

National Pet Week and Be Kind to Animals Week: May 7-13

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National Pet Week

National Pet Week was jointly founded in 1981 by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Auxiliary to the AVMA, and is now widely celebrated throughout the United States and other parts of the world. In 2006, the week will be observed May 7-13, with the theme "Fitness Unleashed." Each year, its goals are: to promote responsible pet ownership, celebrate the human-animal bond, and promote public awareness of veterinary medicine.

The 2006 National Pet Week "Creative Writing Contest" was held in 2005 in conjunction with the National Pet Week "Poster Contest." Entries were to be stories or poems with not less than 20 words and no more than 200 words. Students in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades were invited to enter.

Below is the 2006 national contest winner's entry submitted to the Auxiliary to the AVMA. Congratulations to Tiffany Lancaster, age 12 - 5th Grade Wellsburg, West Virginia.

(Note: Entry was hand-written but is reproduced by computer. However, the spelling and presentation is like the original piece.)

Pets are special to many different people. The elderly make them smile and make their days a little brighter. Children play with, and to make them feel loved and special. Families have pets to make their lives better and to bring them closer together. Pets bring joy and happiness to every person in all different kinds of situations. To the person who is blind they need a special pet to help them see and hear all things to keep them safe.

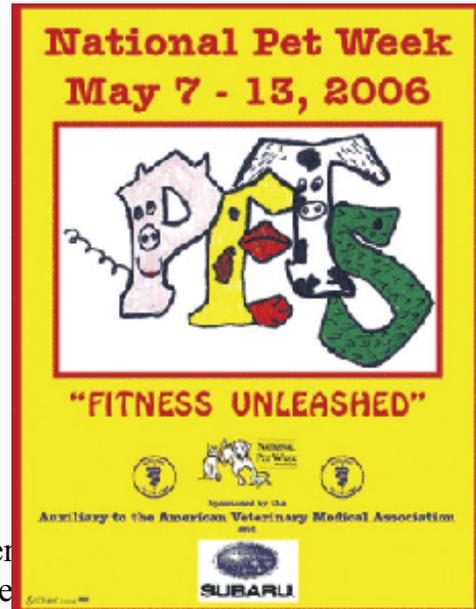
Every child needs a pet to keep and take care of so that they know what it is like to have someone special to love. A pet will stick by your side no matter what, they will listen to you when you are sad, or happy or disappointed, or just when you are sad, or need someone to talk to, and to hold. They will grow with you and be just like a family member to you.

Be Kind to Animals Week

The American Humane Association created Be Kind to Animals Week in 1915 to celebrate the unique bond between humans and animals. This year the week will be observed May 7-13. Every year, animal shelters throughout the country hold special events during this special week to raise awareness about Being Kind to Animals, and to teach people about the amazing role animals play in our lives. Be Kind to Animals Week is a great time to promote our nation's animal welfare organizations and to encourage everyone to get involved to make a difference for animals.

"Be Kind to Animals Week recognizes people whose love of animals has led them to take action to improve animals lives," says Bill Torgerson, American Humane's Vice President of animal programs. "This week especially, make a special point of thanking those who embody kindness through action." In honor of this week, we would like to encourage all families to spend more time appreciating their companion animals. In addition, here are a few suggestions for ways to show kindness to the animals that don't live in your house:

- Encourage family and friends to spay or neuter their pets
- Create a unique space for wildlife
- Report animal abuse or neglect
- Volunteer at your local animal shelter
- Speak out on the importance of respecting animals



A tradition of American Humane's Be Kind to Animals campaign is the [Be Kind to Animals™ Kid Contest](#), which honors kids who have demonstrated extraordinary kindness toward animals. One grand prize winner from each of the two age categories will win a great prize package.

