repentance.



Romeo and Juliet

Probably the most famous love story of all was written by the celebrated English poet and playwright William Shakespeare sometime in the 1590s. Shakespeare's story of the tragic love between Romeo and Juliet is probably based on Arthur Brooke's poem The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet that was published in the 1560s. The latter is believed to be an English translation of a novella of Italian writer Matteo Bandello. But even his Romeo and Juliet are not original. The story reveals a major influence of ancient tragic love stories, most notably of the Roman story of Pyramus and Thisbe whose families despise each other and prevent the lovers to be together. Just like Pyramus kills himself, falsely believing that Thisbe is dead, Romeo also commits

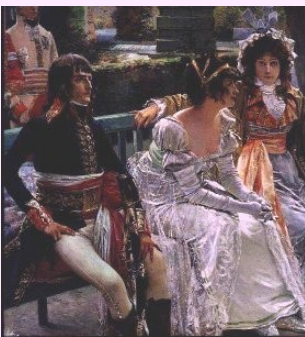
suicide for mistakenly believing that Juliet is dead. Thisbe follows her lover in death upon discovering his dead body which is exactly what Juliet does when she finds Romeo dead. Both Thisbe and Juliet stab themselves but Romeo, unlike Pyreus who stabs himself with his sword, drinks a poison.



Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal

Their names may largely be unfamiliar to most people in the West but their love produced a monument that is famous all over the world – Taj Mahal. Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal were Mughal Royal couple who shared a loving marriage until Mumtaz died while giving birth to their 14th child. Shah Jahan was devastated by his wife's death and plunged into deep grief that affected him both emotionally and physically. But his grief inspired him to build one of the world's greatest architectural masterpieces to serve as the final resting place of his beloved wife. Shortly after completing Taj Mahal, Shah got ill and was overthrown by his eldest son. He spent the

rest of his life in house arrest and was buried next to his wife. The legend has it that he planned to build an exact copy of Taj Mahal in black marble on the opposite bank of the river Yamuna but the works never started.



Napoleon and Josephine

The relationship between Napoleon and Josephine, a six years older widow with two children was turbulent from the very start. Only two days after their wedding day, Napoleon left on a military campaign in Italy. Josephine who stayed behind in Paris soon started an affair with lieutenant Hippolyte Charles. Napoleon was infuriated when he found out about his wife's infidelity and soon started an affair on his own. No further Josephine's affairs have been recorded but Napoleon's love for Josephine was no longer the same. And when it became clear that Josephine is unable to have children, Napoleon decided to divorce her. He thereafter married Marie-Louise of Austria who gave birth to

the long-awaited heir. But despite Josephine's infidelity, divorce and remarriage, Napoleon's last words are said to be "France, the Army, the Head of the Army, Josephine."