

# All Things Valentine

February is the month of romance. I do some limited decorating for this fun holiday-who doesn't love the colors of red or pink! As with most holidays, I am interested in its origins, its traditions and why we celebrate. Here are a few fun facts about Valentine's Day.



1. The most popular theory about the Valentine's Day origin is that Emperor Claudius II didn't want Roman men to marry during

wartime. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret weddings. For this, Valentine was jailed and executed. While in prison, he wrote a note to the jailor's daughter signing it "from your Valentine."



2. The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.





3. In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared February 14th the holiday of St. Valentine.





4. In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone

to see. This was the origin of the expression “to wear your heart on your sleeve.”



5. Every Valentine’s Day, the Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare’s lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet.



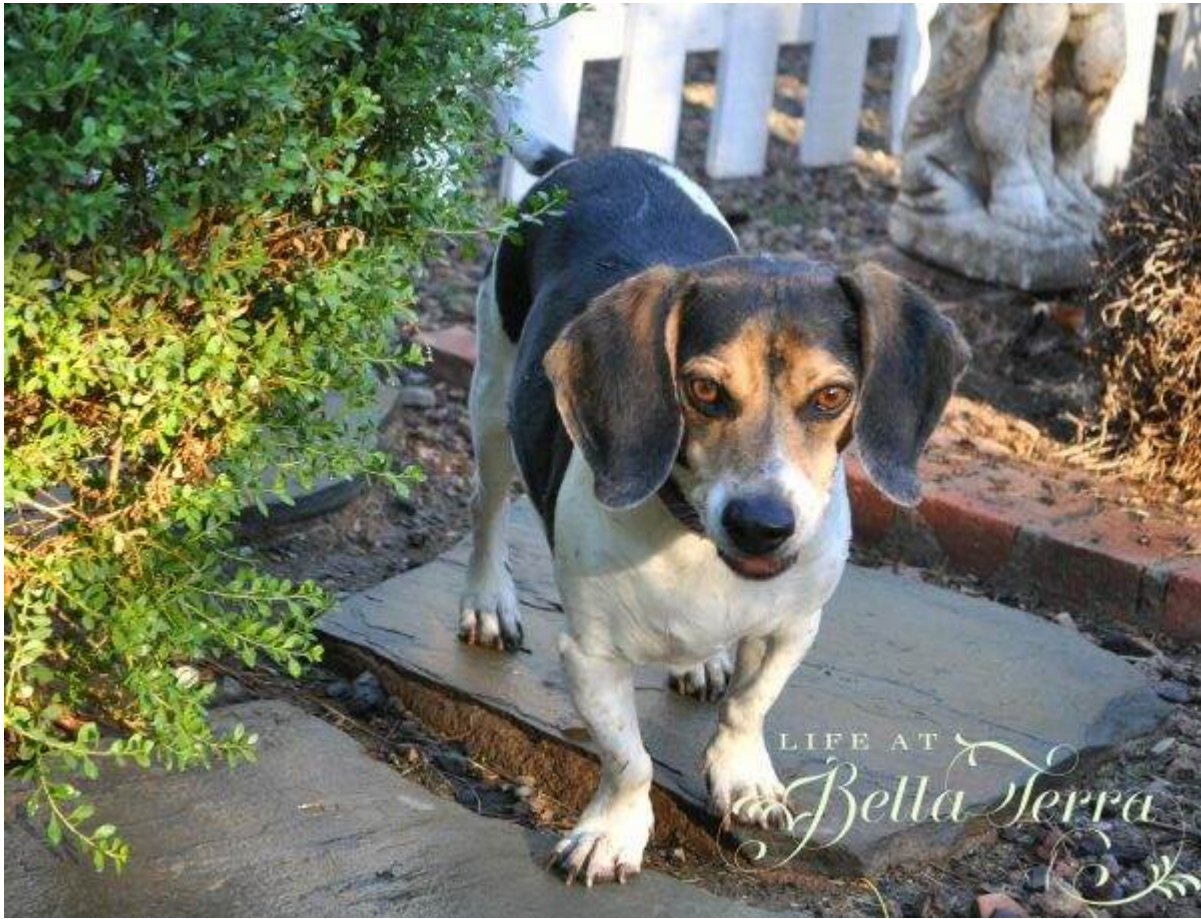


6. Based on retail statistics, about 3 per cent of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.









7. Arizona became the 48th State on February 14, 1912.



8. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France,



Australia, Denmark, Italy and Japan.



9. 141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most-popular greeting card-giving occasion.



10. Physicians of the 1800s commonly advised their patients to eat chocolate to calm their pining for lost love. (Now that's a good excuse!)





For your information:

The colorful painting was done by me last year in my attempt to do a new one for each holiday.

The pets featured above are: Cooper, an Akbash (from the Anatolian Shepherd family); Sox, our pocket Beagle; Tippy and Donovan- stray cats our girls found/rescued/captured in the yard.

The heart-shaped ravioli was made last Valentine's Day from a [recipe](#) I found online. If you have a heart-shaped cookie cutter, it was a relatively easy recipe to follow.

And if you love the wheat-etched spooner holding the tulips, you can purchase it through my online store!

Wishing you a happy and loving Valentine's Day!

*Mary*