



“Big Hearts To Love”

By Kit Belcher, Executive Director

Ahhh my Valentine, love is in the air! Big hearts and little hearts alike are dazzled with compassion. A romantic proposal, the aroma of red roses, candle-lit dinners and wine, chocolates and candy, or a very special gift of love that is so soft, warm and cuddly to the touch. How can you resist those big brown eyes? As they look up at you, you sense the implicit feeling of love.

As Valentine’s Day brings gifts, we need to remember that our pets are fragile and need to be protected against some of our pleasures. Chocolate, a popular gift around this time of year, can be dangerous to your pets. Two ounces of baking chocolate or 20 ounces of milk chocolate can cause a 10 lb dog vomiting/diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures or an abnormally elevated heart rate. Though cats are sensitive too, they don’t normally ingest large amounts of chocolate, but may get gastrointestinal upset. Fat and caffeine-like substances known as methylxanthines can potentially cause the above symptoms and, in severe cases, death.

Alcoholic beverages if left in a glass and explored, can cause a lack of coordination, central nervous system depression, tremors, difficulty in breathing, metabolic disturbances and even coma for your pet.

If your animals ingest sugar substitute, this can cause a fairly sudden drop in blood sugar i.e. (hypoglycemia). If you suspect that your animal may have eaten any of these products containing harmful ingredients, please seek veterinary treatment immediately.

Many varieties of holiday flowers are highly toxic to cats. Potentially poisonous flowers may include: tulips, amaryllis, calla lily, daisies, chrysanthemums and baby’s breath. A few safer alternatives may include: African violets, asters, camellia, canna lilies, jasmine and

orchids. Be sure to keep your pets away from thorns as punctures can cause serious infections.

Finally, always douse your candles before leaving the room. Curious kitties have singed many a whiskers and “ouch”-- that hurts!

If you are considering giving a pet as a gift for Valentine’s Day, consider presenting your loved one with a gift certificate to adopt a pet from your local animal shelter, or maybe you can visit the shelter together. Who knows, maybe it will be a new love match!

Beltrami Humane Society has many hearts to love! Two of those hearts belong to “Spike and Enya”---Siberian Husky littermates. They came to us from Wisconsin. Their owner surrendered them to us as he could no longer keep them. “Spike” is neutered and “Enya” is spayed. They are both microchipped and have had all their vaccinations. Coloring is black & almond to reddish brown. Eyes are chocolate brown. They are approximately 3 years old, well behaved and friendly. You can see our husky littermates at 1612 Carr Lake Rd SE, Bemidji, MN 56601. View them on our photo gallery website at www.beltramihumane.com or on www.petfinder.com. Our phone number is (218) 751-7910, and hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12:00–5:30 p.m.

Treat a special cat or dog with your \$10.00 Valentine donation, or Adopt-A-Kennel for \$25.00 a month. Take an active role in helping care for a shelter animal of your choice. Don’t forget to check out our Valentine’s Day specials!

Shelter Wishes: Sand for the driveway ramp, Scoop rakes for the dog yards, Laundry Supplies, Kitten & Puppy Chow

Thank you for all you do, and “HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!”