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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2024

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CVMA Highlights Ways for Pet Owners to Show Love for their Pets

Chicago Veterinary Medical Association provides fun, helpful tips for Valentine's Day

The month of February is a great time to show a little extra love and care to those who are most important to us – and for pet lovers, that undoubtedly includes the furry members of the family as well.

While pet parents are making special Valentine's Day plans, The Chicago Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is happy to offer some tips to make celebrating this most lovable day with pets more fun.

"Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to show your pet extra love and attention, reinforcing the bond you share while promoting their well-being," said Dr. Marina Jaworsky, CVMA Board President.

Here are some ways to show your pet some extra affection and appreciation all month long:

- **Schedule a visit with your vet** – It's important to get your pet to the vet for regular checkups to ensure they're healthy and current with their vaccinations and being treated preventatively for fleas, ticks, heartworm, or addressing other health concerns early on.
- **Be healthy and active together** – Exercise is a critical aspect to promote physical and mental health and wellness for pets and owners alike. Get moving together and take regular walks, play fetch, or engage in other enjoyable, movement-based activities.
- **Make time to groom and pamper** – Many dogs and cats enjoy being brushed. This is an especially important activity as brushing helps stimulate natural oils in pets' coats and keeps their skin healthy, while removing dirt and loose or matted fur.
- **Do a little pre-spring cleaning** – Pets love their own cozy spaces at home surrounded by their favorite things, and bedding and blankets are even more cozy when they're freshly washed. Do

some early spring cleaning by freshening up your pet's bed, blanket, or soft toys, but be sure to use pet-friendly cleaning products.

- **Check collars, tags and more** – The warm weather will be here before we know it and it will be time to be outdoors with our pets. That said, take the time now to check pet collars and tags for accurate information. Additionally, if your pet is microchipped, doublecheck that your contact information is up to date. That way, if your pet ever gets separated from you, the chances for a happy reunion are much higher.
- **Plan a fun photo shoot** – Holidays are a fun opportunity to document the passing of time with your pets and other family members. Set up your own shoot with fun (and pet safe) props, colorful backdrops and more. You'll be making great memories for the future!

CVMA wishes you and your pet a Happy Valentine's Day and hopes that these ideas spark some fun ideas for acknowledging the special bond you share.

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About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association: Chicago Veterinary Medical Association is a professional network with a longstanding tradition that connects more than 1,000 veterinarians with comprehensive resources that support their continued development as champions of animal health while encouraging the fostering of the human-animal bond.

About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Foundation: The CVMF, established in 2009, is a 501[©]3 charity that works with Chicagoland veterinarians to provide financial assistance to pet families in need by helping with the costs of their pet's urgent, unexpected medical and surgical bills. The Foundation's work plays a vital role in strengthening the human-animal bond by helping sick and suffering pets get well again.