

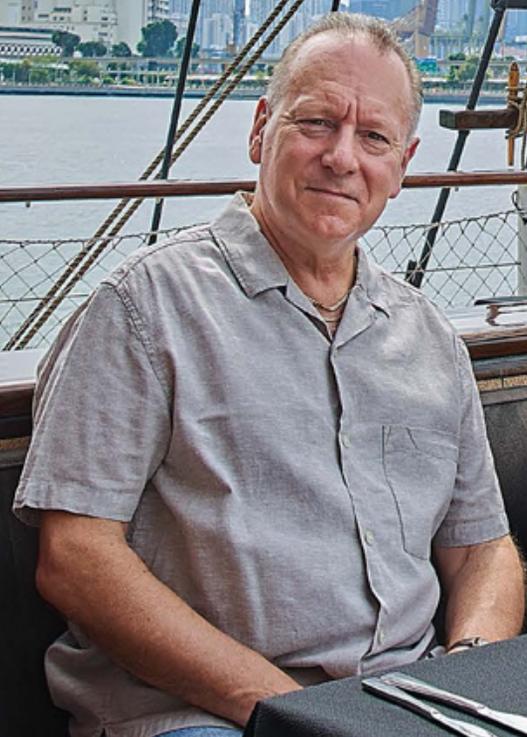
ASIA'S LEADING MAGAZINE FOR PET LOVERS

PETTS

SEPT - NOV
2022

ALL
BOARD!

Saving pups
& a vessel.



BETTER HUMANS & PETS

-  Rabbit-proofing your space
-  Spot signs in a sick bird
-  WIN a pair of tickets to a dog cruise worth \$250

CANINE NUTRITION

Take some pointers from the pros before a diet switch

SASSY CALICOS

Kitties with attitude

S\$5.00



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BREAKFAST BUFFET

A morning sail with a fresh breeze,
International buffet with your furkids.



AMAZING DOG CRUISE

" This cruise exceeded expectations! We booked for the dog cruise and it was amazing. Amazing staff, great food and the dog was treated like a king. Definitely recommended! " - Tom V, Tripadvisor



SUNSET DINNER

A sunset dinner cruise in an amazing romantic ambiance with your furkids.



THE BEST

“ Hanging out with friends, great convo, great boat, super sunset . They went the extra sea mile. Thank you “ - Tdbrydon, Tripadvisor



OUTSTANDING ATTRACTIONS EXPERIENCE WINNER
SINGAPORE TOURISM AWARDS 2022



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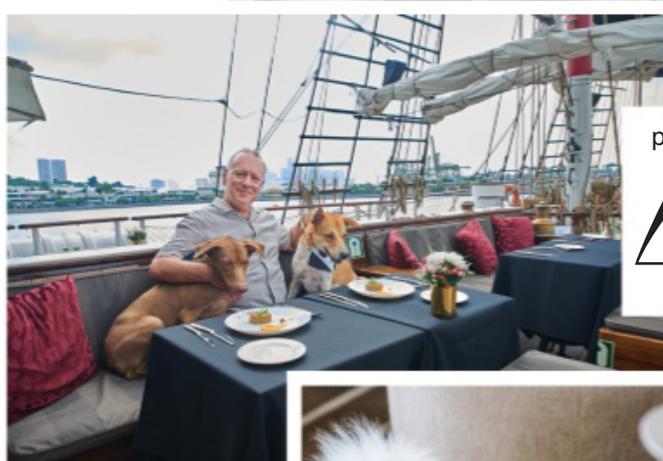
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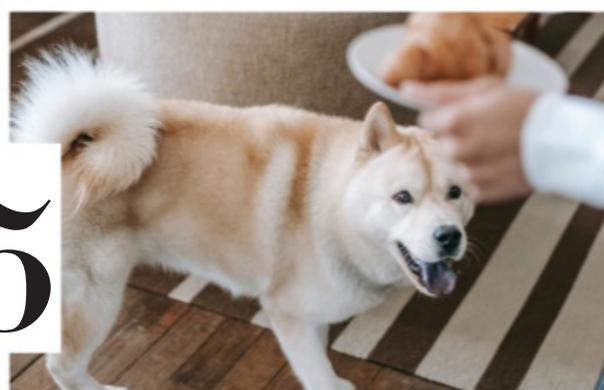
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RETHINK KIBBLES?

Yes you should! Unlike most (95%) pet food kibbles made through extrusion, **Oven-Baked Tradition™** cat and dog food is **slow-cooked** in the oven at **low temperatures**, just like baking cookies or macarons! You can put a lot **more fresh meat** into the recipe and bring out all of its aromas and flavors, use ingredients that are **easier to digest**, and **maintain the integrity** of the protein sources and essential vitamins. Oven-baking also produces a kibble that is up to **20% denser**, so you don't have to feed your cats or dogs as much for them to feel full. Our pets will know the difference! **It's all in the baking!**



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ovenbakedtradition.com

Ask for a sample today

A BETTER HUMAN

When Ceasar Millan was asked in an interview with Oprah Daily if he is a dog whisperer, he promptly replied that he is a human trainer instead. And according to Millan, it all starts with the energy the owner brings to the leash.

Most people will not hesitate to change for their dogs because the dog represents unconditional love, loyalty, happiness—all these incredible attributes in your heart. Millan added that with a dog, you have to enter into the relationship with the mentality that it will be for the dog's whole life. Relationships fail with a lack of commitment and knowledge.

Our cover rescued dogs, Fudge and Tyson are a reflection of their human's relentless patience and love. Peter Pela adopted Tyson after he learned that Tyson was on death row. Then, Tyson was so broken and traumatized that he lost his bark. It took Pela 9 months of nursing and reassurance to gain Tyson's trust. For Pela, Fudge and Tyson are his family and they deserve to be included in all human activities like dining. Not from food bowls, but at the table with humans over gourmet meals.

A dog cruise is one way you could pamper your pooch. There are also a rising number of pet-friendly cafes you can enjoy with your furkid too. To keep them healthy and happy, our article on Canine Nutrition takes a peek into the different labels of dog food before you decide on what is best to feed your pooch. Also, in the article Puppy Love, we hope the cat people can understand why dogs make better companions than cats.

In this issue, get tips for rabbit-proofing your home, how to select a healthy guinea pig and spotting the signs of a parrot fever in your beloved bird.

Here's to being better humans! Stay kind and motivated in our journey as pet parents!

Zulfa JK, Managing Editor



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Founder and CEO
Of The Royal Albatross

COVER DOGS
Tyson and Fudge

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Why Cat Owners Are Making The Switch

Not keen in raw food but want the benefits from fresh feeding? Here's your chance to get your hands on the first-ever Gently Cooked Cat Food in Singapore. Yes, the first. Formulated by Dr Francis Cabana (PhD in Wildlife Nutrition) who have worked with thousands of domesticated and wild cats from every part of the world, he knows what's best for your cat.

Available in Chicken, Beef or Kangaroo & Fish

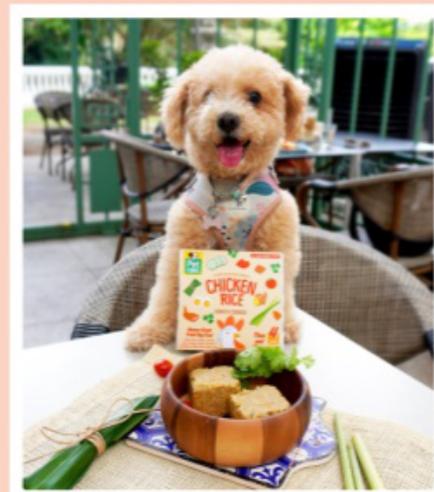
Can Dogs Have Chicken Rice? Totally.

Ever wanted to share your food with your dog but hesitated? We know that feeling all too well. Inspired by Singapore's iconic delicacy, the **Limited-Edition Chicken Rice** will definitely please your pup's discerning taste buds.

Made with classic ingredients such as ginger, fresh pandan leaves, cucumber, coriander and of course, chicken meat, here's what a tasty and healthy treat should look like.

DID YOU KNOW?

All PetCubes formulas surpass AAFCO nutrient standards, and are made with 100% human-grade meat, without any preservatives or artificial flavourings added, ever.



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IMPERFECTLY PERFECT

Cute and cuddly kitties have taken social media by storm. We are especially enchanted with kitties Monty and Molly via their Instagram handle [monty_happiness](#).

As rescues, they both have chromosome abnormalities that are similar to Down syndrome in humans. Their owner educates people about this condition and advocates for other medical conditions that are common in cats, like diabetes, which Monty has as well.

With over 650 K followers, their Instagram account shows these sassy kitties living their best lives from frolicking in the garden to doing what they do best – chilling at home.

Sharp as needles, Monty was adopted from a shelter when he was about 4 years old and Molly was adopted when she was 1.5 years old.



FROM LEFT | From left, Molly and Monty. Fluffy Miss Molly is 56% Maine Coon and Monty's main breed is Siberian. Monty was selling kisses on Valentine's Day.

PET-FRIENDLY DINING



There is no better way to pamper your pooches than by taking them out for a meal. Apart from picnics, pet-friendly restaurants are probably the only way to enjoy an outside meal with one's furry companions.

If you're having a craving for crabs, think Black pepper, Chilli or Salted Egg, simply book a table and bring your pooch along to feast at The House of Seafood at Punggol which is also bicycle friendly. You can ride and park your bicycle nearby while pooch and you can dine at the table.

For more details, visit https://houseofseafood.oddle.me/en_SG/

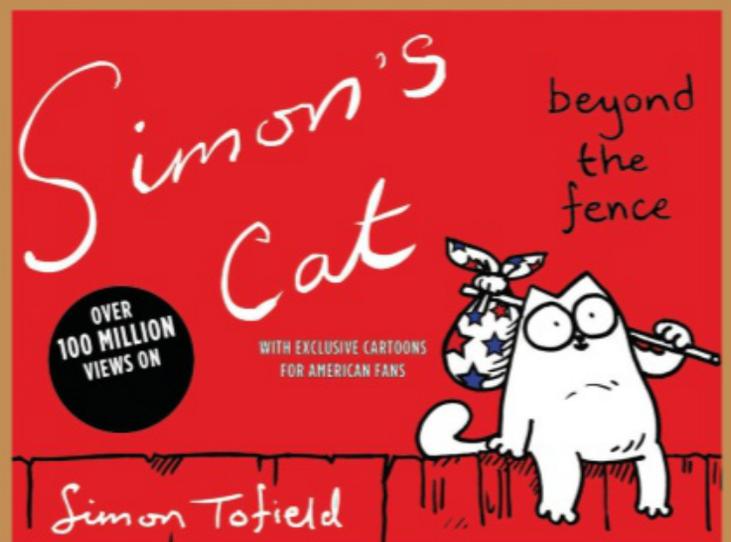
PET A PUG

For those deprived of some therapeutic pet fix, head to What The Pug café for fans of the wrinkled canine breed. As Singapore's first and only pug petting cafe, it recently opened its doors to visitors at the end of 2021 and is conveniently located along the shophouses of Haji Lane.

Expect pudgy pugs of different colours, from light brown to black between one to 12-years-old to cuddle. The cafe houses more than eight pugs in total. According to reviews, these are affectionate dogs that would snuggle up to patrons even without expecting any treats.

Admission charges apply and each patron is entitled to a 45-minute session that comes with a complimentary drink and a polaroid photo as a keepsake. Also available for sale are pug-themed merchandise.

Book online at www.beau.com.sg



SIMON'S CAT

Breaking from traditional furry influencers, Simon's Cat is an animated cartoon series created by Simon Tofield that features a chubby white cat.

TikToks of the cat resisting a bath and getting lost in the neighborhood keep his 2.2 million fans engaged. Recently, the animations went from black and white to color, which has also fueled engagement.

Now, the feline Internet phenomenon makes his way onto the page in this first-ever book based on the popular animated series. Simon's Cat depicts and exaggerates the hilarious relationship between a man and his cat. The daily escapades of this adorable pet, which always involve demanding more food, and his exasperated but doting owner come to life through Tofield's charming and hilarious illustrations.

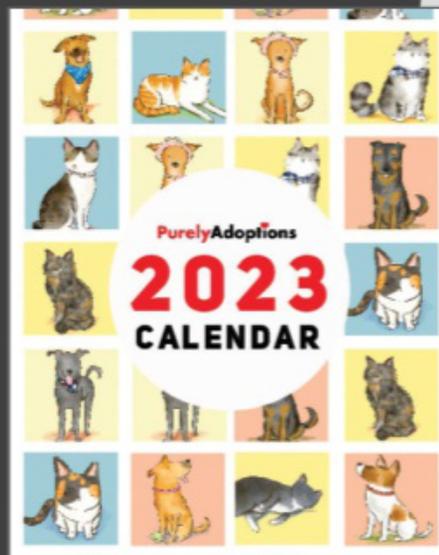
Available at www.amazon.sg

Thinking of a meaningful gift? Get a calendar for 2023 and show some love for our animals. Purely Adoptions, an animal welfare group that is funded entirely on public donations is releasing their annual calendar from October this year.

At only \$10 a piece, all proceeds of the Purely Adoptions Calendar 2023 will be used for printing costs and direct to the welfare group to support their cause. All funds go into the rescuing, fostering and medical fees of the rescues which include medication, vaccination, sterilisation and food.

For more details, visit www.purelyadoptions.com

SAVE THE DATE



The calendar features illustrations of cats and dogs, immersed in their thoughts.



HAPPY HENS, HEALTHY EGGS

TOWARDS FRIENDLIER EGG
PRODUCTION FOR HENS

"Cage-free" hens generally have better lives than those combined in battery cages.

We love eggs. As a country, we ate an average of 2.21 billion eggs a year. To feed our love for eggs, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) imports up to 74% of the eggs with the remaining 28% supplied by the three local chicken farms. Most of Singapore's imported eggs come from Malaysia, followed by a small percentage from Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

Egg farming is a highly industrialised process geared towards efficiency. Free-range egg farming is simply unattainable for large-scale production especially for land-scarce Singapore. Therefore, how much space a hen has become important.

A new report by the international NGO Sinergia Animal has surveyed more than fifty food companies and highlights that 70% of them (thirty-five) are already phasing out the use of eggs produced in battery cages—a farming method that uses cages so small that animals can barely move. The report, called Cage-Free Tracker, features corporate policies from five Asian countries: India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand. "Asia is the largest egg producer in the world.

In this region, more than one billion eggs are laid by hens annually, and the majority are from conventional battery cages: a system that is considered so cruel that it has been banned across the EU, Canada, New Zealand, and nine states in the US. Fortunately, our results show that companies in Asia understand that battery cages must go and are changing to more animal friendly practices too", says Phichamon Thamasook, Corporate Communications Manager - Asia of Sinergia Animal.

The initiative also aims to provide transparency and recognition to the progress companies are making towards making their supply chains cage free. A total of thirty-two companies operating in Asia responded, with 16% reporting progress in sourcing cage-free eggs in Asia or nationally in Asian countries.

Sinergia Animal plans to keep running its cage-free tracker every year with companies operating in Asia. "We hope that by shedding light on the progress, we can inspire more corporations to join this global movement that aims to produce more compassionate foods", concludes Thamasook.



Phichamon Thamasook,
Corporate Communications Manager
Asia of Sinergia Animal

Cage-Free Vs Free Range

"Cage-free" means the hens were allowed to wander freely, but that wandering can be limited to a hen house. The hens may still live in over-crowded and unhealthy conditions. The "free-range" label requires that the hens be allowed outside. For example, a crowded henhouse would have a small door at one end leading to a small space where the hens are theoretically allowed into but which in practice isn't much of an improvement.

Why Egg Labels Matter

For those looking for the best quality eggs from hens allowed to exhibit natural behaviors, pastured eggs will prove to be a revelation. Since the hens were allowed to get some of their diets from greens and plants and insects, their yolks verge towards a bright, sunny, almost orange color. The whites are full-on bouncy with an intense eggy flavor that makes even a humble soft-boiled or hard-boiled egg, shine.

At the very least, getting "cage-free" eggs means you've avoided supporting the worst of the egg industry's all too common practices. So, while "cage-free" does not necessarily mean cruelty-free, the hens generally have significantly better lives than those confined in battery cages. The ability to lay their eggs in nests, run and spread their wings are tangible benefits that shouldn't be underestimated.

What Can You do to Help Improve Hen Welfare?

Every time you go shopping for eggs, you have the power to make a difference. By choosing "cage-free" or "free-range" eggs, you are not only supporting farmers who care deeply about animal welfare, but you are also letting your supermarket know that higher welfare matters to you and that you are prepared to pay that little bit extra to improve the lives of animals.



Hens in battery cages have no space to move even during their laying cycle.

Photography by Sinergia Animal

Wallaby Recipes for Pets

More than just a small kangaroo, wallabies have compact legs, built for agility and speed. Considered the veal of kangaroo, its low-fat meat is sweeter, tenderer and it offers many nutritional benefits including building lean muscle and helping to maintain a healthy weight in pets.

Treat your furkids with this novel protein which has been specially sourced from the bushland in the South Island of New Zealand. Your pets can benefit from an exceptional meat which is high in CLA (Conjugated Linoleic Acid). CLA has been shown to support cardiovascular health and promote a lean physique.

Made from free-Range and sustainable proteins, the wallaby meals offer grain-free recipes free from added flavourings, preservatives, carrageenan, and Bisphenol A (BPA) as complete and balanced nutrition optimized for cats and dogs.



FROM LEFT

Zealandia Wallaby Pate Adult Canned Dog Food 185g | Zealandia Wallaby Pate Cat Canned Food 385g

For more details visit, www.reinbiotech.com

Value for Money Pet Essentials

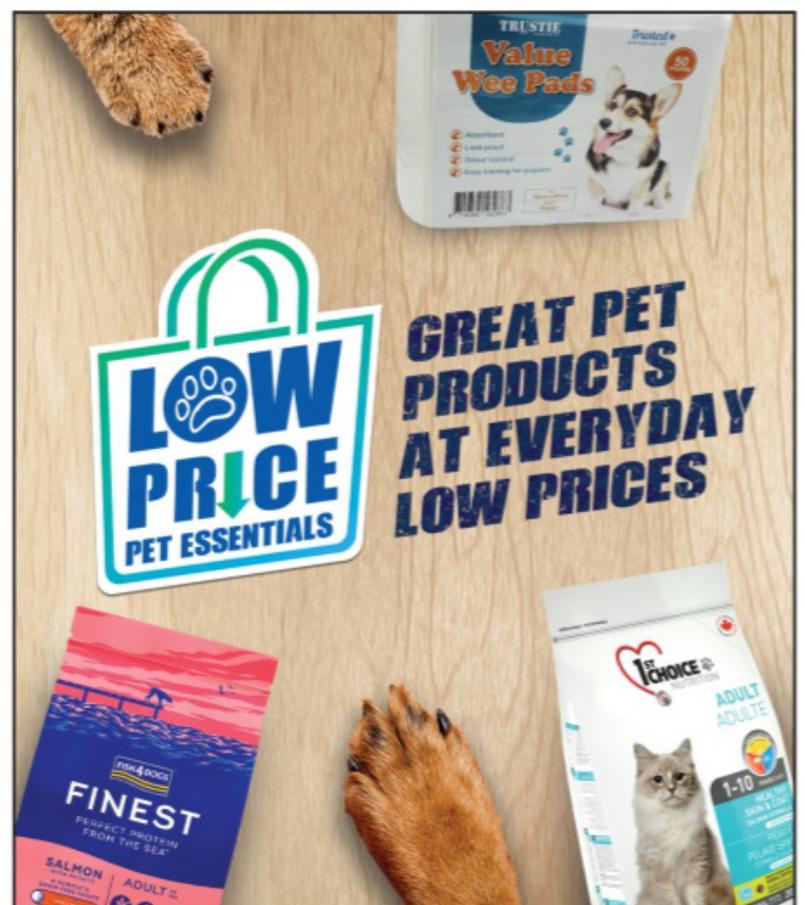
If there is one thing every pet parent has to spend on, it is food, care products or other essentials like toilet training pads.

With inflation and rising costs, many pet parents are worried about their household expenditure. Thankfully, Pet Lovers Centre, one of Singapore's leading retailer for pet products, is keeping 140 favourite daily essentials and counting, at the same low prices every day. This initiative is part of their "Low Price Pet Essentials" campaign which was first launched in June 2022.

If keeping your pet care expenditures as low as possible without compromising on the quality is a top priority, shopping at Pet Lovers Centre and The Pet Safari might be your best bet. Expect premium brands such as 1st Choice, Burp!, Fish4Cats, Fish4Dogs, Pronature and Trustie.

All you have to do is look out for the shopping bag and paw sign to identify these value-for-money products, in the stores and online.

For more details visit, www.petloverscentre.com/low-price-pet-essentials



FROM TOP Trustie Value Wee Pads | 1st Choice Cat Adult Healthy Skin & Coat, Salmon 2.72kg | Fish4Dogs Finest Salmon Complete Meal (1.5kg)

NEW FINEST LIGHT COD MOUSSE

Delicious light recipe - 60% fewer calories*



NEW
99%
COD

Dash, Ralph and Burt
Part of the Fish4Dogs® family

Adds interest and moisture to dry food.

*than in our luxury Salmon and Trout flavours.



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6
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FLAVOURS

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VEGETABLE WET FOOD RANGE.

NEW



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Pet Lovers FAVOURITES

SOLUTIONS TO A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
FOR YOUR FURRY FRIENDS



NATURE'S HUG Puppy Growth Toy & Small Breeds 2.27kg

Using mycoprotein, Nature's Hug Puppy Toy & Small Breeds recipe offers a truly sustainable and healthy alternative protein not sourced from animals.

The recipe has been optimally formulated to meet the development requirements of puppies of toy and smaller breeds, to get the best start in life and grow to their full potential. Its high-quality protein recipe is unique and innovative which includes superfoods, like kale, kelp and flaxseed to support strong bones, robust immune system and shiny skin and coat.



CANAGAN Light / Senior Free Range Chicken for Dogs 2kg

Canagan Light / Senior Free Range Chicken provides your companions with a host of biologically appropriate nutrients in an ideal ratio of animal protein to vegetable, plus beneficial botanicals. Carefully formulated with a lower fat and calorie content for older or overweight dogs, yet still maintains protein levels for strong muscles. Senior and overweight can suffer from joint problems and so the recipe includes plenty of the joint health compounds glucosamine, MSM and chondroitin to help.



BLACK HAWK Kangaroo Jerky Straps for Dogs 100g

These jerky treats have been crafted with the health and vitality of your dog at heart. Made from responsibly sourced, human-grade local ingredients in regional Australia, they deliver nature's goodness from the paddock to your best friend. Fresh from the farm, prime meats are hand-selected, cut and slowly oven-dried to lock in nutrients and flavour, so you can feel confident that you are giving your dog a tasty treat that is packed with nature's goodness.



SUNDAY PETS Gentle Baked Grain Free Hoki for Dogs 1.3kg

Made with 100% whole meat, organs, vegetables and fruits, Gentle Baked Grain Free Hoki For Dogs recipes are built around simple, fresh and wholesome ingredients whose nutrients and flavours stand out naturally. The grain-free, protein-rich and low in carbohydrates ingredients naturally provide almost every nutrient your dog needs to thrive in a highly bio-available form achieved through gentle baking. Nothing unnecessary is added and nothing important is taken away.



LITTLE BIGPAW

Little Kips Chillaxing Vegan Treats - Peanut Butter 90g

Little Kips Chillaxing Vegan Treats are tiny rewards to naturally aid sleep and rest. Calming and comforting, the treats allow your dog a rejuvenating bit of peace.

Every treat is shaped into our unique Little BigPaw “paw” shape, soft and squidgy. Made with delicious homemade peanut butter, chamomile and valerian root, its grain-free recipe is packed with natural goodness.



DENTALPLAY

Bioplastic Ham Dog Chew Bone (2pcs)

Chewable toy for dogs with ham flavor, the Bioplastic Ham Dog Chew Bone is not food and it does not modify the diet. Through chewing, thanks to the aroma of ham, it helps to keep the oral cavity sanitized and to keep teeth and gums clean. Ideal as a stress reliever. It does not stain teeth, biodegradable and eco-friendly. Simply offer your dogs the chewable toys 1-2 times a day for healthy teeth and gums.



DOG GONE SMART

Cotton Canvas Sleeper Cushion

Featuring a state-of-the-art Replez-It stay-clean technology, the Sleeper Cushion contains an advanced Nano Protection and Bacteriostatic embedded in the fabric that keeps doggie odor and messes from sticking. It repels dirt, stains, mud, odors, pet messes, bacteria, and fungi.

Its thick padding is comfortable and supportive. One side features a quilted pattern design on cotton canvas fabric, soft and cozy nano fleece on the other. The hand-sewn double-basting even stitching on high thread-count upholstery-grade cotton ensures long-lasting quality.





PROTEGER

Anti Flea & Tick Shampoo for Dogs & Cats 500ml

With a hypoallergenic and pH-balanced formula, the Anti Flea & Tick Shampoo for dogs and cats is free from colourants, parabens, silicones, soap or sulphate. The gentle formula also contains natural Diatomaceous Earth, derived from fossilized algae which effectively eliminates ticks and fleas. Harmless and non-toxic to pets and humans, the shampoo also contains persimmon extract for odour control and green tea extract to calm and soothe any skin irritation.



BURP!

Everyday Pampering Puff Snack Hair Ball Control 60g

Made with dehydrated chicken protein, Everyday Pampering Puff Snack Hair Ball Control includes vegetable fibers and malt to help move hair through a cat's system without drugs or artificial lubricants that may interfere with normal digestion and nutrients absorption. The added taurine, vitamin D3, E and biotin alleviate optimal health for cats.



Everyday Pampering Dental Snack with Mint & Parsley 180g

Maintain oral hygiene with Everyday Pampering Dental Snack with Mint & Parsley. Sodium hexametaphosphate is added to prevent tartar formation while mint and parsley induce fresh breath. The low-fat and no-added sugar formula includes fish oil and biotin for healthy skin and coat along with vitamin D3 and calcium that helps to strengthen the teeth.

SYMPLY FRESH SALMON

For Cats At All Life Stages 375g/1.5kg



Cats and kittens love nothing more than a delicious meal in their bowl. Symply Fresh Salmon For Cats is nutritiously balanced for both growing kittens and fully grown cats. Wholesome, natural, pure and simple. It is rich in freshly prepared meat, so it is easy to digest, giving the cats all the energy they need to show how much they love you. It contains taurine, an essential amino acid which plays an important role in heart and visual function as well as cranberry extract to help maintain a healthier urinary tract.



SUNSEED
Chew Blox

Encourages chewing and gnawing to wear down teeth, with no risk of splintering. Chew Blox are exactly what your small animal needs to curb those gnawing instincts, and keep its teeth properly worn and healthy. This product lasts longer than traditional chew toys, and will not splinter, even after hours of chewing.



Crazy Good Cookin'
Kung Fu-licious 340g

A cookable snack for birds full of exotic flavors and textures. Sunseed Crazy Good Cookin' adds fun and flavorful variety to your bird's diet. Made with rice noodles, pumpkin seeds, sweet potato, and tropical papaya, Kung Fu-licious is a healthy snack and sensory experience of colors, textures, and flavors that birds of all sizes can enjoy. Just add water to cook, cool, and serve to your bird in addition to his regular pellet or seed-blend diet. You can prepare ahead of time for quick and easy feeding as a perfect morning treat or as a snack to occupy your bird during family meal time.

CUNIPIC
Parrot Deluxe Snack Bar
Nuts Mix 130g

Parrot Snack Deluxe Bars, is composed of seeds and baked fruits, coated in a double layer of sweet honey. It is an exquisite and healthy treat packed with vitamins, fiber and antioxidants that are vital to a parrot's health. It also encourages seed foraging, so your parrot will be kept suitably entertained.





BRINGING HOME BABY

ESSENTIALS CHECKLIST FOR NEW PET PARENTS

Becoming a pet parent is a huge responsibility. There is a lifelong commitment that is involved and being a first-time pet owner can be overwhelming. Taking care of a pet is more than just making

sure their bowl is full or that the dog is walked and the litter box is scooped. Here is a checklist of pet care essentials according to Dr. Arman Chen that new pet owners should do to keep their cats and dogs healthy.

PETS (P) WHEN IS THE RIGHT AGE TO STERILIZE A DOG?

DR. ARMAN CHEN (AC) | This depends on the sex, size and breed of the dog. Usually we recommend to sterilize female dogs before their first heat which is about 6 months old. However, larger breeds tend to mature later, so their first heat may come about 8 months to a year.

By sterilizing before their first heat will help to reduce mammary cancer risk, as this risk doubles each time they come on heat.

For male dogs, there is usually no urgency to sterilize them early, so we do recommend to sterilize dogs from 2 years old onwards. However, if there are any behavioral issues like marking, humping or aggression, we do recommend sterilizing earlier, anytime from 6 months onwards.



The Vet

Dr. Arman Chen
Gaia Veterinary Centre

Veterinary Surgeon & Practice Manager, BVSc (Qld.), BSc (Leic.). Wearing a few hats, but never losing his sense of humour, Dr. Arman has garnered years of experience in both clinical practice and lab animal medicine. He has a strong interest in exotic animals and chronic disease management.

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helps the dog build a
"protective shield" for healthy aging.



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P | WHAT HAPPENS IF STERILIZING IS DONE TOO EARLY?

DR. AC | Especially for larger breeds which are prone to joint diseases such as hip dysplasia, sterilizing early may affect the growth hormones, making them more prone to such joint conditions.

P | WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL VACCINATIONS?

DR. AC | The SVA (Singapore Veterinary Association) recommends dogs receive vaccinations against, Parvovirus, Distemper virus and Adenovirus. Leptospirosis is not a core vaccination but it is highly recommended as it is transmissible to humans.

P | ARE YEARLY VACCINATIONS NECESSARY?

DR. AC | It depends on the immunity and the needs or environment that the pet is in.

Now, you can check your pet's immunity with a blood test. If their immunity is positive, we do not need to vaccinate for these viruses mentioned above. However, Leptospirosis is still recommended to be vaccinated yearly.

P | HOW TO DEAL WITH HEARTWORM, FLEAS AND TICK?

DR. AC | Firstly, we need to understand how they are transmitted. For heartworms, it is transmitted by mosquitoes. Ticks and fleas are by close contact or being in the same area with an infected dog, grass areas or even bedding.

Natural repellents are not as effective, hence most vets will recommend chemical repellents. If you do opt for a natural repellent, we would recommend being vigilant in recognizing signs of them being sick and performing a tick search every day, especially if they're exposed to areas where they might get the parasites.

P | WHEN IS THE RIGHT AGE TO STERILIZE A CAT??

DR. AC | We recommend from 6 months. Neutering cats prevent unwanted pregnancies and reduce their territorial urge to roam and fight, so they are less likely to leave the household and get themselves hurt (either from traffic or falling from height), and also reduces the risk of catching FIV that is spread from fighting other cats.

There are usually not as much detrimental effects compared to dogs when sterilized early.

P | WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL VACCINATIONS FOR CATS?

DR. AC | As per SVA, feline core vaccines include Parvovirus (feline panleukopenia), Calicivirus and Herpesvirus. If their immunity is positive after a blood test, these vaccinations are unnecessary.

P | IS DE-CLAWING NECESSARY?

DR. AC | No, in fact it is not ethical. Only if there is a medical purpose behind it.

P | WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF AN INFECTION AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM?

DR. AC | Look out for signs of breathlessness, lethargy, fever, lack of appetite, pale gums, bumps on the skin, vomiting or diarrhea. Best to bring in for a vet to assess and check. Further testing may be needed to determine if the signs are because of a parasitic infection.

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Burp!



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fresh chicken



Signature herbal blends:
Joint care and Skin &
coat care to choose



FEDIAF standard,
Complete &
Balanced meal



Pre-biotics and natural
carbohydrates infused



No artificial flavouring
& colouring



SUITABLE
FOR ALL
BREEDS
ADULT
DOGS

Everyday Pampering SOFT MOIST CHICKEN SNACKS

- ✓ Easy to chew for sensitive teeth & gums
- ✓ Enriched with vitamins & minerals
- ✓ Suitable for all breeds adult dogs
- ✓ Nutritional snack



SUITABLE
FOR
MEDIUM
BREEDS
ADULT
DOGS

Everyday Pampering Dental Snack WITH MINT & PARSLEY

- ✓ Sodium hexametaphosphate to help to prevent tartar formation
- ✓ With added vitamin D3 and calcium that helps to strengthen the teeth



SUITABLE
FOR
ALL
BREED
ADULT
CATS

Everyday Pampering Puff Snack



HAIR BALL CONTROL
with Vegetable Fibers



*Yummy cat treats
with functional benefits*



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CANINE NUTRITION

TAKE SOME POINTERS FROM THE PROS BEFORE YOU SWITCH UP YOUR DOG'S DIET.

PEXELS | Mart Production

Humans favour mostly whole foods diet so it only makes sense that you'd have your dog do the same. However, transitioning your pup to a natural diet can feel like a challenging task. Is kibble in or out? Should you go raw or cooked? And how can you make sure your homemade dog food is nutritionally balanced?

The good news is that there's no scientific evidence that natural or organic diets are better than conventional diets using commercial kibble or wet food.

Ultimately, always make sure to consult your veterinarian regarding your dog's needs before changing their diet. Most dogs don't do well with abrupt dietary changes, and chucking the standard store-bought food could put your pooch at risk for nutritional deficiencies. Some dogs process foods differently based on their biological build, so there's really no "one-size-fits-all" solution for your dog's meals.

Natural Dog Food

Natural commercial dog foods can be labeled "natural" as long as the raw ingredients from plant, animal, or mined sources aren't subjected to, or produced by, chemically synthetic processes or blended with synthetic additives. The natural ingredients can, however, be processed in other ways before they're added to the food.

Organic Dog Food

Organic dog food is dog food made with methods and standards that are compliant with organic farming, which includes resource cycling, ecological balance promotion, and biodiversity conservation.

Organic dog food is free from pesticides, preservatives, hormones, antibiotics, and artificial additives. The ingredients of any organic dog food must not be grown in chemical fertilizer, genetically engineered, or irradiated in any way.

Holistic Dog Food

Currently, within the pet industry, there is no universal or standard definition of what classifies a dog food as holistic. Often, the words on dog food labels are simply used as marketing tactics to entice consumers. According to veterinarians, while the terms 'natural' and 'holistic' are often used together, they typically aren't used interchangeably. Because of the regulation and oversight, the term 'natural' ensures that ingredients have come from natural sources. It carries more weight than the term holistic, since there is no regulation for those claims."

Raw Diets

These diets are produced to provide a diet thought to mimic what dogs eat "in the wild". These diets generally consist of variable combinations of raw meats, grains, vegetables, and bones. However, there's

no evidence that a raw diet is better than a normal diet and they can cause serious illness.

If you do choose to feed your dog a raw diet, make sure to carefully select the ingredients so that harmful pathogens are not transmitted to your dog. Careful preparation and handling of the raw ingredients around your household are necessary for everyone's health.

Home Cooked Diet

Homemade diets are favored by some because they contain whole food ingredients that are generally considered healthier than processed dog food. While cooking for your dog gives you complete control over the ingredients and their diet, preparing a balanced meal with safe ingredients can be a challenge.

Be wary of "pet nutrition professionals" online that have published recipes for a homemade diet. These can be unreliable and potentially harmful to your dog. Consult your veterinarian to get more information about the diet your dog needs.

Human-Grade Food

'Human grade' dog food is trending in the pet food industry. The first thing to note is that no food produced in a pet food factory, no matter how good it is, can be legally classed as human-grade. Therefore, most claims are restricted to the ingredients with phrases like 'made from human-grade ingredients', 'with human-grade meat' or 'ingredients fit for human consumption'.

Many ingredients that start out as 'human grade' are no longer classed as suitable for human consumption once they have been processed. For example, although a piece of meat may come from a human-grade animal, once it has been rendered into a meat meal it is no longer categorised as suitable for human consumption.

Dog Nutrition at a Glance

FOOD TYPES	WHAT	CAUTION
Natural dog food	<p>The ingredients used are not manufactured by humans. This can pertain to the product as a whole if all ingredients are natural, or to individually stated ingredients such as “natural beef flavor.”</p> <p>Free from chemically synthesized ingredients, additives and preservatives.</p>	<p>There is no regulation when it comes to natural dog food, and all foods that are labeled ‘natural’ are not necessarily created equal.</p> <p>Do check food sources carefully and that they are responsibly formulated.</p>
Organic dog food	<p>These foods must contain a minimum of 95% organic ingredients and will display a USDA organic seal and be compliant with all AAFCO standards.</p>	<p>The amount of organic dog food on the market is small and the recorded benefits of organic dog food are negligible.</p>
Holistic dog food	<p>The food takes into consideration a dog’s whole being, as opposed to focusing on individual factors. Holistic pet food suggests a less-processed diet with higher-quality ingredients.</p>	<p>It is often used as a marketing term as it has no accepted specific relation to ingredients that are used in a product.</p>
Raw diet	<p>A diet thought to mimic what dogs eat “in the wild”. These diets generally consist of variable combinations of raw meats, grains, vegetables, and bones.</p>	<p>There’s no evidence that a raw diet is better than a normal diet and they can cause serious illness.</p> <p>Careful preparation and handling of the raw ingredients around your household are necessary for everyone’s health.</p>
Home-cooked food	<p>Homemade diets contain whole foods and fresh ingredients.</p>	<p>Understanding your dog’s dietary requirements, determining what’s safe for them to eat, and finding the time to prepare their meals can be tricky.</p>
Human-grade food	<p>Foods that are edible for people and made with higher-quality ingredients and have a lower risk of contamination than those that are made for pets.</p>	<p>Not all “human-grade” is nutritionally complete and balanced for dogs.</p> <p>Look out for AAFCO endorsements that the food is complete and nutritionally balanced for dogs.</p>

USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture

AAFCO | Association of American Feed Control Officials



Oven Baked vs Extrusion

Today, dog food kibble is either extruded or oven baked. Extrusion cooking is a high-temperature, high-pressure process that pushes the dough through a machine that shapes it and cooks it at the same time. Once it is cooled, the kibbles are puffed out with air and sprayed with a mixture of fats, vitamins, and minerals, bagged and sealed to protect the oil from becoming rancid.

MORE NUTRITIONS IN OVEN-BAKED

With extrusion, there tends to be a loss of up to 40% of vitamins in the foods used to create the kibble. So while the packaging states it contains certain ingredients, it may not retain all the vitamins and nutrients of that food.

Baking is ten times slower than cooking by extrusion. This allows the nutrients to be more digestible while preserving their integrity by bringing out the aroma and taste of the food. It also allows more meat in the recipes which results in the kibble being tastier and easier to consume.

PETS EAT LESS AND FEEL FULL

Another difference between extruded and baked kibbles is the density. Baked kibble does not have air forced into it so it does not puff up like its extruded counterparts making it denser. This means less volume your dog will need to eat to get the same nutrition - which may also mean smaller bags as compared to extruded kibbles.

MORE MEAT AND TASTIER

For Canadian pet food brand Oven-Baked Tradition, the best food for cats and dogs is slowly cooked in the oven at low temperatures to maintain the original nutrients and include more meat for a tastier bite.

The brand's holistic approach focuses on wellness, and great taste using high-quality ingredients such as fruits and vegetables, which contain important vitamins and minerals for pets' health. Oven-Baked Tradition's products contain over 50% of real meat and are 20% denser as compared to conventional extruded dog food brands.

PETS AT HOME

GOOD-LOOKING PET ESSENTIALS
AROUND THE HOME.



Look Up

Indulge kitty with a chic cat tower. The Torre Cat Tower & Scratching Post is fitted with elevated sleeping areas and a wide area for your feline friends to scratch with a material that is gentle on noses and paws, providing a positively comfortable surface for both sleep and play. The base plate is made from real wood to ensure stability. Available at danishdesignco.com.sg

Scratch, climb and chill with a tower which blends in any interior.



Seriously Chic Fur-Niture

Form must follow function. The Red Dot Design winner, Letto Dog Day Bed combines simple lines with a pared-back colour palette to create a modern lounge for your dog. The body is made from powder-coated aluminium, a virtually indestructible frame, and the fitted bed is a luxurious mattress that is both reversible and washable. Available at danishdesignco.com.sg

Designed with comfort, durability and stunning aesthetics, both pooch and you can be proud of.



Basket Case

Keep your pet toys organised with a versatile and environmentally friendly storage basket. The Cesto Toy Basket is an understated and versatile storage basket to keep your house neat, and your dog toys accessible. Each Cesto Toy Basket is moulded from felt fibres that are mostly made of recycled PET bottles. Available at danishdesignco.com.sg

This multifunctional storage basket is perfect for containing anything from dog toys to their blankets, or even magazines



Swing Sisters

Perfect for the posh kitty, the Kikko table and Lulu bed were designed by Polish Renata Wites and Ada Brożyna who are lecturers at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław Poland. Both products are hand crafted with use of high-quality ash wood, which comes only from local suppliers. Available at labbvenn.com



Double Delight

Cleaning up after your messy eater's meal will be less of a chore with these tasteful bowls. Made of ceramics, these Vuku bowls are perfect for watering and feeding pets. Oak base gives extra elegance and makes Vuku buffet a very prestigious item that fits to demanding interiors. Available at labbvenn.com

FROM TOP |

This pet-friendly hideaway for your cat doubles as a multifunctional side table. | These bowls fuse a minimalist aesthetic with maximum functionality.

CIRCUS PLAY

GREAT DANES, CATS AND
HUMANS MAKE EVERY DAY
AT HOME A LIVELY AFFAIR

Photography by Adrien Williams
and Marc Cramer

Life is like a circus in this home and it is built just so its inhabitants play hard and live well.

The design brief from a young family, required updated modern finishes, unique design features, and an open convivial layout with the ability to close off space so their Great Danes and cats could be kept out of the kitchen and living room. The project's primary material palette needed to be durable and not require constant maintenance.

RobitailleCurtis's design highlights the dramatic vertical and horizontal axis of the home. The material palette of Douglas Fir slats, polished concrete floors, and white lacquered millwork achieve brightness, warmth, durability and sleek minimal design. Concealed floor to ceiling pocket doors and stainless steel mesh curtains provide flexible separation.

A design highlight is a Cirque du Soleil-inspired trapeze net 'floor' replaces the need for guardrails at the top of the expanded atrium and serves as a unique play surface on the third floor where the children's rooms are

located in the third floor. The use of a net in this location precludes the need for guardrails and opens the floor plan to unimpeded views to and from the third floor.

At the main living level, the kitchen has been relocated from the front of the home to the rear where it now enjoys more open space and daylight in its position adjacent a window wall with views to a newly designed garden. A carefully detailed millwork 'cube' is a primary organizing element of the ground floor plan. It is a nicely proportioned object that orients movement through space as it separates the living room from the atrium and kitchen. The 'cube' contains two concealed glass pocket doors that enable the living room to be closed off. It also conceals a coat closet at the main entrance of the home and hides a discreet powder room.

At the ground floor level and up through the atrium and main stair, vertical grain Douglas fir slats provide screened views through the home and eliminate the necessity for guardrails. Douglas fir, concrete floors, and white lacquered millwork combine to create a crisp, clean, and warm material palette.



The view towards kitchen with stainless steel mesh screen installed to keep the pets out.





“

A design highlight is a Cirque du Soleil-inspired trapeze net ‘floor’ replaces the need for guardrails at the top of the expanded atrium and serves as a unique play surface on the third floor where the children’s rooms are located in the third floor.

”

THIS PAGE FROM TOP | Douglas fir screens are integrated on the ground and second floor bridge. | The third floor view of trapeze net floor with douglas fir guardrailing, and a sky light above.

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP | The kitchen overlooks a garden. | Cubic volume of atrium as framed by douglas fir with a trapeze net ceiling.

SOURCE

Robitaille Curtis, www.robitaillecurtis.com

UNDER COVER



Unsplash | Jamie Street

LEVEL-UP YOUR CARPET GAME WITH A PET-FRIENDLY CARPET TECHNOLOGY THAT IS DURABLE AND SAFE.

Love carpets? One of the unique attributes of a carpet is its natural softness, but not all carpets are created equal.

From comfort and warmth to the range of colours and styles, carpet flooring is perfect for adding a touch of hotel-inspired aesthetic. If you're looking for a comfortable underfoot that will stand the test of pets, the carpet from Mohawk's SmartStrand might be your best bet.

Now, you can look forward to decorating your spaces with carpet, to add volume, create focus points and tie-in a colour scheme.

Cosy Under Paw

With a comfortable underpaw, carpet flooring is a cosy place for your pets to lie down, and a soft landing for cats jumping down from countertops. Scratches from pet nails are less apparent on carpets too.

Firm Hold

Traction is another concern, especially for dogs with their nails. If you've got an excitable pup, more slippery surfaces such as marble flooring can mean they end up taking a power slide down one too many.



With a modernistic colourway, SmartStrand carpet in Pewter is great for any interior theme from homes to work spaces.

Tough Factor

STAIN-FREE

With no dye sites where spills could adhere, the carpet is naturally stain-resistant and easy to clean.

CLEAN & HYGIENIC

Advanced Nanoloc technology against any spill and soil encapsulates the fiber so it is three times easier to remove pet hair, soil and dander common with household pets.

NON-ABSORBENT

It contains permanent, built-in stain and soil prevention technology that never washes or wears off. This added protection prevents and reduces common pet-related odors.

NON-TOXIC & ECO-FRIENDLY

Carpet fibers are made from renewable plant-based ingredients. The fiber is OEKO-TEX Standard 100 and certified to be free from harmful substances.

Experience more pet-friendly solutions at Goodrich gallery. For more interior decorating tips, visit goodrichglobal.com

A WARM WELCOME

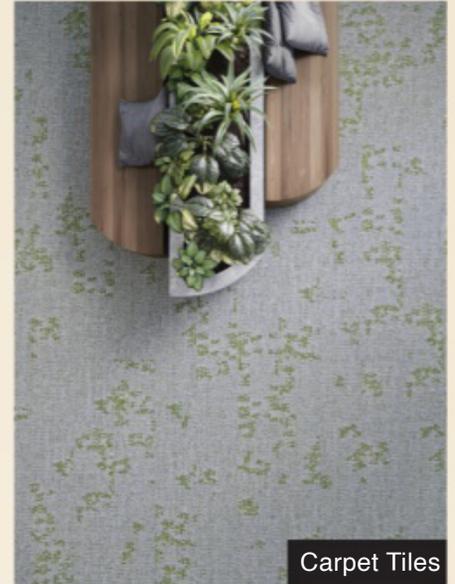
Home is a safe haven to recharge alone, with family and faithful companions with fur, feathered or scaled.



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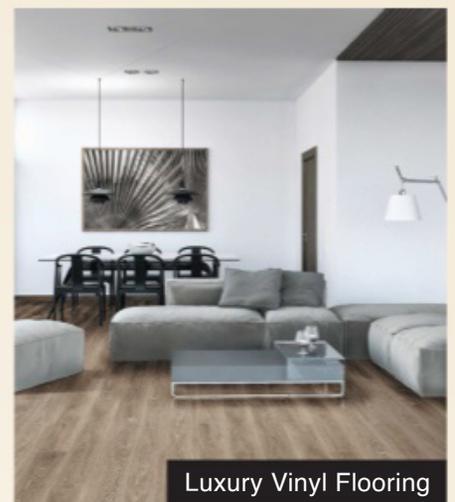
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DEMENTIA IN DOGS

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENTS TO HELP CANINES LIVE HAPPILY

Dogs with dementia may also stop responding to commands or performing tricks.

Unsplash | Harrison Kugler

Like humans, dementia is a common problem occurring in older dogs. Similar to Alzheimer's in people, dementia in dogs is a degenerative brain condition that causes altered behaviors and memory loss. These progressive changes affect the quality of life for both dogs and their owners. There is no cure for dementia, but owners may be able to lessen the negative effects and help their dogs live happily for a little while longer.

Symptoms of Dementia in Dogs

Dementia negatively affects the everyday life of a senior dog and is commonly seen

to varying degrees as dogs age. Some symptoms may appear and worsen gradually as the dog ages, or they may occur more suddenly and be more drastic.

If a dog is going to suffer from canine dementia, symptoms typically start presenting around the age of nine, according to WebMD. Do consult a veterinarian if you suspect they are experiencing signs of dementia. Vets typically make a formal diagnosis of CCD (canine cognitive decline) by using the acronym DISHA, which outlines symptoms common in dogs that have dementia.

DISORIENTATION. Disorientation is one of the most recognizable signs of dog dementia. You may see your dog wandering around like it is lost, seemingly confused about its surroundings, or going to an incorrect door seeking to be let out. Other signs that a dog may have disorientation include staring at the floor, walls, or out into space without purpose. You may notice your pet starting to have difficulty maneuvering around objects or failing to recognize people they know.

INTERACTION CHANGES. You may notice your dog showing a lot less interest in being social with other people or anything in their environment. A dog may start becoming clingier or withdrawing from others. They may stop wanting to be petted and prefer to spend time away from the family. Some canines with dog dementia may become more fearful and needy.

SLEEP/WAKE CYCLE DISRUPTIONS. One of the most uncomfortable aspects of canine dementia is the change it causes to a dog's sleep cycle. Your dog may start having trouble sleeping through the night and may end up pacing the house while barking or whining when everyone else is asleep. That can cause your dog to experience heightened emotions like fear and agitation. Your dog's sleeplessness during the night may lead to them sleeping a lot more during the day.

HOUSE SOILING, MEMORY, AND LEARNING. Your dog's housetraining may start slipping to the point where they stop letting you know when they need to go outside and relieve themselves. They may begin to soil various areas throughout the house, leading to even more anxiety.

ACTIVITY CHANGES. Another sign of dog dementia is seeing your dog's activity level go down. They may show less interest in exploring their environment. Your dog may also show decreased responses to external stimuli like other dogs, sounds, things, and people. Other signs of lower activity levels can include less interest in grooming, a lack of appetite, more restlessness, and separation anxiety.

Treatments and Prevention

While there is no cure for dog dementia, there are things you can do to make your pet's life easier. If you are concerned with CDS developing in your senior dog, talk with your veterinarian about possible preventative supplements. Medications that can be helpful to dogs with dementia include:

SELEGILINE This drug can help your dog control many of the symptoms that come with canine dementia.

ANTIDEPRESSANT Provides relief from the anxiety that often manifests in dogs with dementia.

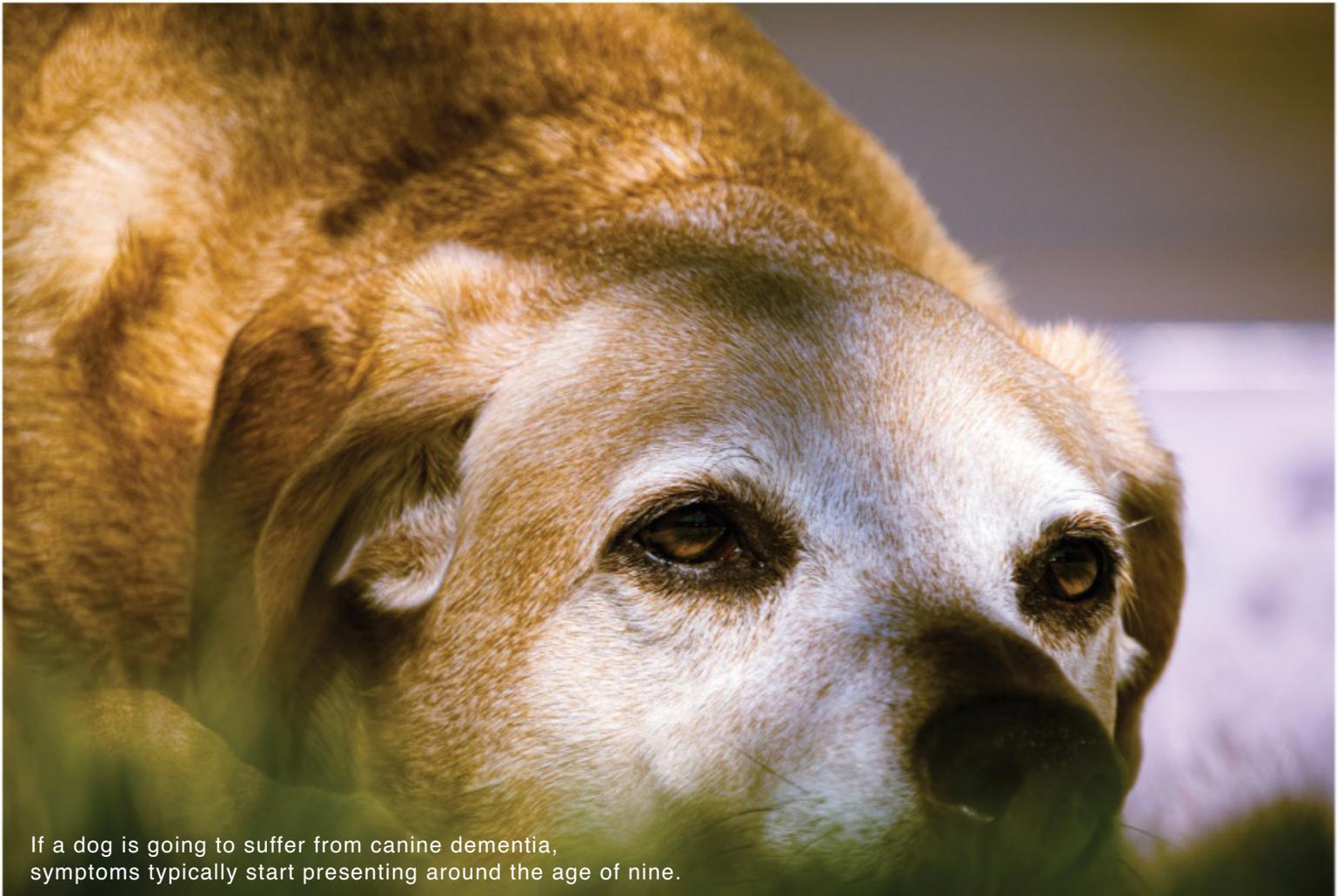
ANIPRYL A psychoactive drug approved for use in treating CCD.

“

Like humans, dementia is a common problem occurring in older dogs.

Similar to Alzheimer's in people, dementia in dogs is a degenerative brain condition that causes altered behaviors and memory loss.

”



If a dog is going to suffer from canine dementia, symptoms typically start presenting around the age of nine.

10 Signs of Dementia in Dogs

Soiling in the house

Getting lost in the house/
disorientation

Barking without reason

Going to the wrong side
of the door

Lack of interaction with
people or other pets

Decrease or lack of appetite

Lower threshold for
aggressive behavior

Irregular sleeping patterns

Staring at the walls

Pacing/repetitive behaviors

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TUMMY FRIENDLY
PREBIOTICS



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OMEGA 3 & 6 SKIN & COAT



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- It's the stuff we never use in our food that makes it healthy

*Sunday
pets*
TIME TO NOURISH



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Photography
JAMES LIANG
Hair & Make-up
IVORY L.

From left: Fudge, which consists of the grand salon, a fully air-conditioned lounge
Tyson and Pela are seen in the main deck area, with a bar that opens from the
sides, for sea views.

ALL ABOARD!

GIVING NEW LIVES TO TWO DOGS AND A VESSEL

Do what you love, and you will never work another day in your life. The old adage seems to resonate with Peter Pela, the man behind the popular dog cruise aboard the luxury yacht Royal Albatross.

At 50 years young when many chose to retire, Pela decided to run a tight ship – literally. The self-professed workaholic is living his passion for water sports and dogs as the owner of a historic vessel. Singaporeans may have spotted this ship in Channel 8 television drama series My Guardian Angel or as Bruce Wayne’s super yacht in the movie The Dark Knight. Built in 2001 in the United States, her sails and rigging

were designed by master rigger Jim Barry, who also designed the ships featured in the Pirates Of The Caribbean movies.

“I’ve always enjoyed doing things on water, yachting, fishing, diving and sailing. So when I saw Royal Albatross (nee Windy 2) for sale in Chicago, I knew buying her would change my life and point me in the direction of my passion (which it did). At the time, I didn’t know exactly how (it would change my life) but I took the risk and moved her to Singapore with a clear vision of making her into an iconic Singapore attraction,” says Pela, Founder and CEO of The Royal Albatross.

Traditional on the Surface, Lean and Mean Sailing Machine Below.

When Pela acquired the ship in 2008 after leaving the IT industry, he spent the next six years pumping in millions of dollars to transform her into the luxury sailing ship of the present. The extensive process started when she was moved to Lumut, Perak, Malaysia to undergo hull strengthening, steel fabrication, ventilation works, exterior carpentry and engine room fitting.

During the course of the refurbishment, the ship was completely stripped to an empty steel hull

and then rebuilt. The only original equipment on the upper deck are the masts. Since there were no regional shipyards with tall ship experience, Pela rented facilities and recruited an international team of experts to advise, manage and train a new crew to work on the ship.

“I used my expertise in IT to design her in a 3D model first, down to the deepest detail before rebuilding her and then selecting the latest technology for her systems and lighting onboard. My software development experience has also been useful in developing our back of house ticketing, registration and CRM systems,” shares Pela who calls Singapore home after living on the island for over two decades.



Located at Sentosa, the Royal Albatross is a unique 47-meter, four-masted, 22 sails super yacht that combines modern technology with all the tradition and romance of sailing.

Better Humans = Better Dogs

In 2014, the ship was finally certified safe for sail in Singapore waters. The same year, Pela adopted Tyson a Singapore special from Causes for Animals Singapore (CAS) after discovering that the dog was on death row. As if giving an old vessel a make-over is not challenging enough, Pela embarked on another transformation journey and this time for a traumatized dog.

“He was in pretty bad shape with skin problems, cuts and countless scars, 2 broken ribs, a broken tooth, scared to walk outside and he had lost his bark! Named by CAS after the boxer Mike Tyson, he had for sure been a pack leader in the wild. Slowly but surely after 9 months of nursing, love and reassurance, I earned Tyson's trust and from there he's gone from strength to strength,” says Pela.

Fudge was another Singapore special Pela adopted from CAS. She was a tiny puppy, found abandoned in a Jurong shipyard. Fudge quickly adapted and was bullying Tyson after a few days.

“Puppies need a lot of attention and training, so I took her to the office every day for 4 months until she got too big for me to carry her in the elevators! Fudge, like a lot of specials, lacks confidence when she is outside of her home, so she is constantly on alert, easily scared but always on the lookout for lizards, bugs and birds.”

Today 8-year-old Tyson is a big brother to 4-year-old Fudge. Brimming with confidence and a super friendly pooch, Tyson is Pela's dog cruise ambassador.

He has his own table onboard and has his bathroom routine down pat. According to Pela, Tyson loves his title because of all the food and attention he gets. The vessel is his second home and the crew spoils him rotten.

Pela revealed that the dog cruise is inspired by his journey in parenting Tyson and Fudge. The dog cruise is approximately two and a half hours, where the Royal Albatross takes a leisurely loop around Sentosa before docking back at Resorts World Sentosa. Onboard, humans get to spend bonding time with their pooches over gourmet meals and serene sea views.

“Dogs are closely knitted members of the family, which means we want to take them out, not just for walks, but also to share our most enjoyable moments with them. Since dogs are not widely welcomed at restaurants in Singapore and they sort of love water, we thought a cruise aboard the Royal Albatross would be the perfect treat, for both the owner and the dog. And we were right, the dogs love the experience, they are treated like royalty with their own fine dining menu, they even sit at the table with their pawrents.”

One would think that putting many humans and dogs onboard a moving vessel could be a precarious affair. Pela was pleased to report that since the dog cruise first sail in 2019, there was nary an accident nor sailing in bad weather. As a precaution, all dogs are assessed for their suitability and temperament before boarding.

However, Pela recalled the naughtiest pooch during a pilot testing. He was jittery and took a chomp on Pela's thighs, dangerously inches away from his manhood.

We chat with Pela on his life-changing journey as the owner of his ship and doting dog parent.



Fudge and Tyson eyeing their gourmet dinner at the upper deck.

“ Dogs are closely knitted members of the family, which means we want to take them out, not just for walks, but also to share our most enjoyable moments with them. ”



Tyson and Fudge are cosied up at the lower deck, main suite.

PETS | WHAT'S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE FOR YOU AT WORK ON THE VESSEL?

PETER PELA PP | A typical day for me would be spent innovating, guiding and developing my team; but being a unique attraction has its challenges because there's nobody to copy or follow. We have to think outside of the box and be prepared to test concepts by using trial and error. Being an innovator, this is the part of my job I enjoy the most. Handling internal politics is the worst part, sometimes I wish I could employ robots!

P | WHY THE NAME – 'ALBATROSS' FOR THE SHIP?

PP | The name represents key values about the ship. The Royal Albatross is a rare seabird species and the 2nd largest of the 22 member Albatross family. Similarly, the ship is large and it has 1 sail for each of the 22 species. Like the ship, the Albatross, with its giant wingspan, covers great distances at sea elegantly and effortlessly. Historically, it's regarded by sailors as lucky to sight one (although the owner generally believes we make our own luck!) but a little bit of fortuitous assistance always helps.



P | WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH THIS DOG CRUISE?

PP | To create a like-minded community that love sharing special moments onboard Royal Albatross with their precious pups. Some couples and families feel incomplete when they go out without their furkid, so we create a special environment where they can share a romantic evening out together at sea. That's unique! Better humans = better dogs!

P | ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO DIVERSIFY INTO A CAT CRUISE?

PP | We have had 2 cats sail with us on Dog Cruise, however both the cats live with dogs so they didn't react to the other dogs onboard. We do know a lot of customers have a mixture of cats and dogs co-living together but cats are very different from dogs and generally are not used to being taken out. We are still thinking about holding a cat cruise and the risks involved. I would welcome your readers' views.

P | PLEASE SHARE SOME NOTEWORTHY CANINE PASSENGERS TO DATE AND WHY.

PP | We've welcomed over 900 dogs onboard of all shapes and sizes! Top 3 breeds: Poodles (Toy Poodles, Shih Tzu & Cockapoo), Japanese Spitz for medium size and the Golden Retrievers for large size!

The most expensive breed we've had onboard is Magnum - a Newfoundland puppy. He cost \$24K, and at 10 months old, weighed in at 44KG!"

From front Tyson today is a sprightly and bossy pup especially when he is on mascot duty. Fudge on the other hand is happy to play second fiddle aboard the ship but she is the princess when they are at home.

WIN DOG CRUISE TICKETS

Get 10% off our Buffet Breakfast/Sunset Dinner Dog Cruise with **PETSMAG10** & stand a chance to win a pair of tickets to our Royal Albatross Breakfast Buffet Dog Cruise worth \$250++*

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PUPPY LOVE

WHY DOGS ARE BETTER THAN CATS

Dogs have a lot of qualities that make them as lovable as a family member. Dogs are more trainable, their body language is easy to read, and they can protect you. Canines are also known to learn useful skills and love to play with two and four-legged family members.

Having a dog has many benefits that make it better than having a cat. And it is possible to think one is better than the other but still love both.

Here are reasons why dogs might be better than cats.



Pexels | Blue Bird

1

THEY'RE EAGER TO PLEASE



Pexels | Zen Chung

A dog's connection with their human family is precious. The contentment on a dog's face makes it easy to ply them with treats, which is perhaps why some pups are a little chubby. While cats can also be affectionate, they are not usually too concerned with making their human happy.

2

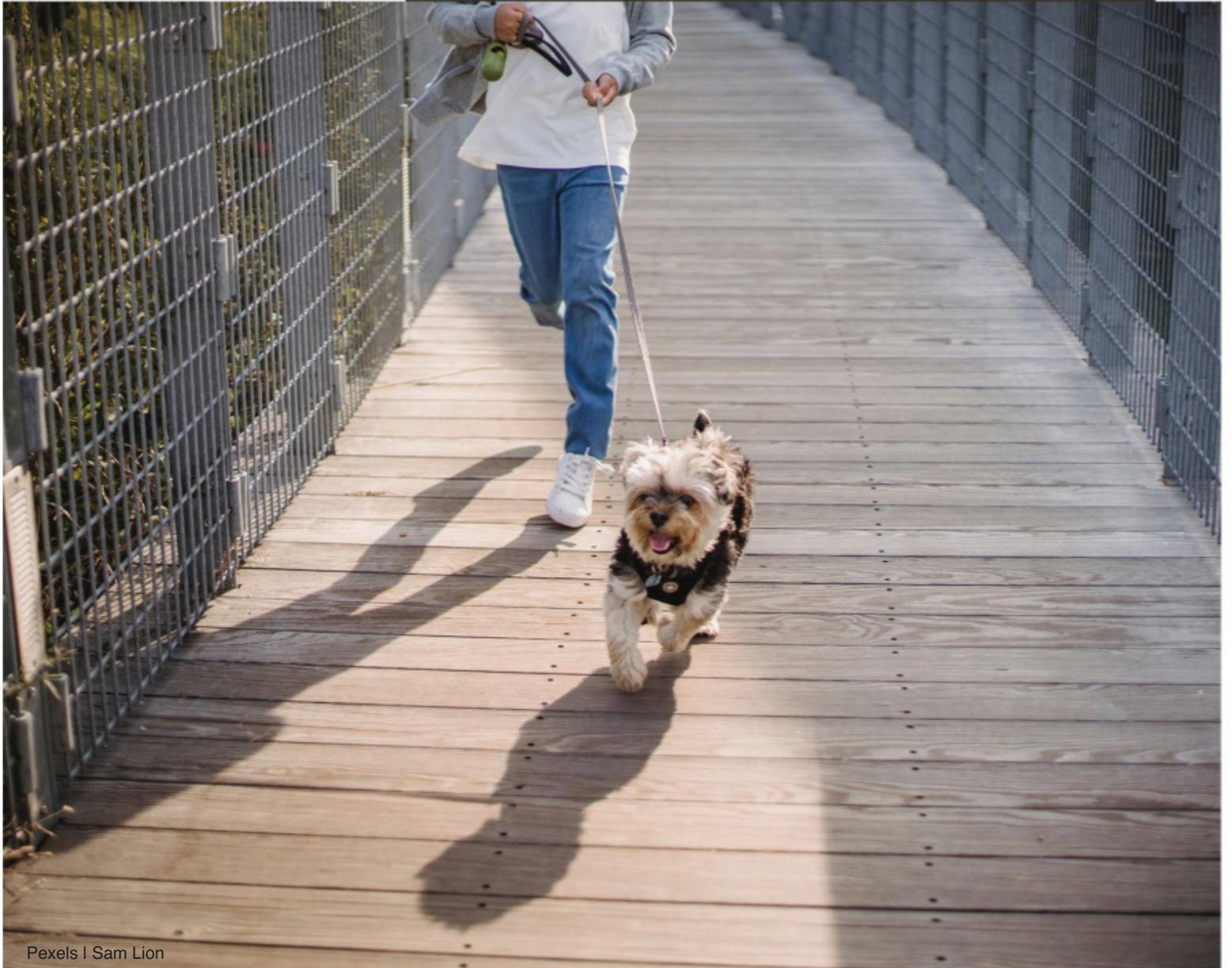
FAITHFUL COMPANIONS



Pexels | Meruyert Gonullu

There are hundreds of stories about loyal dogs, and one of the most famous dog is Hachiko. This Akita waited for his owner to return from his job at a train station in Japan every day. After his owner passed away, the loyal dog went to the train station, waiting for his owner to join him. Some cats can be loyal to their parents, but only when it is convenient for them, and it is certainly not what they are known for. Loyalty from a cat may, unfortunately, come in the form of a dead animal it hunts and gives to you as a gift.

3 THEY KEEP HUMANS ACTIVE



Pexels | Sam Lion

Dogs need daily walks to get fresh air and burn some energy, and most dog owners who are able will spend a lot of time outdoors with their pups. Cats like to wake you up nice and early too but beyond that, your cat might actually make it harder for you to move because they've made themselves so comfortable in your lap.

4

DOGS AND HUMANS WORK TOGETHER SEAMLESSLY



Pexels | Marcus Christensen

Dogs enjoy many roles and jobs, and some guide blind humans from place to place. Some places where dogs work with humans include: service, therapy, guard, search-and-rescue and military.

5

DOGS ADAPT BETTER
TO CHANGE

Pexels | J Carter

Unlike cats who are usually sensitive to their environments, dogs tend to accept change more easily, especially when their owners act like it's no big deal.

When it comes to introducing new people, pets, or items to your home or moving to a new house, cats generally need more time to adapt. Cats don't automatically trust that all is well. They want proof first. Most dogs take their cues from their owners. If you're cool and calm when that new baby comes in your door, chances are that your dog will be, too.

SOUND OFF

WHY DO CATS MEOW?



Cats generally meow to communicate with humans.

Unplash | Gaelle Marcel

Every day your cat looks at you indignantly and utters a despondent "meooow." You may not speak cat, but her meaning is clear: "You haven't fed me yet, you monster!"

House cats are unique in the way they use their voices to communicate with their human companions — they rarely meow at one another. But once cats get older, they use other vocalizations such as yowling, hissing, and growling to communicate with each other. Meowing is reserved for their communications with people.

Vocal Communication as a Tool

In the book "The Domestic Cat: The Biology of Its Behaviour", John Wright who is an animal psychologist wrote that historically cats did not need to use their voices to communicate. Instead, these wild cats communicated through their sense of smell, or by rubbing against or urinating on objects like trees. That way, cats did not have to come face-to-face with other feisty felines in order to send a message.

But humans do not have nearly as fine-tuned a sense of smell as felines. So, cats communicate with their humans in the way that is most likely to get them what they want: by meowing.

Meowing at humans is partially a learned behavior. All cats meow as kittens to get their mom's attention when they are hurt, cold or when she accidentally sits on them. In short, your cat meows at you because early on, she learned that doing so got your attention.

If your cat is talking a little more than you would like, try to figure out the cause first. Once you know the reason, you can then work to get your cat to meow less.

Here are Possible Causes of Excessive Meowing According to WebMD.

ILLNESS

The first step is a thorough checkup by your veterinarian. Numerous diseases can cause a cat to feel hunger, thirst, or pain, all of which can lead to excessive meowing. Cats also can develop an overactive thyroid or kidney disease, both of which can result in excessive vocalizations.

ATTENTION SEEKING

Cats are famously independent but that does not mean that they like being alone a lot. Cats often meow to initiate play, petting, or to get you to talk to them. If you want to cut down on attention-seeking meows, stop responding when it happens. Only give them attention when they are quiet. If they start to meow again, look or walk away. But do not ignore your pet. Spend quality time each day with them, playing, grooming, and talking to them. A tired pet is a quieter pet.

FEED ME

Some cats meow every time someone walks in the kitchen, hoping to get a bite. And many cats become very vocal when it gets close to their feeding times. If this is your problem, do not feed your cat when they cry. Wait until they are quiet to put down food, and don't give them treats when they meow. If this does not work, get an automatic feeder that opens at set times. Now kitty will meow at the feeder and not you.

A STRESSED CAT

Cats that are experiencing stress often become more vocal. A new pet or baby, a move or changes to the home, an illness or the loss of a loved one can turn your cat into

a talker. Try to discover what is stressing your pet and help them adjust to the change. Alternatively, give your cat extra attention to help soothe them.

AGING CATS

Cats, just like people, can suffer from a form of mental confusion, or cognitive dysfunction, as they age. They become disoriented and often cry plaintively for no apparent reason, especially at night. A nightlight sometimes can help if your cat becomes disoriented at night, and veterinarians often can prescribe medications that help these symptoms.

CATS THAT WANT TO BREED

If your cat is not spayed or neutered, then you are going to hear a lot more noise. Females yowl when in heat, and males yowl when they smell a female in heat. Both can be maddening to live with. Getting your pet spayed or neutered will prevent this.

What not To Do

Curbing excessive meowing takes patience and some understanding. Here are three tips to keep in mind to make the journey easier:

- ✓ Don't ignore it without making sure there's no problem. Although you don't want to reward meowing, sometimes cats meow for good reason - they can't reach their litter box, they are trapped in a room, the water bowl is empty. Check on them when they meow to determine if it's something you can safely ignore, or a problem that must be corrected right away.
- ✓ Don't punish a cat for meowing. Hitting, shouting, and spraying cats with water rarely work to quiet a meowing cat in the long run, but all those actions will make your cat distrust or even dislike you.
- ✓ Don't give in. If your cat is used to getting what they want from meowing, they are going to meow more, and louder, when it quits working. In other words, it will probably get worse before it gets better. Just keep rewarding quiet behavior and ignoring meowing, and eventually they will get the idea.

SASSY CALICOS

THE TRI-COLOURED CAT THAT IS OFTEN CONFUSED
WITH THE TORTOISESHELL BREED

Calicos are a domestic cat of any breed with a tri-color coat; typically black, orange, and white. The white can be 25-75% of their fur.

Tortoiseshell cats (or “torties”) are often mistaken for calico cats, and vice versa, since torties have black and orange in their coats. The main difference between the two is that tortoiseshell cats have a black-based coat while calicos have a white-based one.

Let’s dive on some facts on the Calico cat!

Just Like Torties, Calico Cats are Most Often Female.

Calicos are almost always female since a cat's coat coloring is linked to genetics. Black and orange fur are both linked to the X chromosome, and since female cats have two X chromosomes, they can have both colors at once. White fur is coded by another gene. Male calico cats are very rare and are usually sterile since they only occur as the result of a genetic anomaly.



Breeds Embracing Calico Cats

You can find calico cats across many distinct breeds with the exception of solid-color breed such as the Russian Blue or the British Shorthair and pointed breeds such as the Siamese or Himalayan.

Some of the breeds you can find in calico appearance include Maine Coon, Manx, Persian, American Shorthair, Japanese Bobtail and Siberian.



Pexels | Karolina Grabowska



Unsplash | Christin Noelle

Cats with Attitude

Calicoes have unique personalities and it's particularly exciting to be a parent to one. They share a similar personality with tortoiseshell cats charmingly described as "tortitude."

Torties are known for being spunky, sassy, and independent by nature. Calico cats may share these characteristics but they can be loyal and sweet too.



Pexels | Daniel Comelli

Lucky Charm

Given their rarity, calico cats are known as lucky charms and signs of good luck around the world. People also believe that calico cats bring good fortune to the homes of families who adopt them. Another fun fact is that they are sometimes referred to as money cats in the United States. In the 1870's, calico cats were declared an official symbol of fortune in Japan (Maneki-Neko).

Heroic & Brave

A calico cat saved Japan's railway station from being closed down. In 2007, the Kinokawa train station was about to be closed due to budget issues. As a last resort, the town sent a local calico cat to be the station master, where she would greet passengers as they passed by. The calico cat became a celebrity, causing a 17% increase in station traffic. The calico cat's good luck is indeed true.

Pexels | Bruno Curly

KISS & TELL

WHY THE KISSING GOURAMI
LOCK LIPS WITH ONE
ANOTHER AND THEIR BEST
TANK MATES

Also known as Pink Kissing Gourami, Kissing Fish or Kissers, Kissing Gouramis are a favorite for many fish keepers. They are native to Southeast Asia, originating from Thailand and Indonesia.

Kissing gourami is a fish with fleshy, pouting lips, which is its characteristic feature. Even the name of the family Helostomatidae is derived from this feature.

The first thing you will notice about Kissing Gourami is their distinctive mouth. It protrudes outwards from the body and is unique to this species of Gourami. Their jaw has an additional joint, which increases the angle that their mouth can open, making more food accessible to them.

Not Kissing

This species gets its name because individuals are often seen “kissing” in the water. While this may sound romantic, it is not. The lip-locking is actually a form of fighting over territory, usually between males. Fighting will reduce as they mature and clearly define their own mating territories.

Occasionally this aggression might be directed towards tank mates. They can be kept in communities, but only with similarly sized fish. They sometimes ram the sides of other fish, which removes their slime coat.



Quora

Tank Mates

One of the important aspects of kissing gourami fish care is the choice of tank mates. As they are sometimes aggressive, it is always better to keep them with slightly larger fish. Kissing gouramis may also feed on smaller fish in the tank. They may also bully other fish and 'kiss' them. This may result in the loss of the protective mucus layer on the skin (of the other fish) that becomes prone to infection, leading to death. Ideal kissing fish tank mates are cichlids, catfish, clown loach and barbs.

Keeping Kissing Gourami Together

Keeping these fish together can be difficult because they direct their aggression towards those fish that look like themselves. A pair of one male and one female can be

kept together with few quarrels. Larger groups can be kept but it is riskier and will require a much larger tank.

Breeding

When ready to mate, the pair will start circling each other. This behavior will intensify until they are beating their tails and kissing.

The male will wrap himself around the female and turn her upside down, at which point she will release eggs to be fertilized by the male. There could potentially be thousands of eggs released.

Remove the parents once the eggs have risen to the surface as they may eat their own young. The fry should hatch after a day. They will be too small to eat adult foods so give them infusoria, baby brine shrimp or crushed foods until they mature.

Kissing gouramis may also feed on smaller fish in the tank, bully and 'kiss' them. This may result in the loss of the protective mucus layer on the skin (of the other fish) that becomes prone to infection, leading to death. If this happens, separate the fish.



Wikimedia | Green Yoshi

FACTS OVERVIEW

Care Level	Intermediate
Temperament	Semi-aggressive
Color	Pink or green
Lifespan	5-7 years
Size	Up to 12 inches
Diet	Omnivore
Family	Helostomatidae
Tank setup	50 gallons, freshwater, heavily planted

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FEISTY STREAKS

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE
ANGELFISH

Unplash | Ray Aucott

Angelfish are popular among aquarists because of their unique arrowhead bodies with beautiful, flowing fins. Although angelfish are usually peaceful, the fish are known to prey upon small fish and fight amongst fish of their kind.

Here are fun facts about these exotic swimmers.

1 Aggressive by Nature
While angelfish may initially appear to get along with other fish in the same tank, that doesn't mean that they'll continue to keep the peace when sharing a tank over a long term. Angels also tend to become more aggressive while protecting a spawn, and they're known to go to war over territory when they feel cramped.

2 Carnivores in the Wild
In their natural habitat, angelfish usually eat mostly insects and arthropods. As pets, their diets tend to consist of a mix of commercial food and live, frozen or dehydrated brine shrimp or mosquito larvae. A balanced diet with a mixture of foods is always a good idea for the angelfish.



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3 Prone to Diseases
Angelfish often fall victim to certain diseases like Hexamita (a parasite that results in weight loss, increased stool production, color change and decay of fish skin, producing hole-like lesions), and “cottonmouth,” produced by infection with a column-shaped bacteria in unsanitary conditions that cause cotton-like lesions that eat away the mouth and disintegrate the fins.

The number one way to guard against disease is to always quarantine new fish for a minimum of four to six weeks.

4 Angels Can Grow to Nearly 10 Inches
On average, well-cared for angelfish will reach about 6 inches at adulthood, which is about a year and a half old. If they're housed in very large tanks and are not overcrowded, they can reach nearly 10 inches, although this would be quite rare in captivity.

5 True Omnivores
Angelfish will eat live foods and plants, so these omnivores need to be fed the right foods to help them reach optimum size and remain healthy. It's usually best to offer a daily feeding of flakes or a pelleted diet formulated for angels.

6 Strict Housing Conditions
Always keep angelfish in the cleanest, largest size tank you can support, and make sure you have a good filtration system that doesn't create excessive currents in the water, because angels aren't the most agile swimmers. The right water conditions can also lessen stress on your angels and keep them healthier and happier. With proper water conditions, you can expect the angelfish lifespan to be up to 10 years.

7 Rainbow of Colours
Angelfish are available in several colors, and the most common angelfish color is silver with four vertical black stripes. In addition to silver, angelfish are found in gold, black, white, orange, and yellow. Marbled angelfish have no black stripes, but have a combination of marbled black, white, orange, yellow, gold, and silver on their bodies.

The brightness of an angelfish's coloring depends on the fish's mood and stress levels. When angelfish are stressed or asleep, the fish appear duller in color.

8 Ich-y Business
Ich (sometimes called ick) is an opportunistic parasitic condition that can strike at any time the conditions in the tank are right, and angelfish are highly susceptible to it. The parasite can spread from one fish to another, and it can also exist in the tank on its own before attaching to a fish. Overcrowding, poor water conditions, and improper diet can all contribute to ich infestation.

9 Angels Lay Eggs
Fish either give birth to live babies or they lay eggs that are fertilized and hatched later. Angels fall in the egg-laying category. The female prefers to deposit her eggs in neat rows on a piece of submerged slate leaned against a wall of the tank.

10 Not Just Black & White
The original freshwater angelfish was a standard silver angelfish. However, mutations in the standard coloring have occurred, and breeders have capitalized on them to create many interesting and beautiful varieties. One of the most recent is the Philippine Blue angelfish, which actually displays some blue coloration as seen in the following video of a breeding pair and their 7-day-old offspring.



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UNSPLASH | Phil Hearing

PARROT FEVER

SIGNS, SYMPTOMS AND
PREVENTION METHODS

Parrot Fever, also called "psittacosis" and "chlamydiosis", can occur in any bird but is especially common in cockatiels, Amazon parrots and budgerigars. The disease can cause chronic infections, asymptomatic infections or sudden death. The disease is contagious and can also be transmitted to humans.

Here are the signs and prevention methods associated with psittacosis to help minimize the risk of this disease affecting homes with pet birds.

What is Psittacosis?

Psittacosis is caused by an organism called *Chlamydophila psittaci* (or *C. psittaci*). Which shares similarities with viruses and bacteria, but is different enough to be classified within its own special group.

Like a virus, but unlike many bacteria, it lives right inside the cells of the bird, which makes it difficult to kill with treatment. Infected birds are asymptomatic until they become stressed. This triggers the onset of symptoms.

Symptoms of Psittacosis

- ✓ Puffy and swollen eyes
- ✓ Lethargy
- ✓ Loss of appetite and weight loss
- ✓ Fluffed feathers
- ✓ Nasal discharge
- ✓ Abnormal droppings

Preventive Measures

One important aspect of preventing psittacosis is to control infection among birds. Use water or disinfectant to wet surfaces before cleaning bird cages or surfaces contaminated with bird droppings. Avoid dry sweeping or vacuuming to minimize circulation of feathers and dust. Also, remember to thoroughly wash your hands with running water and soap after contact with birds or their droppings.

Keep cages clean; clean cages and food and water bowls daily.

Position cages so that food, feathers, and droppings cannot spread between them (i.e., do not stack cages, use solid-sided cases or barriers if cages are next to each other).

Avoid over-crowding.

Isolate and treat infected birds.

Treatment

Thankfully, psittacosis can be readily treated with antibiotics. It is diagnosed with blood tests and chest x-rays. The symptoms usually ease within one day, but the full course of tablets needs to be taken.

Once psittacosis has been diagnosed and if you have pet birds, it is important to test and then treat the birds and their environment. Take any sick birds to your veterinarian to allow illness to be investigated. Remember that healthy birds may be harbouring the bacteria as well.

Humans at Risk

People who have birds as pets, poultry workers and anyone working in aviaries or pet shops, are most at risk of catching psittacosis. However, even casual contact with an infected bird can result in infection. There have been reports of some people developing psittacosis despite having no recognised contact at all with birds.

In humans, psittacosis typically causes respiratory disease, fever, chills, fatigue, muscle pain and dry cough. Always tell your doctor about any possible exposures to infected animals to help them determine whether psittacosis is the cause of your symptoms.

““

Parrot Fever, also called "psittacosis" and "chlamydiosis", can occur in any bird but is especially common in cockatiels, Amazon parrots and budgerigars.

””

BEAKY CONUNDRUMS

KEEPING THE BEAK HEALTHY WILL
HELP KEEP YOUR BIRD IN TOP FORM
AND HAPPY TOO.

UNSPLASH | Karina Maslina

A bird's beak is used for many things from a weapon, to grooming, to the delicate feeding of a nestling. Beaks can be a combination of strength and sensitivity, strong enough to crack a walnut yet delicate enough to peel a grape.

Like horns or fingernails, the beak is constantly growing. Depending upon the

species, a bird's beak grows from one-to-three inches a year. If your bird's beak is smooth, symmetrical, and the upper and lower beak are in alignment, their beak is healthy and in good condition. Keep an eye out for overgrowth, unusual textures, and peeling. If you notice any of these symptoms, your pet may need a change in diet and care.

Common Beak Problems

A flaky beak is common in the parrot species such as Conures and Cockatoos.

If you do notice that your pet bird has a flaky beak, the most likely culprit is a vitamin deficiency. Do consult with your avian veterinarian for suggestions for supplements or dietary changes that will help heal your pet's mouth.

Other common beak disorders noted in pet birds are known as scissors beak and parrot beak, both growth abnormalities that can only be corrected with prosthetics or surgery administered by a qualified avian veterinarian.

Beak Health

These tips will help you make sure that your bird's beak is strong.

MAINTAIN A HEALTHY DIET - A healthy diet is essential to keeping your exotic bird's beak healthy and strong. Make sure that they are fed a well-balanced diet with plenty of nutrients.

PROVIDE PLENTY OF TOYS - You should add soft wood and other destructible toys for your bird to play with and chew on. This will help prevent the buildup of keratin on the surface of the beak, keeping their beak trim and healthy while they chew.

ADD CUTTLEBONES TO THEIR CAGE - Mineral blocks and cuttlebones contain calcium that help keep your bird's beak strong.



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JOYFUL PICKINGS

TIPS ON SELECTING A HEALTHY GUINEA PIG

Unsplash | Jaroslaw Slodkiewicz

As pocket pets, guinea pigs make cute and adorable companions. They are small, don't require much space, are quiet, relatively low-maintenance, and have adorableness in spades.

Before you try a pet store, look to an animal shelter or a guinea pig rescue. There are many guinea pigs who need a second chance at a forever home. Quite often, these pets are given up because their previous owner simply could not care for them or they didn't get along with another pet in the household. When choosing a guinea pig to adopt, there are a few things to look for to help you determine if the animal is healthy.

This balanced diet should be fed consistently and without major changes which will likely land them upset stomachs. Fortunately, you can feed a gerbil the same thing throughout its life.

Physical Attributes

When choosing a guinea pig for a pet, look for an animal that appears healthy, plump, and alert. The animal may initially be fearful or skittish but should, in a short time, respond positively to gentle stroking.

Check over the animal carefully. The eyes should be bright and clean, not crusty or lusterless. The nose, eyes, ears, and anus should be clear and free of any discharge or discoloration.

The teeth should be clean and unstained and the long incisors in the upper jaw should overlap and just touch the bottom incisors. Check the feet to be sure they are well-formed and move easily. The feet should be uninjured and without flakes, red spots, or scars. When breathing, it should be quiet with no strange wheezing or gurgling noises.

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Bringing Home Guinea Pigs

Familiarize yourself with the differences between male and female guinea pigs. Make sure that wherever you get your guinea pig, they house the males and females separately. Because female guinea pigs can become pregnant as young as two months of age, this often means that even a fairly young female guinea pig can be pregnant at the time of purchase.

Do not get a piglet younger than six weeks old. Female piglets should remain with their mothers until at least four weeks old. Do add a few weeks after mother separation to make sure the piglet can thrive on its own.

Temperament

The guinea pig should appear lively, curious and bright in nature- not lethargic. Observe how the guinea pig behaves around, and reacts to people. It is completely normal for them to appear a little skittish at first, but they should be relatively calm and comfortable with being approached, and in the company of others.

Look at the housing for the guinea pigs you are considering. The cage or enclosure should be clean, with very little odor. Guinea pigs that are kept under good conditions will generally be calmer, less stressed, and will have less exposure to some typical diseases.

Top Tips to Look Out For

- 1 Try and find out the age of your guinea pig, and adopt one as young as possible. 6 weeks is the youngest and best age a piglet should be when going off to a new home.
- 2 Check out any other guinea pigs that are in the same cage or shelter. If they seem ill, off or lethargic, it is probably best to avoid buying from there, as it could be a health issue that is contagious.
- 3 As female guinea pigs can become pregnant as young as 4 weeks of age, if you are buying a female, make sure she has been separated from males to save you from the possibility of a surprise litter.
- 4 Do ask to handle them. If you have small children, you don't want a guinea that is uncomfortable and skittish around small hands.



Pexels | Scott Webb

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PEXELS | Anna Shvets

Rabbits can be pesky little chewers, and you don't want to be caught off guard. To keep your home, rabbits, and your family safe, proper rabbit-proofing is absolutely necessary.

If you don't have a designated space for your rabbit or you simply want your bunny to explore, these tips will help you to keep everyone safe and prevent your home from becoming damaged.

Happy bunny-proofing!

Why You Should Bunny-Proof?

- 1 Prevent destructive behaviors of your rabbit
- 2 Keep your rabbit safe
- 3 Give your rabbit fun alternatives for chewing and digging

Flooring

Rabbits are natural burrowers, which means digging is a natural behavior for your rabbit. Linoleum, tile, and laminate flooring are popular choices for bunny owners since they can't be dug into, don't absorb urine, and won't stain. Plastic mats are going to be the most durable way to prevent your rabbit from getting at the carpet.

Electrical Cords and Outlets

Try to consolidate as many wires as you can into just one or two spots. Then block those areas off from your rabbit. This could mean locating a TV and computer set up in a room where your rabbit is not allowed.

Protect cords with plastic cord protectors and flex tubing (corrugated plastic tubing) and use a baby electrical outlet plug to make sure your rabbit doesn't try to chew the outlet opening as well.

Furniture

Furniture legs and baseboards are often the victims of rabbit teeth. Flex tubing is a popular choice to slide onto furniture legs since it is flexible and comes in different diameters. Large PVC piping is another protective option or you can use temporary chewing alternatives like toilet paper and paper towel tubes to slide onto thin table legs and provide your rabbit with something to shred. Other creative options include plastic flower pots and plastic furniture corner protectors.

Barriers and Protectors

Use baby gates and wooden doors to block off furniture, that your rabbit could get under or behind, where you can't get them out.

Do note that many pet gates that are made for small animals have spaces that a rabbit can slip right through. A rabbit can clear two feet quite easily and squeeze into tight spaces.

Prevent rabbits from chewing the bottoms and corners of wooden doors with a kick plate at the bottom of them. A kick plate can also be helpful in covering up previous rabbit damage on the bottom of a door. Also, be sure to remove the door stop if it is at the bunny's level and instead utilize one at the top of the door or install a door handle wall guard.

House Plants

Rabbits love to explore and eat just about anything they can, most especially any plants you have inside. It's safe for you to assume that all types of house plants are poisonous to your rabbit, so if you can't put them

completely out of your rabbit's way, it's best to leave them out of your home's décor or keep plants in pots off the ground.

Make Items Taste Bad

Bitter sprays will work as a bad-taste deterrent to keep rabbits from chewing on anything they shouldn't.

For a homemade bitter apple spray, combine two cups of apple cider vinegar with one cup of regular white vinegar. Shake well and spray wherever you need to. You could also use lemon juice instead of apple cider vinegar.

Provide Chewing Options

The best thing you can really do to bunny-proof any room is to make sure a variety of chewing options are available to your rabbit at all times. While you can train a bunny not to chew certain items, they will always chew what you don't want them to chew but if they have things they can chew they will be less likely to chew a baseboard, door, or table leg.



PEXELS | Tima Miroshnichenko

PLUSH PALS

6 REASONS WHY
CHINCHILLAS MAKE GREAT PETS



Native to the Andes Mountains, chinchillas are endangered in the wild but they continue to thrive as pets! As part of the rodent family, these plush pals require some specialized chinchilla care and have a personality that's all their own.

Pexels | Bulat Khamitov

1 Low-Maintenance Diet
Chinchillas are herbivores and don't require a lot of complex foods, but it's important to stick to their modest yet essential dietary needs. They live off a simple high-fiber, low-fat and low-sugar diet based on timothy hay and compacted chinchilla pellets.

2 The Softest Fur
Chinchillas are famous for their soft, luxurious and extremely dense fur. Their fur is so thick that one follicle can hold up to 50 hairs or more! They also don't produce as much dander as other pets which is great for pet lovers prone to allergies; plus, fleas and mites have little to no interest in their naturally impenetrable fur.

3 Fur as a Defense Mechanism
Want to know another fun fact about chinchilla fur? It serves as a defense mechanism. When threatened, chinchillas have the ability to automatically release patches of fur to escape known as fur slip. Never grab a chinchilla by the fur, since mishandling your fur baby could mean she won't be as furry for long.

4 They Bathe Themselves in Dust
Unlike other pets, chinchillas shouldn't bathe in water because it will strip the natural oils from their dense fur. Instead, they require a dust bath to keep their coats silky smooth. As an extra bonus, dust baths can even help alleviate stress in your chinchilla pet which means more fun for them.

5 Long Lifespan
Chinchillas have an average lifespan of 10-15 years and can even live up to 20 years! This means that you can create a strong, long-lasting bond with your chinchilla.

6 Smart & Trainable
Chinchillas are trainable, and they can learn to be potty trained and gently held. It helps to start when they are young, and you need to build a strong bond with them. A bonded chinchilla will be more social and is more receptive to being held than one that hasn't had the chance to bond.

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