

## **7. National Canned Food Month**

The process of canning has been used to preserve food for over 100 years. If properly stored, canned goods can sometimes last for years. At first, glass jars were used, but because they were breakable and did not travel well, other storage materials were considered. The canning process evolved, and people learned how to seal foods inside tin cans. This later led to the use of the steel cans we have today. The Canned Food Alliance, a coalition of suppliers and manufacturers, is responsible for initiating February as National Canned Food Month. At this time each year, many organizations host canned food drives to stock local food pantries, which play a vital role in feeding the hungry. When people fall on hard times and need a little help, donating canned foods is a kind and caring way to do your part.

## **8. Galileo Galilee**

Galileo Galilee, who is more widely known as simply Galileo, was born in Italy on February 15, 1564. He was a scientist and an astronomer whose achievements include building the first high-powered telescope. He was the first to use the telescope to study the skies. In light of his study, he theorized that the planets revolved around the sun and not around the earth. This idea was so contrary to the belief of his time that it led to him being denounced as a heretic by the church in Rome. Galileo's theory, of course, was eventually proven to be correct, and the Vatican officially recognized the validity of his work in 1993. While others had invented very low-powered telescopes before Galileo, he refined and improved the idea to such a degree that he is generally considered the inventor of the modern telescope.

## **9. National Pet Dental Health Month**

According to the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS), over 85% of dogs and cats exhibit signs of oral disease already by the age of four. Food particles and bacteria build up in their mouths and form plaque and tartar, which lead to gingivitis. If untreated, gingivitis progresses to periodontal disease, which may result in tooth decay and loss, bad breath, bleeding gums, and severe pain. Poor oral hygiene for pets can also produce more serious consequences, including infection, damage to internal organs, and death. Organ damage occurs when bacteria from periodontal disease travels into the pet's bloodstream and infects the internal organs. These infections are usually treatable when discovered early enough. To highlight the importance of good oral health care for pets, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AMVA) has designated February as National Pet Dental Health Month. Pet owners are encouraged to brush their pet's teeth, provide proper food and nutrition, and take the animals for regular check-ups.

## **10. George Washington**

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Colonial Virginia. He loved the land and farming and disliked the idea of war. His leadership qualities, however, eventually led him to play several vital roles in the early history of the United States. In 1775, he was asked to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. A superb general, he led American troops to victory over Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War. Beginning in 1787, Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where the United States Constitution was written. In 1789, he was unanimously chosen as the new nation's first President, where he served two terms that ended in 1797. George Washington is generally regarded as the "Father of Our Country." He died at his home, Mount Vernon, located in Fairfax County, Virginia, on December 14, 1799, drawing to a close a most distinguished military and political career.