

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*“Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer’s lease hath all too short a date.”*

~ William Shakespeare



Animal of the Month – Ferret

Ferrets are small, carnivorous mammals that have brown, white, and/or black fur, small ears, a mask-like darker area across the eyes, and long tails. They typically weigh between one and a half to four and a half pounds. Pet ferrets are domesticated polecats. There are also wild ferrets, such as the black-footed ferret native to North America, which is on the endangered species list.

The highly social ferret has become a very popular pet, with several million now living in homes across America. Ferrets were domesticated around 2,500 years ago and



were kept by ancient Egyptians. Male ferrets are quite a bit bigger than female ferrets. These furry, inquisitive creatures are native to many places across the world, including North America and Europe. Because they are social and affectionate creatures, it is recommended to keep them in pairs or in a small group. Ignored pet ferrets can die of loneliness.

Special Days

May Day
May 1

Cinco de Mayo
May 5

Mother’s Day
May 9

**Armed Forces Day
(U.S.)**
May 15

Victoria Day (Canada)
May 24

Memorial Day (U.S.)
May 31

Flower – Lily of the Valley



The flower for the month of May is the lily of the valley. It is prized for its sweet fragrance—once considered so precious that water laced with its essential oils was stored in gold and silver containers. It’s a common folk belief that the scent of this inedible flower in the spring air is the signal for nightingales to begin their seasonal singing and choosing of a mate. Legend has it that King Charles IX of France was given this flower on May 1, 1561. He reportedly then gave the gift of lilies of the valley to all the ladies of his court each year on May 1.

Birthstone – Emerald



The verdant emerald is the birthstone for May and the anniversary gemstone for the 20th anniversary of marriage. The ancient Romans associated this brilliant green stone with fertility and rebirth. They dedicated the gem to Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. Even today, some believe wearing an emerald brings wisdom, growth, and patience—qualities essential to fulfilling and lasting love. Emeralds are found in the Middle East and South America and get their green hue from small amounts of the chemicals chromium and/or vanadium.

Take a Birthday Bough

Poplar: May 1–11

Those who fell from the poplar tree have a very artistic nature and loving heart. They are good organizers and like their surroundings to be neat and clean—but also enjoy indulging their creative side. They're deep thinkers, fascinated by psychology while also able to keep the big picture in mind.

Chestnut: May 12–23

Those who come from the chestnut tree are extremely faithful partners who often fall in love only once. Honesty is very important to them, and

they have a well-developed sense of justice. They make great friends who are often turned to for sound advice and a shoulder to cry on. They can usually be trusted with a secret.

Ash: May 24–31

People who sprung from the ash tree are vivacious, fun-loving, spontaneous, and carefree. In relationships, they often use their brain instead of their heart to make decisions, but also have a deep appreciation for romance. They are ambitious and won't allow anything to stand in the way of their goals.

More Than Tacos

The Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo (May 5) commemorates Mexico's victory over French forces in the 1862 Battle of Puebla. Napoleon III's army had come to Mexican shores to recover unpaid war debts, but instead they were soundly defeated.

May Zodiacs

Taurus (The Bull)
May 1–20

Gemini (The Twins)
May 21–31



May, which has 31 days, gets its name from the Roman goddess of spring and growth, Maia Majesta. In Greek mythology, Maia was the eldest and most beautiful of Atlas' seven daughters. She was the goddess of spring, warmth, and nursing mothers. Maia was also the mother of Hermes and was loved by Zeus. The goddess adopted Zeus' son Callisto, who was posthumously sent to the sky to become Ursa Major. This constellation of stars includes the Big Dipper, which to this day shines brightly in the sky on clear May nights.

May Day Fun

May Day is celebrated on May 1. This secular holiday goes back to ancient times and is a yearly ritual to celebrate the bounty of spring. Typical festivities include flowers, dancing, and maypoles, which are tall poles decorated with ribbons and flowers erected for revelers to dance around. Traditionally, wreaths of posies adorn heads and bouquets are quietly left on the doorsteps of neighbors and friends as gestures of friendship.

What's Lucky in May?

Lucky Color: Teal
Lucky Animal: Dolphin
Lucky Letter: N
Lucky Day: Sunday
Lucky Plant: Hydrangea



May Birthdays

Dwayne Johnson (actor) – May 2, 1972
James Brown (singer) – May 3, 1933
Audrey Hepburn (actress) – May 4, 1929
Tammy Wynette (singer) – May 5, 1942
Orson Welles (filmmaker) – May 6, 1915
Don Rickles (comedian) – May 8, 1926
Rosario Dawson (actress) – May 9, 1979
Natasha Richardson (actress) – May 11, 1963
Florence Nightingale (nurse) – May 12, 1820
Katharine Hepburn (actress) – May 12, 1907
Perry Como (entertainer) – May 18, 1912
Jimmy Stewart (actor) – May 20, 1908
Stevie Nicks (singer) – May 26, 1948
Clint Eastwood (actor) – May 31, 1930