

Pet Life - Magazine Issue 3.  
WINTER 2017  
CELEBRATE YOUR PET

# Dances with Wolves

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Every pet deserves



# Letter from the Editor



**It's been a couple of months of doggy trials in my household. There's nothing worse than when your beloved pet is going through a really bad patch and you have to juggle masses of work commitments with giving her the love, support and after-surgery care that she needs.**

Poor old Roxy "Foxtrot" (one of her many pet names)! My Little Doggy – who is not so little being a Rhodesian Ridgeback and not so old having just turned 1 – got spayed, had an unfortunate incident during surgery which meant another month of veterinary care and "quiet time", and then underwent more surgery to remove a couple of salivary glands that mysteriously ruptured.

The latest surgery happened in the week that I started a new "office" job, an hour's drive from home – and my Bald Pommy Bloke is conveniently in the UK visiting family so I'm a temporary solo mother!

Usually I'm a stay-at-home dog mum banging away at the keyboard in my own office with three dogs at my feet (OK, maybe on the beds) so nothing about my pack is ever a problem. I have the time to invest in their doggy needs.

All of sudden, leaving home in the dark and coming home in the dark three times a week offered up all sorts of complications, the smallest being no time to walk the dogs or pick up dog poo in daylight hours. Not to mention that they're not used to Mum not being around.

The biggest headache has been what to do with Fox Dog, who came home from the vet with a long list of must-nots and must-dos.

If only taking her to work was an option! She'd happily lie on the floor nearby while I worked and not be a bother.

How great are companies who let their employees take their dogs to the office?

In this issue, we talk to an Auckland tech company about why having dogs in the office is good for business.

And it's not just good for the business owner – it also relieves any stress that dog owners may feel having to leave their pets alone all day, even when they are fit and healthy.

In my case, I could keep an eye on Roxy Roo to make sure she's not clawing out her stitches, crashing about the house in her Elizabeth collar, or weeing on the carpet because I have to keep her inside, away from temptation to playfight with her big sister or have a sneaky swim in the harbour – big must-nots! Being in an office would be good for her socialisation, too.

As this issue's tips on raising puppies says – introducing your young pet to strangers and all sorts of different experiences is key to raising a happy, calm and confident dog.

And, in my experience, extremely important when it comes to trips to the vets! Every visit with Roxy has been a struggle, and at this stage I shall be attempting to take out her stitches by myself at home.

The last thing I need is for her to jerk her head at the last minute while the vet has a scalpel close to her neck – to then fork out yet more money for more medical care.

Yup, vet care sure does snowball! About \$4000 later I sure am kicking myself for not getting the pet insurance I had said I would get for my next dog!

*inger*

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Cat: Dances  
Owned by: Sam Wallace

# Dances with Wolves

## = a Sam Wallace story



There's a lovely story behind the photo of Sam Wallace wearing a wolf hat while cuddling his cat.

It starts with the cat called Dances. When Sam, a co-host for radio station The Hits' breakfast show, moved into his new home he found a stray cat had taken residence under his house and it was not in good shape. "He was in a pretty bad way," says Sam, TVNZ's former weatherman. "He was really, really sickly, with a big cyst on his ear. He was in all sorts of trouble, and really ill." After some coaxing and treats, he managed to get the cat out and to the vet. Two-thousand dollars later, Sam had a good-as-new cat and a dent in his bank balance. And he had to come up with a name for his new pet. So picture Sam as Lt. John Dunbar in the 1990 movie *Dances with Wolves*. The cat is the wolf. In the film there is a moving scene where Lt. Dunbar is trying to make friends with the wolf. He gives treats, the wolf moves forward, and then dances away. Eventually the wolf comes in close and the two become friends. That's how Sam came up with the name Dances for his new cat. Except he got it wrong – on watching the film recently he found out that the wolf was called Two Socks. But that's OK, because Dances suits Dances and Sam suits his wolf hat! What Sam, who is an animal lover, says he didn't get wrong was helping save the life of a stray cat, even though Dances has cost him even more money since. "I had this little sick creature that I couldn't bear to let it be unwell, so I took him under my wing and championed the project. Then, after the original \$2000 dollars, he got into a cat fight and that cost another \$1000. "I cannot see an animal suffering I would do it again."

### QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS

#### **Are you a cat or a dog person?**

I grew up with dogs (two German Pointers) and two cats but then went to cats and have had cats ever since. But we have a family dog as well, so I am an "animal person", I don't care what it is: I love it!

#### **When you go away does your cat go to a cattery or do you use an in-house pet-sitting service?**

I have never used a cattery. Dances is a lover not a fighter, he has the most gentle nature. Every time he gets in a fight he loses badly and more often than not gets an infected wound. So when we go away, my sister or mum come around to feed him.

#### **What is your cat's favourite treat?**

Temptations ... he goes mad for them!

#### **Do you ever brush your cat?**

He won't be brushed. Not his bag. He likes to be patted but only on the face or head ... otherwise he turns into a fluffball with a weapon in each corner.

#### **What's the worst "present" your cat has brought home for you?**

Semi-live mice. It's worst when they are alive because you have to become the executioner.

#### **Does your cat stay inside at night or patrol the neighbourhood?**

He has a cat door ... but nine times out of 10 he's annoyingly on the bed directly between our legs.

#### **How old is your cat?**

Six years old ... but he has the spirit of a kitten!

#### **Does your cat sleep with you?**

Most nights ... but never under the covers, only at the end of the bed.

#### **What would your dream pet be?**

A tiger or a monkey.

\* Thanks to Sam for giving up his time to share his story and having *Pet Life* in his home. Thanks also goes to Heidi, the producer of The Hits, and Sam's co-hosts, Sarah and Toni, for helping him choose his front cover attire. (A mermaid outfit did run as a very close second!)



## Pet Life

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# LITTLE DOGGY, BIG PERSONALITY

Hey! I am Harry the Border Terrier, and I am 4. I was going to tell you about my dad, Andrew Little, and his upcoming campaign as the Leader of the Opposition Party, but I figure that is pretty boring. So, I will tell you about my life living with a New Zealand politician, instead.

Dad got me as part of an agreement he had with my human brother, that when he got into Parliament the family would get a cute, little pup. Lucky for them, I am exactly that!

Dad's friend had a Border Terrier and he liked that we are a robust and good-natured breed – one that would fit nicely into the family lifestyle. He picked me up when I was just 8 weeks old. I am the first dog in the family – there was a pesky cat that passed over the rainbow bridge last year but they won't be replacing him because I am all they need.

The humans say that I am a very good dog. I am sociable with everyone, humans and dogs – even great big dogs don't faze me.

I like to see people eye-to-eye, so I'm forever jumping up in their faces. But the small humans can't resist me so it's not like I have to go crazy to get their attention.

I get to go on lots of walks and adventures. Dad usually takes me in the weekend and in the early morning to the Lyall Bay dog beach or an awesome park in Happy Valley. My human brother and Mum – who is a cat person, boo hiss – take me as well, sometimes!

I love bringing a tennis ball on our walks. I make sure I show my family how happy I am to have it by trotting away whenever they try and take it off me. I throw it in the air and roll around in the sand with it – they always want to play some silly game called Fetch but I won't stand for that. What a dumb game that is!



Sometimes our walks are so long that I get extremely tired – so tired that I will fall off the couch later while sleeping. Everyone laughs when I do that!

My favourite toys are balls. I love all types of balls, but the best ones are soft and squishy between my teeth. I'm not really good at sharing my toys, however. My family always wants to play with them, too, whenever I am – but no way, they're not getting their hands on them!

My favourite pastime is hunting out rabbit holes and diving on in. The scent of rabbit just drives me crazy; I so have to see what is inside those dugout holes.

Oh, and I love finding dead animals and rolling in them. I don't think Dad shares my love of the smell so much because he always puts me in the bathtub after I do that. Personally, I can't stand the smell of that doggy shampoo!

All in all, though, I have a pretty sweet life. I love my dad, and I love it when he gets home from work – and that can be quite late at night.

Finally, check out this photo of Dad and I – you have to admit, I'm pretty damn adorable, right?

Morgan Healey



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# MODERN-DAY WORKING DOGS

More and more companies are allowing dogs (and other pets) in offices – and one pet-friendly tech company in Auckland says you'd be barking mad not to, writes Inger Vos.

Vend chief people officer Pene Barton begins this interview by apologising for her dogs in case they cause a disruption while we talk.

Pene has two pugs, Pepper, 8, and Steak, 10, who are allowed to go to work with her at the Auckland headquarters of the fast growing tech company that specialises in point-of-sale and retail management software.

It's company policy that all its employees can take their dogs to work with them, and Vend has actively looked for offices that will allow dogs as it has expanded internationally. It has dog-friendly offices in London, Melbourne and Toronto.

Pene is one of 10 employees in the Auckland office who bring their dog to work.

The office has an off leash policy and the dogs wander around and amuse themselves. There are plenty of couches on which the dogs can be found sleeping, or they curl up under a desk. "It's part of the Vend culture," says Pene, who describes work as fun, social, incredibly flexible and fast paced. Vend even allows bereavement leave for pets.

"The dogs bark, they're noisy and they leave fur about the place.

"If people don't like that then they probably wouldn't thrive in our environment."

It's been scientifically recognised that bringing dogs to work has key benefits.

Studies have shown that dogs in the workplace boost productivity. Colleagues become nicer to each other and more trusting after patting a canine. Playing with dogs reduces stress.

Pene says any frazzle at Vend certainly drops when all of a sudden a dog runs between your legs or through the office. "You can get out of your chair and play with the dog, engage with it. You can't replicate that feeling with anything else. There is something nice about it. It keeps people down to earth." The pets have rules of behaviour that is expected of them. It's called petiquette and it's pretty simple: they are not to be hugely distracting – employees don't take them if they have back-to-back meetings – and they are not to be a health and safety risk in that they attack someone.

"We tell clients that come in that there are dogs in the office. The most that has ever happened is a dog has barked at someone ... one dog doesn't like people wearing red and will bark at them, or if my dog wears a costume he doesn't like that," says Pene, who sometimes likes to dress Pepper up as, for example, a shark.

Vend has called in dog trainers to sort out some problems but the dogs are generally well behaved and get on. "It's no one's territory."

The pets actually are part of the furniture, and are used as a marketing tool.

Jump on the Vend website and there they are. Pepper, for instance, features in a video on the recruitment process at Vend, and is in charge of the recruitment page chatbox. Then there is Tinks, whose photo features among "some of the people that make Vend Vend" – she is in charge of cuddles. Pene says allowing dogs in the workplace is very attractive for people looking for work and "it's a big thing" in Vend's recruitment.

"That is why people join us, for sure. People are attracted to bringing their dogs to work."

And it helps keep employees, too. "People who bring their dogs to work – that's a pretty hard benefit to give up."

Frog Recruitment director Jane Kennelly agrees.

"Dog-friendly companies are highly sought after as places of employment," says the founder of the recruitment company that works with a number of large corporations and SMEs that allow dogs in offices.

"There are not as many absentees ... or burnout. Productivity is up."

"Research shows that employees that have dogs slobbering all over them are more likely to trust each other ... Stress levels are reduced when there's a little bit of heart running around on four legs."

Jane started the competition Top Office Dog a couple of years ago to give some "kudos" to all the dogs in New Zealand that brighten up the workplace.

Last year, the second year of the competition, 80 dogs were entered.

The winner was Alfie, a feisty Jack Russell who loves balls and aerosol cans and works as spokesdog at Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

Alfie had arrived at the council's pound with a fractured leg and in a lot of pain, but his fun and affectionate ways completely won over the staff and they all contributed to his vet bills. Jane says Alfie – who was so excited about winning that he did a poo on the carpet in front of TV cameras – is a good example of how much people like dogs and how dogs create cohesiveness in the workplace.

"They loved him so much they had a collection to get his leg fixed. Now he's the poster dog for vaccine control."

"A Top Office Dog is one that seems to be very well behaved but really I think it is about the impact that they have on their environment. With Alfie, he mobilised a whole group of people to help him and in return he has enriched their lives."



# Every pet deserves



## Pet insurance – is it essential?

There is a rapid rise in the number of homes that have domestic pets – specifically cats and dogs. And with this increase there is now an array of services that are available to protect and care for these canine and feline friends. Pet insurance plays a prime role here. It provides owners with a safety net to fall back on during unexpected times.

Having a pet of any kind is a big commitment that comes with big responsibilities. With rising costs, veterinary expenses are at their peak. Owners shouldn't have to choose between their money and their pet's life, that's why we at Petplan New Zealand pride ourselves on the range of cover we offer for cats, dogs and horses.

### Why get pet insurance?

The concept is fairly simple – pet insurance is a way of providing financial stability to pet owners. When a dog or cat falls ill or is involved in a sudden accident, the effects can snowball so owners can never be too prepared. It is important to have cover before such incidents occur to avoid your savings from plummeting. As a pet parent, you will need to consider the potential risks that can put your pet in danger or pain. It is important to provide them with the best possible care if anything unexpected does occur, without having to compensate on expenses. Pet insurance is a simple solution, and can be tailored to individual needs and budgets. This can be purchased at a nominal price when compared to the bills that owners are bombarded with after treatments. Pet insurance allows pet parents to rest easy knowing that they are providing their pet with the best possible care.

### Is it worth it?

The dilemma for most pet owners is deciding whether pet insurance is worth it. The nature of insurance is considered an additional expense, and some people do not always see a return in this investment. Yet, it is a decision that owners need to make while the pet is still young in order to avoid restrictions and additional costs. Like humans, animals need medical attention throughout their life, and all animals are at risk when it comes to health conditions. As pet owners, we need to be prepared for unexpected problems, from common conditions to severe medical illnesses that can affect the pet's wellbeing.

### How does it work?

The process involves reimbursement, which is administered once payments have been made to vets. Customers can claim for the expense by providing us, the insurance company, with the details of the animal, conditions treated, and the records from the treating veterinarian. This is then looked into by an expert team that compensates the costs either partly or in full, depending on the type of plan.

### What can pet insurance cover?

With modern technology and advancements, there is so much that can be done to assist your furry friend during difficult times. Having your pet insured means there is no longer the need to put them down due to associated costs or lack of available treatments. Vets are able to provide a whole range of treatments for pets, however the costs associated are continuously on the rise. This is where pet insurance steps in. By paying a monthly or annual premium you can ensure your pet is covered for the unforeseen.

At Petplan New Zealand we know that no two pets are the same, which is why we offer several different plans to suit every pet's needs. Contact us today to discuss the best option for you and your pet.



# PET & ANIMAL EXPO WOOFING AND MEOWING ITS WAY AROUND THE MAIN CENTRES

The Pet & Animal Expo keeps growing and getting stronger every year.

Pets play such an important role in people's lives in New Zealand – they are a part of so many Kiwi families. Therefore, visiting the annual Pet & Animal Expo in Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch is a must for all animal lovers.

The Christchurch show at the end of April had all the latest products and services on display, along with the cute and cuddly. It was a great weekend in the garden city, with thousands coming out in force to see the fluffy and the fabulous, and the weird and the wonderful.

"It was fantastic to bring the show to Christchurch and we are looking forward to a bigger and even better expo in 2018," said co-organiser Brian Peters.

The expo had the latest pet products and services at show-only special prices for Cantabrians' fur babies, and the Selwyn and Canterbury Dog Agility and Training Clubs enthralled the crowds with amazing demonstrations in the performance arena.

With more than 70 per cent of Christchurch households owning a pet, the expo was the best opportunity for companies active in the pet industry to sell directly to their target market, on a face-to-face basis under one-roof. Vets, retailers and other members of the trade were all able to attend.

"If you missed the Christchurch show, we have the annual Auckland and Wellington events on the horizon, happening at the end of September and October this year," said Brian.

The Auckland expo will have more than 100 exhibitors, with the latest products and services to keep the fussiest pet lover satisfied. There will also be plenty of exciting entertainment, including a miniature horse demonstration – and even a cat agility display on top of a miniature horse!

It's all about responsible ownership of pets and animals, and the expo highlights the best available options for your pets.

"I am always amazed with the range of healthy pet foods and how technology plays such an important role in our pets lives.



"Each year there is always something new and exciting to see at the Pet Expo, from the latest holistic food to cat trackers," Brian said.

The Pet & Animal Expo will grace the capital on the weekend of October 28-29, and it is building up to be bigger and better than ever before.

The Wellington Cat Club will hold a full-scale cat show at this year's expo, which will make the event extra special for all the cat lovers out there.

Visitors of all ages will be able to engage with company representatives, specialists and experts, purchase, sample and gather information relevant to the health and wellbeing of their pets, and all in a fun, family-friendly environment. The expo is the happiest show of all to attend!

**The Auckland Pet & Animal Expo 2017 is held September 30 to October 1, 10am-5pm, at the ASB Showgrounds in Greenlane.**

**The Wellington Pet & Animal Expo 2017 is October 28-29, 10am-4pm, at the Te Rauparaha Arena, Porirua.**

Contact Brian or Peter via [www.petanimalexpo.co.nz](http://www.petanimalexpo.co.nz) for more information about expo stands or visiting



# CAT'S GOT THE SNUFFLES?

HERE'S A GUIDE TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND AND CONTROL CAT FLU.

Cat flu, also more cutely known as the “snuffles”, is seen quite commonly in unvaccinated kittens and cats. The majority of cases are caused by feline herpesvirus or feline calivirus or a combination of both.

The infection is picked up either from aerosols (virus particles in the air from a sneezing cat) or from contact. Contact can be directly with an infected cat, or indirectly from a bowl or toy that an infected cat has touched. The incubation period is about six days, so your cat or kitten will start to show clinical signs of cat flu about a week after they get infected.

## SYMPTOMS

Sneezing is generally the first sign, and sometimes the only one. But more often than not this then develops into runny eyes and nose, starting clear and then becoming more yellow and purulent with secondary bacterial infections. Cats can develop ulcers in their mouths, which can lead to excess salivation.

By this stage cats often become depressed and have a high temperature, which puts them off eating their food. In kittens, especially, this can be dangerous if they get dehydrated and malnourished very quickly.

In some cases cats can develop conjunctivitis and sometimes even corneal ulcers. This can potentially cause long-lasting damage if not attended to quickly by your vet.

Once cats become infected with cat flu viruses, they can quite often become carrier cats for life. What this means is that at intermittent times the virus can start shedding again. For some cats this means they will show symptoms of the cat flu; for others they may not show any symptoms but they will be infective to other cats and kittens. This usually happens after a period of stress, for example going to the vet clinic, going into a cattery or some other traumatic event.

## DIAGNOSIS

Your vet will usually make a presumptive diagnosis based on clinical signs and vaccination status. Generally, further tests are not required as the treatment is similar for most cases. However, in some situations your vet may want to take swabs for culture or virus isolation (especially with breeding programmes).

## TREATMENT

Treatment of cat flu usually involves a combination of medications, nursing and nutritional support.

Antibiotics are not usually required unless secondary bacterial



infections have set in. These are usually broad-spectrum antibiotics and given for a period of two to three weeks. Ideally, a liquid or paste is given because swallowing can be painful or difficult, especially if there are ulcers in the mouth.

Nutritional support is paramount. Good-quality food should be given, and if eating is minimal then a concentrated veterinary hospital food is recommended. Quite often cats lose their sense of smell and have a sore throat, so mushie, strong-smelling foods should be offered. Kittens that go off their food and aren't drinking should be hospitalised by your vet and placed on intravenous fluids.

Vitamins and mineral supplements should be given. The immune system during this time needs all the help it can get and products such as vitamin C, L-lysine and a multi-vitamin is advised.

Steam inhalations can be very helpful with congested nasal passages. They help to loosen everything up and allow kittens to breathe easier. The easiest way to do this is to place your kitten or cat in the bathroom with the shower on hot and the door open – this allows steam to circulate in the room. Please take care to make sure your cat isn't stressed by this experience, and never do it without supervision.

It's important to keep your cat warm and hydrated. Regular wiping of eyes and nose with warm water helps prevent them from crusting over and makes them more comfortable. Barrier cream can be applied if there are any inflamed or ulcerated surfaces. Eye cream or lubricants may be necessary for dry eyes or conjunctivitis.

If yours is a multi-cat household then it is important to have an isolation area and use strict hygienic protocols with gloves and gowns when handling infected cats.

## PREVENTION AND CONTROL

For most cats, vaccination is the best prevention and is strongly recommended. In multi-cat households or communities it's also important to reduce overcrowding and ensure strict hygiene, handling and quarantine protocols.

The current vaccination guidelines from the WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) recommend kittens get vaccinated from 6-8 weeks of age, and then every two to four weeks until 16 weeks of age or later. They then get a booster vaccination at 6 or 12 months, and then the vaccination is given every three years.

Rebecca Penman

# KENNEL COUGH

Kennel cough is an infectious respiratory disease in dogs that produces quite a distinct hacking cough. It can also sound a bit like a "goose honk". In some cases, dogs can exhibit only mild symptoms for a short duration, however it can progress to pneumonia which can be life threatening.

There are several organisms that can cause kennel cough, and quite commonly there is a combination causing the disease. The most common agents are the *Bordetella bronchiseptica* bacteria, the parainfluenza virus and the adenovirus type 2. The infection is spread usually by direct contact with other infected dog's saliva or oro-nasal secretions. Often the problem is that an infected dog is usually contagious before showing any clinical signs.

All dogs are susceptible to infections; however, it is more commonly seen in puppies that are 6 weeks to 6 months of age. Usually there is also a history of exposure to either kennels, boarding or doggy day-cares where there is a high-density population of dogs.

## Symptoms

Mild form: Usually dogs with mild kennel cough have a soft, moist cough that persists for 10-20 days. Sometimes they can also be lethargic, have reduced appetite and a fever. Some

dogs will develop the traditional dry hacking cough seen with the *Bordetella bronchiseptica*/parainfluenza virus complex. They can also develop discharge from the eyes and nose, sometimes yellow if there is secondary bacterial infections. Often times after coughing they may bring up a white foamy mucus, which can be worse after exercise.

Severe form: Dogs that develop severe forms of kennel cough usually have a high temperature and show clinical signs of pneumonia, such as increased breathing rates and effort.

## Diagnosis

Kennel cough is usually diagnosed based on a history of exposure to other dogs, checking vaccination status and looking at the clinical symptoms. In more severe cases your vet may consider doing bloodwork and X-rays to rule out secondary infections and other problems. Please note, if you think your dog has the symptoms of kennel cough and you are going to take them to the vets, make sure you inform the receptionist before your arrival and wait with your dog in the car. This helps reduce transmission to other dogs in the clinic.

## Management and treatment

Most cases are treated as out-patients; it is important to isolate your dog from others for at least two weeks as it is highly contagious.

## Medications

Broad spectrum antibiotics are usually indicated in uncomplicated cases. In more severe cases often combination therapy is required. Cough suppressants can often be used to help your dog feel more comfortable.

## Supplements

It's always helpful to give your dog

some extra help during periods of sickness. High doses of vitamin C and a good multivitamin can help boost the immune system. It's also important to ensure good gut health and bacteria after antibiotic use with a good probiotic supplement.

## Nutrition

It's really important to feed your dog nourishing and healthy foods during any time of sickness, and if there is a reduced appetite then talk to your vet about special hospital foods that are high in calories and nutrients.

## Exercise

It is recommended that your dog is rested while infected with kennel cough. This will allow the body the time it needs to fight off the infection.

## Prevention and control

There are vaccinations available for kennel cough and most puppies will have this vaccine as part of their primary course. The vaccines, however, are considered "non-core" by the World Small Animal Veterinary Association. This means that the need for vaccination should be determined on the basis of geographical and lifestyle exposure risks of the individual dog. It is worth having a chat to your regular vet to see if the kennel cough vaccine is right for you. However, if your dog goes into kennels or doggy day-care then it's likely to be compulsory. There are two types of vaccines currently available, one that goes under the skin, and an intra-nasal vaccine that goes into the nostrils. If your puppy has the one under the skin, they will need two vaccinations and then yearly boosters. If your puppy has the intranasal vaccine they will only require one puppy vaccination, followed by yearly boosters.



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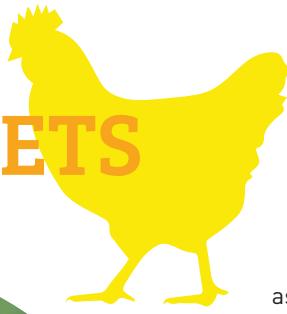
# CHICKEN PETS



Chickens have become a popular addition to the family in recent times with the benefit of not only being a lovely pet but also producing eggs for the table. They are generally fairly docile, however this can be breed dependent and also relates to how much time you spend with your chickens. Handraised birds become extremely cuddly and overtly friendly – you will likely find that each chicken has its own personality.

Chickens are omnivores and unlike ruminant animals, such as horses or cows, they are monogastric which means they only have one stomach. They do have a couple of unique features in comparison to other single stomach animals. Chickens have a crop which is part of the oesophagus or food pipe; this expandable storage compartment is found at the base of the neck and is where feed is stored. It's the first step in the digestion process. The food then slowly makes its way into the stomach where it is introduced to digestive enzymes and physical grinding takes place. The gizzard is the muscular part of the stomach that grinds the food with the help of grit to make it more digestible for the bird. The gizzard is the reason chicken do not need teeth. Once the food has been ground down it moves to the small intestine where the nutrients are absorbed. It is important to provide your birds with fresh water daily as it is required for assisting the digestion of food and eliminating waste from the body.

Chickens typically moult (lose their feathers) in late summer to early autumn. Shedding old feathers and replacing with new feathers takes a lot of energy away from the chicken and



as such egg production generally slows. Because feathers are predominately made up of protein it can be beneficial to supplement your birds with additional protein alongside vitamins, amino acids or even a splash of apple cider vinegar.

There are a number of common health issues that should be watched for within your flock. An impacted crop is when the food does not pass from the crop to the stomach. This can be caused by either a physical block or by the irregular movement of the crop muscles. Signs of an impacted crop are little to no appetite, general dullness and a firm looking crop. Sour crop (candidiasis) is caused by a yeast infection which thickens the crop wall which may present as a large soft crop on your chicken. As this is an overgrowth of *Candida albicans* it is important that you look towards rebalancing your hen's natural microbe load.

Coccidiosis is a parasitic infection caused by the coccidian protozoa – while most chickens will have developed immunity by the time they reach point-of-lay some may not. Signs your flock may have coccidiosis include droopiness, loss of appetite, blood or mucus in faeces, diarrhoea, dehydration and pale combs and wattles. Consultation with your vet is important to ensure the correct treatment is given.

Chickens can be affected by a variety of parasites both internally and externally so regular treatment is pertinent. Young birds and/or new ones coming into the flock should be wormed frequently, with adult hens wormed yearly. Mites and lice can cause feather loss, make your flock uncomfortable and in some instances lead to death. The treatment of these parasites should be done in consultation with your vet. It is important to remember that with any treatment there is likely to be a withholding period for the eggs, which means they will not be fit for consumption and should be disposed of.

A perk to having pet hens is the gift of eggs. A hen requires 14 hours of daylight in order to maintain egg production; once the day length decreases below this it is likely egg production will also. During these cooler months it is important that you look after your flock's health and some early preparation will put you in good stead. Clean out the coop and disinfect with a safe "bird friendly" disinfectant such as Safe for All. This will remove any lice, mites or parasites and pests that would otherwise become a burden on your flock's health.

Ensure that your coop has no damage where a strong southerly wind could whip through and chill your birds. While your flock is likely to keep warm by roosting together, a direct draft can result in respiratory issues. Ventilation throughout the coop is important, however, to help stop the buildup of dust and harmful gases. Ensure they have nice warm bedding/nesting material such as straw or hay that is regularly changed throughout the winter months. Don't forget about fresh water even in these cooler months as an adult bird typically drinks 0.5 litres of water daily (which can increase to 1 litre during the summer months).

While chickens are relatively easy-care it is important to keep on top of daily, monthly and six-monthly chores to ensure your flock remains healthy.



## DAILY CHORES

Fill feeders  
Clean water holder  
Give fresh clean water  
Collect any eggs  
Check general health

## MONTHLY CHORES

Clean out the coop  
Replace nesting material  
Check for lice

## SIX MONTHLY CHORES

Scrub out the coop

Feeding your birds a high quality diet is important and while many owners feed kitchen scraps to their flocks this is not recommended. The reason being chickens will fill up on the low nutritional scraps in favour of their layer feed. If you do not let your chickens free range then consider providing leafy greens such as silverbeet to complement their feed. Providing your chickens with additional protein during cooler weather will help provide added warmth; so alongside their normal feed consider providing a flock block.

A flock block is not only an enrichment supplement for your chicken but can also act as a boredom buster if hung by string in the coop. While you can purchase a flock block they are easy to make from "scratch" at home, check out our recipe to make your own.

### FLOCK BLOCK

4 C oats  
2 C layer feed  
2 C oatmeal  
1 C seeds (sunflower, linseed)  
1/2 C wheat flour  
1/2 C bran  
1/2 C grit  
6 eggs  
1 C molasses/golden syrup  
1 C melted lard/coconut oil

Optional  
1 tsp cayenne pepper  
1/2 C raisins/cranberries

Preheat oven to 200 degrees Celsius.

Mix all wet ingredients in one bowl and all dry in another. Combine both bowls and mix well. The final mix should hold when squeezed.

Press into your tins and poke a hole in the block (this is where you will put the rope through to enable it to hang).

Bake for 20-40 minutes depending on the size of your tin/s. It will turn brown around the edges when it is ready, remove from the oven and run a knife around the edge of the tin.

Let it cool completely and then remove from the tin. String up the blocks and hang around the coop for your chickens to enjoy as a treat.



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# CATS AND COFFEE



Patty Cavill  
Admits to being a  
crazy cat lady

Patty Cavill has three cats at home and 14 at work.

It's pretty fair to call her a "crazy cat lady", laughs the store manager of BaristaCats Café in Auckland, one of New Zealand's three cat cafes.

Cat cafes have become a global phenomenon since the first opened up in Taipei, Taiwan, in 1998.

The cat-themed cafe concept was then pounced on in Japan in 2005 – more than 150 opened up in a decade – and spread throughout Southeast Asia, Europe, the United Kingdom, and then into North America in 2014.

New Zealand's first cat cafe was opened in 2015, in Auckland's North Shore.

The Cat Lounge was quickly followed by BaristaCats in Queen St in December 2015, then the owner of Fancy Meow Cat Café in Rotorua, on visiting both Auckland cat cafes, decided her eight felines could bring joy to others and so opened her establishment at the end of last year.

Another cat cafe, called Neko Ngeru, is due to open in Lower Hutt by mid-winter.

The foundation of a cat cafe is pretty basic: people pay by the hour to drink coffee, relax and play with cats.

The menus are quite simple and minimalistic since food is not allowed to be prepared on site, but, really, the cafes aren't about food they're all about cats.

Think of a cat cafe as something like a pet rental service – customers are paying for the benefits that interacting with cats bring. Playing with animals increases the levels of feel-good chemicals serotonin and dopamine in your brain.

It's a wet, miserable day outside the windows of BaristaCats Café, and about eight visitors are wandering around its two

The cat cafe craze is being pounced on in New Zealand. Inger Vos checks out BaristaCats Café in Auckland to see what all the fuss is about.

rooms enticing the 14 resident cats to play, with various degrees of success.

Most of the cats are napping but a few are happy to oblige, chasing wands that are being waved in their faces.

One giant, fluffy, ginger kitty, Banksy, is getting an incredible belly rub by a French tourist on a sofa, on which he has left an incredible amount of fur.

Patty, who has a background in the hospitality industry, has worked at BaristaCats since it first opened.

"When I saw a cat cafe was opening I thought that was the best thing in the world: coffee and cats."

Lots of other people think so, too, although entry is limited to those 10 years of age and older.

To avoid over-stimulus, the number of visitors at one time is limited, but the cats can still host more than 100 people on a really good day. Between 60 and 80 visitors is usual. It does pay to book.

Most of the visitors are tourists, says Patty.

"People who are away from their own cats and miss their cats."

The cat crew also caters to those who live in apartments or houses that don't allow pets.

There are "regulars" who come in every weekend "to have their cat therapy session".

"It's a nice space to get away from the city and chill."

At BaristaCats, your hosts are all rescue cats, and many have health issues.

"A lot of them were sitting in shelters for a while," says Patty, who has a soft spot for 16-year-old Wednesday, a black moggy who is deaf and has kidney failure and dementia.

"They all have their special things about them."

Brian, a ginger Manx, has no eyes; Woody was hit by a car as a



Woody hangs out in his cat tunnel.  
Photo: Edenbrosnan.artist



Golden Homie is as sweet as sweet can be.  
Photo: Inger Vos



Miss Molly Snugglington pulls a face for the camera.  
Photo: Craigydlyd



Yes, Miss Molly Snugglington is slightly cross-eyed!

kitten and suffers from the wobbles; and Jean Genie has only three legs.

Says the French tourist, Ruby Marime, who has been playing with the cats for about an hour: "I really don't mind there is one missing eyes or a leg ... It's about the cats and their personalities, and it's a big space so it's nice."

The cats live on site permanently, and the space is filled with cat towers, cat tunnels, cat bridges, cat shelves, cat ornaments, cat pictures, cat books and cat cushions. It's pretty cool for the cats that's for sure!

Every day the cafe is vacuum-cleaned and mopped so there is no cat hair flying around and it's not smelly – although there is a slight whiff of cat in the air, to be expected when you have 14 cats on site.

All the residents were assessed on how well they interacted with strangers and other cats. They're not up for adoption. The cafe works closely with the SPCA and other animal welfare organisations, says Patty, with Royal Canin sponsoring the cat food.



At a recent adoption day, 20-something kittens were let loose in one of the rooms, with \$5 from the \$20 entry fee going towards Franklin Cat Rescue.

BaristaCats also holds Monday cat yoga sessions, movie nights and craft sessions.

And if it all gets a bit too much for the cats, they can always disappear into their own space, away from the throng of crazy cat people.

**WIN!**

Pet Life magazine has four double passes to BaristaCats Café to give away. To enter the draw, email competition@petlife.co.nz by August 31 with "crazy cat person" in the subject line.

# Barista Cats



Prize includes entry only – no drinks or food. Winners will be contacted and need to book a time with BaristaCats. The passes are valid Tuesday to Sunday between 10am and 6pm.

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# GOOD NUTRITION

We all want our pets to be fit and healthy, to perform to their optimal potential and to have an excellent quality of life. Good nutrition is fundamentally important to help your animal stay healthy as it provides the basic building blocks that their body needs to function at its best.

When an animal's diet is poor and then changed to include wholesome, well-balanced foods, there will be a remarkable improvement in their condition. The animal's working performance will become enhanced and, often, chronic and ongoing health problems begin to resolve. Many years ago, modern processed diets began to replace healthy meals. Because our pets ate our table scraps, their diets became imbalanced and vets saw frequent cases of nutritional deficiency diseases such as rickets.

Commercial foods were created to balance a pet's diet, helping to make up for severe deficiencies. Subsequently, nutritional deficiency diseases are no longer commonplace. However, many commercial foods do not have optimal amounts of valuable essential fats, vitamins and antioxidants that are tremendously important for a healthy skin and coat, flexible and smooth joints and a fully functional immune system. In addition to this, some of these foods contain poor-quality ingredients and often high amounts of chemical preservatives, and that may be detrimental to the long-term health and performance of your pet.

As is the trend in human medicine, our pets now face more frequently a set of diseases called degenerative diseases. These include conditions such as allergies, arthritis, heart disease, cancers and autoimmune disease. What we feed our pets plays a great role in the development and management of these conditions.

Like us, animals benefit greatly from food that is wholesome, natural and unprocessed. These foods are easily digested and used by their bodies, and have high amounts of important vitamins, antioxidants and essential fatty acids. They are also easy to prepare.

## What to feed?

When choosing a commercial diet for your pet, make sure it is of high quality with wholesome ingredients. Don't choose a food that is bulked up with processed carbohydrates and fillers (not natural components of a carnivore's diet). Ideally it should be free of chemicals and preservatives, and well balanced. There are tremendous benefits of feeding your dog or cat a raw food diet, but there are also several pitfalls. If you choose this option, it is important to feed your pet correctly.

An ideal diet for dogs and cats includes raw meat, ideally from animals which have been well nourished and raised in a wholesome environment. Meat should be fresh, pre-frozen or air dried to minimise the risk of disease from pathogens (bugs like bacteria) and hydatid cysts. Of course, cats and dogs have a greater tolerance for organisms such as salmonella and *E.Coli* than humans, especially if they have healthy immune system (which is supported by the quality of nutrients consumed).

Organ meats, such as liver, kidney and heart, should be about one fifth of the meat component. Heart mince is very important, especially for cats, as it contains high amounts of taurine (essential for cats) and other valuable nutrients. Appropriately-sized RAW bones are an important part of a balanced raw-food diet as they provide important minerals (especially calcium) and vitamins, and help to keep teeth clean. Plant matter is also important – it simulates the gut content of prey consumed in the wild and contains phytonutrients, vitamins and other nutritive substances important for vitality. Avoid potentially toxic raisins, grapes, onions, macadamia nuts and chocolate.

## Some issues of a raw-food diet

Bones are usually safe as long as they are raw (cooked bones splinter) – but for those animals who tend to gulp down their food it is recommended that the bones be either too big for them to swallow (only chewed) or crushed up in the food. Some dogs may not tolerate bones and get a sore tummy or vomit. In these cases, bones may need to be crushed up and introduced to the diet gradually – this helps the animal to build up the ability to digest them.

Bugs like *E.coli* and salmonella generally are not a problem if the meat is fresh or frozen. Cats and dogs also have a greater tolerance for these organisms than humans, but for animals that are immunosuppressed – eg, dogs that are on immunosuppressants like steroids or cats that have FIV (feline Aids) – it is important to be extra careful.

Parasites such as hydatids are killed by freezing raw meat for three days at -20 degrees Celsius or seven days at -10C. It is illegal to feed raw offal to dogs otherwise. Hydatids can be avoided altogether by feeding chicken, which doesn't harbour hydatids.

## Broths

Broths have become popular for humans and animals as a way to provide a concentrated source of nutrients that help to nourish the body, especially for those who are unwell. A broth can be made by boiling up leftover bones. This soup will have collagen and minerals that help to support healing. Certain herbs with therapeutic properties may also be added. Ginger and turmeric, for example, help to improve circulation and provide antioxidant and immune support. Also, turmeric has been shown to have some anti-cancer properties. Dogs can be given 50mg-250mg of the dried turmeric herb one to three times a day; cats can have 50mg-100mg daily.

## The Bigger Picture

Encouraging the use of safe, unprocessed food that is farmed as naturally as possible assists in embracing a culture of environmental sustainability. It also reduces our impact on the planet. Nature knows best. Our animals evolved eating natural foods so this is what we should feed them. By doing so, our loyal friends will live long and happy lives and we will have peace of mind knowing that we are contributing to the wellbeing of our environment.



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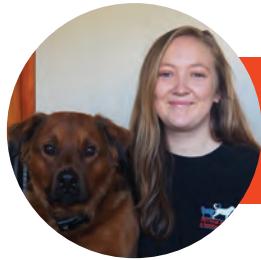


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# PET First Aid & Training (NZ) Ltd

Did you know that 90 per cent of our animals are going to require some sort of emergency veterinary treatment in their lives and, according to statistics, one out of four pets would survive if a pet first aid technique was applied prior to getting emergency veterinary care?

Fortunately, PET First Aid & Training has three new instructors based in the South Island that can teach you how to help your pet in an emergency. We are looking for more licensees in New Zealand so give us a call if you are interested in joining our team – ph 0508 PET FIRST.



**Josie Williams**  
Vet nurse in Nelson Bays  
[nelsonbays@petfat.co.nz](mailto:nelsonbays@petfat.co.nz)

I have always been a great animal lover, and always had pets as a child. Growing up in Golden Bay, Nelson, I was always out and about exploring the wilderness and wildlife. At school I struggled with knowing what I “wanted to be”. It wasn’t until I was in my early 20s that I decided my career lay in the animal industry, so I studied veterinary nursing at the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology. Since then I have worked in some busy small animal practices, and developed a keen interest in animal behaviour and emergency medicine, especially regarding poisoning.

I am now back in my hometown, Golden Bay. Here, I have worked as a pet-sitter and casual vet nurse, and have travelled to the Pacific Islands to volunteer my time and skills. I became an animal first aid instructor for PET First Aid & Training because I have a keen interest in animal emergencies and feel that the general public and small animal-related industries can greatly benefit from being well-equipped to deal with emergency situations. I will be offering PET First Aid courses for the wider Nelson Bays area, and will look after the Christchurch and Wellington areas until we find instructors for those regions.

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**Flip Collins**  
Agility trainer in Queenstown  
[central2south@petfat.co.nz](mailto:central2south@petfat.co.nz)

I've grown up around animals my whole life – mainly ducks, rabbits, goats, cats, dogs, fish and hamsters! If someone found an injured animal, my family was the one they would bring it to because we had lots of pets. We lived in the UK. When I was 12 I took our Border Collie, Sam, to dog agility classes and turned into a dog-training geek. I immigrated to New Zealand in 2009 where my love of the outdoors flourished. I became a Girl Guide leader and hiking guide, so I learnt and taught lots about outdoor and survival first aid. I bought a house so I could keep a dog. Now, I have two dogs, Alfie a Cavoodle and Jack, a rescued Bearded Collie. I'm a member of the APDTNZ (Animal Pet Dog Training New Zealand) because I'm still a dog-training geek, and I'm the founder and instructor of the Queenstown Dog Agility Club. I believe in safe training, keeping your best friends safe and having fun, and regularly compete in dog agility around the South Island.



**Diana Scott**  
Dog massage therapist  
Works with Flip

I attended my first pet first aid course about six years ago because I thought it could be part of my day-to-day routine. There was so much I learned and so much I wasn't aware of. I learned how to prevent emergencies, treat minor injuries and the key actions to do when you find a dog in an emergency situation. Pet first aid is about more than dealing with emergency situations. It's about preventing accidents and being aware of your dog's environment. Accidents can happen, and easily happen through foolish mistakes. Knowing what to look for and being able to notice the first signs of an emergency situation can mean the difference between life and death. I am a qualified dog massage therapist and am also halfway through qualifying as an animal acupuncture therapist, so becoming a PET First Aid instructor felt like a natural step. It's what I do every day – making sure that our four-legged family members are happy and healthy.

# PUPPY POWER!

There's nothing cuter than a new puppy – but they can also be challenging at times. Give your puppy the best head start in life so you can both enjoy a fun, loving, happy and trusting relationship together.

## Setting up for success

Puppies need to stay with their mothers until they are at least 8 weeks old, as during this period they learn the important foundations of behaviour from their mother and litter-mates.

## Socialisation

Is arguably THE most important part of owning a dog, either as a puppy or as an older dog. Right from birth puppies begin learning. They can hear, smell and feel, therefore socialisation has already started long before we come along.

## When do I need to socialise my puppy and how?

As soon as you get your new puppy it's a good idea to start exposing them to the sights, sounds and smells of the world. This means people of all different shapes, sizes and ethnicities, children, animals, bikes, weather, cars, trucks, buses, loud noises, locations and walking surfaces – anything they could potentially come across in life.

## How long do I socialise my puppy for?

Socialisation is ongoing throughout a dog's life. The early period of up to 16 weeks is one of the most important times – but if you stop there the dog can go backwards. If you keep going and show your dog that the world isn't a scary place then you will be rewarded with a well-balanced canine friend.

## But my puppy isn't fully vaccinated?

It's safest not to let your pup meet other dogs until fully vacci-

nated, however, you can still socialise your dog to everything else! Take your dog out and about, carrying them until vaccinated – go for car rides, wander around (non dog) parks and organise puppy playdates with other puppies through reputable canine vet, training or behavioural professionals.

## Crate training: a home away from home

A crate is a valuable training tool for their future wellness. It can help your dog feel secure no matter where they are. Not only can a crate aid toilet training but throughout the duration of your dog's life there may come times when they need to stay at a vet, a boarding kennel or perhaps even travel overseas with you. Training your puppy to become used to a crate while young can make these life situations free from stress and worry.

Use positive association – if a crate means comfort, warmth, mealtime and rewards, you will set your puppy up with a positive state of mind around crates for life.

## Teething and destruction: the seek and destroy period

Just like us, puppies have baby teeth that get replaced with adult teeth. This generally occurs between three and seven to eight months. During this time it can be painful and cause them a lot of discomfort. Puppies try to alleviate this by chewing, and of course chewing leads to destruction! Nothing is safe. Anything that can be chewed will be chewed ... puppies don't discriminate! Ensure you provide your puppy with appropriate chewing toys and soothers to help this process. Teach your puppy what is OK to chew and what isn't. If they are chewing something inappropriate, divert them to a toy they can chew. There are many low cost ideas where you can make "teethers" for your puppy without breaking the bank. Use knotted tea towels soaked in water and then frozen to help soothe their wee jaws as their adult teeth come in.

## Toilet training: who left the seat up?

Puppies don't instinctively know where to go to the toilet. We need to teach them. To guide your puppy towards the big outdoors toilet take them outside 10 minutes after they have eaten, played, woken up, had a drink, or any change in behaviour or environmental stimulus. Encourage your dog to toilet by using a word and, when they go, verbally praise and give them a treat. Ensure they have access to outside if you are not able to watch them.

Set them up for success by putting the time into this and never clean your carpets again! As important as it is to reward them for going outside, it is also as important NOT to reprimand them if they do have an inside accident. This will only teach them to make sure you are not around when they feel the urge and they will take to hiding when needing to toilet, disrupting the whole toilet-training process. Be an aware and savvy toilet-training parent.

## Puppy school

Puppy school is encouraged for all new dog owners and their puppies. It should cover all the basics of training and teach you and your dog how to work together so you can get GREAT training results together. It is also a great way for your puppy to meet other puppies, and you get to meet like-minded people who are going through the same experiences you are.

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# DOG PHOTOGRAPHY

## HOW TO TAKE THAT "WOW" PHOTO

The first photo I ever took with a camera of my own was of our family dog, Pippin. I was 9. Forty-one years later dogs are still one of my absolute favourite subjects to photograph. So here are a few tips that I've learnt along the way.

Whether you have a fancy camera, a point-and-shoot or just your cellphone, it is possible to take great photos of your dog. Always remember that the best camera is the one you have with you – so if your pet is doing something spontaneous, looks great running along the beach or is standing in front of a sunset, use whatever picture-taking device you have immediately at hand. That's often how great photos happen and awesome memories are made.

For a planned photo shoot of your dog, it's always a good idea to exercise them first. That way you take the edge off their energy and they won't be quite so exuberant during their shoot. An added plus of exercising your dog is that their bottom jaw usually relaxes and drops a little, which gives the effect that they are smiling.

Remember to be patient with your dog and not to stress it during your photo shoot. Dogs are sensitive souls and if you become annoyed or stressed they easily pick up on your feelings and become stressed, too. This doesn't translate to good photos. If you stay completely calm, take your time and don't rush then the shot you are looking for will happen much more easily. Choose a location that your dog feels comfortable in, whether it's the beach, park, lake, farm or just around your property. That way they will be more relaxed. If you really want to take photos in a place they don't know then let them explore and get used to the setting first. Once they are relaxed and at ease you can begin.

Lighting is important. Try to shoot in ambient light, either early morning or late evening. Avoid areas with dappled light – such as light through trees – because they will create shadows and sunspots on your dog.

Well trained dogs that will pose or stay on command are easier to get good photos of in less time. You can, however, still get great spontaneous shots of your dog if they want to run around and play.

Always wear clothes that will make it easy for you to get into all sorts of positions. Be prepared to lie down on the ground, stand in water or do whatever you need to in order to get your shot. Take different shots – head shots, full body, lying down and running. Try and take your photos from different angles; experimenting can lead to some neat photos.

For a closeup head shot of your dog, you want your pet to be staring directly at the camera. This creates a point of connection in your photo – as the saying goes, the eyes are the windows to the soul. This can be tricky, however, as dogs rarely

like to look straight at the camera. This may be because the camera obscures your eyes as you look through the viewfinder, which dogs find disconcerting. You can get a dog to look at the camera in a number of ways. Not every method works for every dog so you need to experiment to see what works for you. I use noises to get their attention – meowing, woofing, whistling or squeaking a toy often works. Failing that, a bit of heavy-breathing and panting does the trick. Often I make crazy, high-pitched, strange noises to not only get a dog's attention but so they will cock their head on a cute angle. It doesn't matter how silly you sound if you get an awesome photo! If noises don't work, try treats. Have a friend hold a treat just above the camera or by your shoulder. And if that doesn't work, try waving their favourite toy. If all that fails, another person with another dog, walking back and forth behind you, should get their attention.

Side profile head shots show a different perspective of your dog. Get someone to stand in front of your dog and attract their attention in whatever manner works. Place yourself at the side of your dog to get a good side profile.

Running shots are fun. They are best achieved by calling your dog so that it runs directly towards you. Make sure you are down at their eye level to take the photo.

Another fun thing to try is silhouetting your dog. You can do this by placing your dog between you and a bright source of sunlight – it can make for an interesting and different picture. If you want a photo of your dog and yourself, you don't have to be staring at the camera saying cheese! Often, the best connections are portrayed when neither the dog or its human are looking at the camera.

Enjoy making memories with your dog – the more you practise taking their photo the better shots you will get.

Happy snapping!  
Sully



Donna Sullivan is the "Sully" behind Sully's Pics. She is a Taranaki-based photographer who photographs people, places and pets. A self-professed animal nut she has a tribe of assistants making up the Sully's Pics team. Many are rescues. There's: photobomber and self-declared CEO Luna, editing assistants Tyne, Tiger, PJ and NhingNhing (sleeping next to the computer whilst editing takes place counts as assistance), assistant photographer Poss (he directs the moonshots) and Ducky (actually he doesn't do anything helpful).



[www.facebook.com/photographybyDonnaSullivan](http://www.facebook.com/photographybyDonnaSullivan)

## BOUTIQUE BUSINESS CLOSEUP



**Location:** Hamilton

### Tell us about your business

At 4 UR PAWS we offer cool pet apparel that you will not find anywhere else. Our New Zealand and overseas suppliers offer only the highest quality and most funky and desirable of products for your pet.

We are well known for our dog and cat bandanas – when worn wet they will drop your pet's body temperature by 3-4%. There is a huge range of colours and prints to choose from and they are a must for looking pawsome and keeping cool while travelling in the car, walking, playing or training.

We happily make bandanas to order for any occasion. We have screenprinted bandanas for dog education centres, doggy daycares and rescue centres to promote their business/ animal welfare group, look after their dogs on hot days and sell for fundraising.

The bandanas are great for keeping your pet in style in winter and cool in summer but we also offer collars with a difference and coats that will make other pets drool with desire. Our collars come in an explosion of eye-catching colours and patterns in leather, nylon and fabrics – we are really well known for our flower collars and they're definitely not your typical collar found in pet shops or at vet clinics. Our dog coats are made to order so the fit is always perfect.

We've tested our products on our own fur family: Porsha the Miniature Schnauzer, Charlie Brown the Foxy and Posh the Burmilla cat. They just love our bandanas, collars and jackets, and look mighty styley in them. But we can't take their word for our products so we test them on many other paw-mates as well, supporting a number of charities in the process.

### Why did you start 4 UR PAWS?

I was sick of seeing the same old thing for very high prices at the local pet stores. I wanted something a bit different, but I also wanted quality. Our pets must have the best. I started 4 UR PAWS after leaving a corporate sales job and I wanted a job that wasn't like a job. I love dogs and I love people, so I wanted to sell something that was useful and not already available in New Zealand. I started with collars, then came the slip-through bandanas, and then I designed our wrap bandanas which have many uses, like a dog can wear it wet to drop their body temperature. Then I started getting invited to some large events and our product range grew.

### What do you enjoy most about your business?

I love the stories – every pet owner has a tail! Pets hold such a big place in our hearts and I really love finding out what makes people's pets amazing. Every dog, cat, rabbit, duck (yes, I have sold a bandana to a duck owner) has a story – a tail – to tell. We love attending markets and events and being able to offer products that are different and make a difference.

### What is unique about your business?

We work with each and every one of our clients on an individual basis. We don't sell in bulk to pet stores. We support small businesses and we work with rescue centres around the country as much as we can. Local businesses use our bandanas to promote amazing things in their communities.

### What are your best selling products?

The wrap bandanas are our biggest seller. So many patterns, so many uses – so funky that you just have to have one!

We are extremely busy with events most weekends from August until the end of April. We already have bookings for the 2018 season and we will be updating our website ([www.4urpaws.co.nz](http://www.4urpaws.co.nz)), Facebook page (4URPAWS) and Instagram (@4urpaws) with all our events. If you are holding an event and would like us to attend, please get in touch.



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# Hypothermia

Hypothermia is caused by over exposure to cold lowering the body's core temperature to a dangerous level. There are many causes such as anaesthesia, shock, illness, inappropriate living conditions and exposure to cold temperatures for extended periods of time.

As we move into the winter months it is important that we take the time to check on our furry friends (or in some cases not so furry). Hypothermia can be extremely dangerous (even fatal), especially if you have small or short-haired animals, and the risk is especially high for the young, old or ill.

With hypothermia, prevention is better than a cure, so if your animals are outside you need to ensure they are housed correctly. Preferably we would like your pets brought inside, but we know this is not always possible.



## HUTCHED ANIMALS – GUINEA PIGS AND RABBITS

Rabbits are quite good at withstanding cold temperatures, much better than they are with extreme heat. Cold weather can bring out their playfulness. However, in extreme cold it is best to move their hutch into a shed or garage for protection against wind chill. It is also a good idea to raise hutches off the ground to minimise rising damp.

Rabbits can withstand very low temperatures if they remain dry and have adequate insulation to conserve body heat. Guinea pigs are not burrowers so you may need to make them a smaller bed (boxed area) that they can go into to help stay warm. Through the winter months, both rabbits and guinea pigs may benefit from an increase in bedding materials such as hay or straw to assist with insulation, as well as slightly more food – they will use extra energy to keep warm.

## CATS

If you have indoor cats then they are probably set up already with warm beds. Some cats may even have clothes to wear to stay warm.

With outdoor cats, it is a good idea to try and get them to come in at night when the temperature drops.

In extremely cold weather it is important to keep an eye on the condition of paws and noses as cats can get frostbite just like us.

## DOGS

If possible, it is a good idea to bring dogs in overnight to ensure they stay warm. If that is not possible then make sure they have lots of bedding to stay warm and preferably their kennel/bed area needs to be raised off the ground to minimise rising damp/chill. Just as with cats, it is important to check dogs' paws and noses regularly for any signs of damage. It may be a good idea to invest in dog booties for dogs to wear during the coldest days to protect their feet. There are also a variety of coats and jumpers available in many sizes and thicknesses that can be great to help dogs stay warm on winter walks.



## MILD CASES

Shivering  
Cold to the touch  
Weakness  
Lack of mental alertness  
Muscle stiffness  
Paleness

## SEVERE CASES

Shallow, slow breathing  
Difficulty breathing  
Stupor-like state  
Fixed and dilated pupils  
Unconsciousness  
Coma/death

## HOW TO TREAT

- \* Move the animal to a warm, dry area.
- \* Dry the animal if it is wet; as well as removing water it will help stimulate the blood supply.
- \* Wrap the animal in blankets or towels – you could put the blanket in the dryer first for extra warmth.
- \* A blow dryer can work to provide warm air – just make sure the animal is not scared of the dryer!
- \* Heat pads and hot water bottles can also help to warm the animal up – make sure you wrap the pads up, do not apply them directly to the skin

It is important that you do not warm the animal up too quickly as it can cause pain and discomfort. Think of when you get in the shower on a cold winter day and the pain you feel as the hot water hits your toes – you wouldn't want the animal feeling that all over their body!



Should an animal be slow in responding, unconscious or showing signs of injury, get them to your vet.



Chris Gilbert - Pleasant Point  
Deborah Lloyd - Mosgiel  
Pat Godsmark - Auckland  
Ms T Diamond - Te Horo  
Mel Anderson - Christchurch  
Michelle Welgemoed - Papamoa  
Rose Garratt - Auckland  
Julia Hamilton - Southland  
Katie Mitchell - Napier  
Barbara Godfrey - Kaiapoi  
Natalie Kearney - Napier  
Kat McAra - Christchurch



Michelle Welgemoed - Papamoa  
Liz Evans - Dunedin  
Katie Mitchell - Napier  
Caroline Cornish - Taupaki  
Kat McAra - Christchurch  
Wendy Osborne - Rangiora



Sherleigh Nielson - Napier  
Nola Hall - Inglewood

Fay Silcock - Blenheim  
Athena Hapakuku - Kaiapoi  
Merlin Hamilton - Southland



Michelle Catton - Whangarei

**AUTUMN  
ISSUE  
WINNERS**

It's winter, so no better time to curl up with a good read. We have a number of books to give away this issue ... happy reading.

## WINTER ISSUE GIVEAWAYS



### BAD DOG FLASH

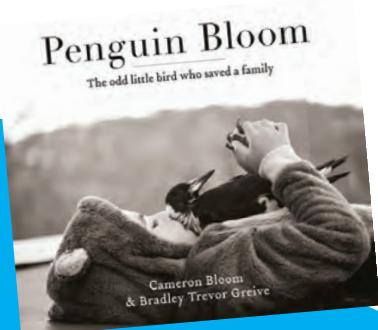
Ruth Paul

Poor Flash! Trouble seems to follow him around ... Flash is a playful young puppy, as they are. Unfortunately, his play seems to get him in trouble all the time, whether it be chasing the cat, digging a hole in the garden to hide (or find) his bone, or even just bringing a stick to the door! But when all's said and done, he's a much-loved pet.

*Bad Dog Flash* is available in both English and te reo Maori, and we have 10 of each to give away.

**Bad Dog Flash (English):** email your address to competition@petlife.co.nz with Flash English in the subject line.

**Bad Dog Flash (te reo):** email your address to competition@petlife.co.nz with Flash Te Reo in the subject line. RRP \$19.90



### FINDING GOBI

Dion Leonard

Fans of *A Streetcat Named Bob* will also love *Finding Gobi*, the heart-warming true story of a dog who captured hearts around the world. It's the ultimate story of hope and friendship – proving, once again, that dogs really are a man's best friend.

*Finding Gobi* is available in both the original book and an adolescent's book. We have five of each to give away.

**Finding Gobi (Adult):** email your address to competition@petlife.co.nz with Gobi Adult in the subject line. RRP \$25

**Finding Gobi (Child):** email your address to competition@petlife.co.nz with Gobi Child in the subject line. RRP \$14.99

WIN!



### GOOD DOG

Stephanie Johnson

Funny, insightful, lyrical and touching, this is the perfect book for every dog lover.

From good dogs to bad, and adored pets to hard-working sheep dogs, these canine companions have not only settled into New Zealand hearts but also into their books. Author Stephanie Johnson (herself an owner of a long line of mutts) has brought together an entertaining mix of writing. This collection includes both the old and new, and is a range of poetry, short stories and non-fiction.

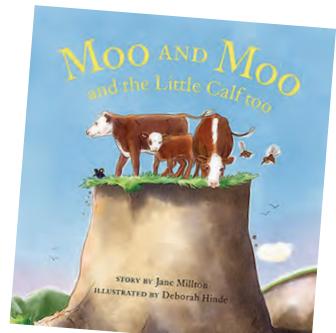
We have one copy to give away. Email your address to competition@petlife.co.nz with Good Dog in the subject line. RRP \$35.00

### PENGUIN BLOOM

Bradley Trevor Greive and Cameron Bloom

*Penguin Bloom* is a unique journey of recovery and an extraordinary celebration of life, featuring Cameron Bloom's exceptional photographs and a captivating narrative by *New York Times* bestselling author Bradley Trevor Greive. Penguin, a plucky magpie, reminds us that no matter how lost, fragile or damaged we feel, accepting the love of others and loving them in return will help make us whole.

We have five copies to give away. Email your address to competition@petlife.co.nz with Penguin in the subject line. RRP \$29.99



All competitions close 31 August, 2017, with winners details published in our spring issue.



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## PET DIRECTORY

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[info@petlife.co.nz](mailto:info@petlife.co.nz) for details.

# WELFARE RESCUE GROUPS

## NATIONWIDE

### KITTYCAT FIXERS

Location: National charity - based in Auckland  
Phone: 021 059 5863  
Email: info@kittycatfixers.org.nz  
Website: www.kittycatfixers.org.nz

**ROTTWEILER RESCUE & REHOMING NEW ZEALAND**  
Location: Servicing all New Zealand  
Phone: 021 022 006633  
Email: rottierescuenz@gmail.com

**NZ RAT RESCUE**  
Location: New Zealand  
Email: office@nzrr.org  
Website: www.nzrr.org

## AUCKLAND

**CRAZY CAT LADY CAT RESCUE SOUTH AUCKLAND**  
Location: Papakura  
Phone: 027 248 0577  
Email: cclcr@hotmail.com

**FRANKLIN CAT RESCUE**  
Location: Pukekohe, Auckland Phone: 027 901 2244  
Email: franklincatrescue@gmail.com  
Website: www.franklincatrescue.co.nz

**9 LIVES ORPHANAGE**  
Location: Auckland  
Phone: 021 210 0051 or 021 208 2486  
Email: 9livesorphanage@gmail.com  
Website: www.9livesorphanage.co.nz

**HOPE RESCUE SOUTH AUCKLAND**  
Location: South Auckland  
Phone: 027 686 2778 or 021 0200 8791  
Email: hope.rescue.south.auckland@gmail.com

**PASSION 4 PAWZ**  
Location: Auckland  
Phone: 021 126 1031  
Email: passionforpawz@gmail.com

**NORTH SHORE TURTLE, REPTILES & AMPHIBIAN RESCUE**  
Location: Birkenhead, Auckland Phone: 021 140 9491  
Email: nsrescues@gmail.com

**AUCKLAND FISH, TURTLE & REPTILE RESCUE**  
Location: Auckland  
Phone: 021 113 3469  
Email: reptilerescuenz@gmail.com

**AUCKLAND PUPPY RESCUE**  
Location: Auckland  
Email: Admin: puppyrescue@outlook.com,  
Fostering: puppyfoster@outlook.com,  
Adopting: puppyadopt@outlook.com  
Website: www.aucklandpuppyrescue.com

**AUCKLAND CAVY CARE**  
Location: Auckland  
Phone: 021969301  
Email: jrpetkeeper@gmail.com  
Website: www.aucklandcavycare.org

**CHAINED DOG AWARENESS**  
Location: Auckland  
Email: info@cdanz.org  
Website: www.cdan.org

## BAY OF PLENTY

**WHANGAMATA CAT**  
Location: Whangamata  
Phone: 021 252 7002  
Email: whangamata.cat.adoption.team@gmail.com

**FREE AS A BIRD BATTERY HEN AND POULTRY RESCUE**  
Location: Mamaku, Rotorua  
Phone: 021 212 4788  
Email: freeasabirdrescue@outlook.co.nz

**ANIMAL RESCUE & REHABILITATION CENTRE**  
Location: Tauranga  
Phone: 07 579 9115  
Email: info@arrc.org.nz  
Website: www.arrc.org.nz

## WAIKATO

**ADOPTABLE**  
Location: Hamilton  
Phone: 07 390 0529 or 021 263 5652  
Email: jay@adoptable.org.nz  
Website: www.adoptable.org.nz

**PAWS 4 LIFE**  
Location: Hamilton  
Phone: 021 246 8978  
Email: rachael@paws4life.co.nz  
Website: www.paws4life.co.nz

## NEW LIVES ANIMAL RESCUE

Location: Waikato  
Phone: 027 649 9088  
Email: newlivesrescue@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.newlivesrescue.co.nz

**PAWS AWHLIE ANIMAL SANCTUARY**  
Location: Raglan  
Phone: 021 102 9977  
Email: anna.dahlberg@hotmail.co.nz

**DOG PROTECTION LEAGUE**  
Location: Hamilton  
Phone: 027 535 8930  
Email: dogprotectionleaguenz@hotmail.com

**L.A.R.A ANIMAL RESCUE & FARM SANCTUARY**  
Location: Te Akau, west of Ngaruawahia  
Phone: 07 974 9024  
Email: larafarmrescue@gmail.com  
Website: www.littleacresfarm.co.nz

**SOUTH WAIKATO BRANCH RNZSPCA**  
Location: Tokoroa  
Phone: 07 886 7722  
Email: swspca.reception@xtra.co.nz

## HAWKE'S BAY

**HASTINGS & DISTRICTS SPCA**  
Location: Hastings  
Phone: 06 878 8733 (Shelter)  
Email: committee@spcahastings.org.nz

## MANAWATU/WANGANUI

**POPPELLES KITTEN RESCUE**  
Location: Palmerston North  
Phone: 027 438 7913  
Email: poppelles@clear.net.nz

**ALL PAWS RESCUE**  
Location: Manawatu & Taranaki  
Email: rescueallpaws@gmail.com  
Website: www.allpawsrescue.org.nz

## WELLINGTON/KAPITI

**HUHA - HELPING YOU HELP ANIMALS**  
Location: Otaki & Kaitoke (Upper Hutt)  
Phone: 04 392 3232  
Email: enquire.huha@gmail.com  
Website: www.huha.org.nz

## KITTEN INN

Location: Lower Hutt  
Phone: 04 565 1193  
Email: info@kitteninn.org.nz  
Website: www.kitteninn.org.nz

WELLINGTON AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE RESCUE  
Location: Upper Hutt  
Phone: 027 840 6064 or 027 318 3840  
Email: wgnr.rescue@gmail.com

THE OUTPAWED RESCUE TRUST  
Location: Porirua  
Phone: 021 644 538  
Email: outpawed@gmail.com  
Website: www.outpawed.wordpress.com

## WEST COAST

GREYMOUTH SPCA  
Location: Greymouth  
Ph: 03 768 5223  
Email: greyspca@xtra.co.nz

## CANTERBURY

CAT RESCUE CHRISTCHURCH CHARITABLE TRUST  
Location: Christchurch  
Email: catrescue.chch@gmail.com  
Website: http://catrescue.org.nz/

## CHRISTCHURCH BULL BREED

RESCUE  
Location: Woolston, Christchurch  
Phone: 021 296 7389  
Email: chchbullbreedrescue@hotmail.co.nz  
Website: www.chchbullbreedrescue.org.nz

## TURTLE RESCUE AND REHOMING

Location: Christchurch  
Phone: 021 202 0185  
Email: turtleinfo@paradise.net.nz  
Website: http://www.turtlerescue/

## CAT CARE INC

Location: Rangiora  
Phone: 021 202 0185  
Ph: 03 313 3851  
Email: info@catecare.org.nz  
Website: www.catcare.org.nz

## OXFORD BIRD RESCUE & CANTERBURY RAPTOR RESCUE

Location: Oxford  
Phone: 021 292 7861  
Email: obr@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.oxfordbirdrescue.org.nz & www.canterburyraptorrescue.org.nz

## CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

CANTERBURY  
Location: Chistchurch  
Phone: 03 376 6094  
Email: cplcats@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.cats.org.nz

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ANIMAL RESCUE NETWORK NEW ZEALAND  
Location: Dunedin  
Email: arnnz.enquiries@gmail.com  
Website: www.arnnz.org.nz

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# RESCUE SUPER STAR



Greyhounds as pets .org.nz

Greyhounds are often only thought of as racing dogs – they’re hardly ever considered as a family pet or that they can survive outside the kennel environment. This common misconception is something that Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) is trying to break by rehoming retired racing Greyhounds. A Greyhound does not generally have a long racing career, so the Gap trust was set up by Greyhound Racing New Zealand in 2002 to give these wonderful dogs another chance at life. *Pet Life* writer Morgan Healey talks to John Telfer, the national co-ordinator of GAP, and Daniel Bohan, GAP’s lower North Island co-ordinator, about their experiences with Greyhounds and the work that Greyhounds as Pets does.

## What interested you in Greyhounds?

**John:** The fact that Greyhounds make such great pets. Once you take a little time to help them adapt to family life you will be rewarded with a great pet that is intelligent, affectionate, and lazy. The fact that they also do not need a huge amount of exercise appealed to me. You can just take them for a 30 minute walk and some play time, and from there they are happy just to cuddle up for the rest of the day.

**Daniel:** I wasn’t really looking for a dog, but then I met a Greyhound during an adoption drive and fell in love. He was big but completely gentle, sweet, goofy and regal all at the same time. We couldn’t get him out of our minds so we did some more research on Greyhounds and discovered that one would fit perfectly into our home life. Next thing you know we had applied for a retired Greyhound, passed the home check and Syrus came bounding into our lives.

## How many Greyhounds have been rehomed?

**John:** Over the past 10 years almost 2000 Greyhounds have been rehomed into loving homes. We are steadily increasing the numbers over time, and this year we are looking to rehome a dog every single day.

## What is your biggest achievement so far?

**John:** I am new to GAP but have found that the biggest achievement is the sense of camaraderie within the GAP community of Greyhound owners. A small number of staff and service providers work for GAP, but they are supported by all these incredible, passionate people who volunteer their time and money to help out. GAP has stands at many shows, and the volunteers come in droves to help increase awareness of the Greyhound.

They spend hours talking with potential owners, informing them of the many benefits of owning a Greyhound. There also is a bunch of Greyhounds that come down to do the meet-and-greets, and allow hundreds of people to pat them during the events.

## Where do you see the charity in the next five years?

**John:** Our goal is to get up to about 500 adoptions a year. This is achievable and we will strive to get better and better at assessing the hounds and matching them to the correct adoptive families. It is also about getting the word out about how great Greyhounds settle into family life, and spreading more awareness for retired Greyhounds in general.

## Do you have a favourite hound that you have worked with?

**John:** One memorable foster hound was a wonderful boy aptly named Goofy, whose love of life was infectious (think of the Tigger character from Winnie the Pooh). His wagging tail was a lethal weapon – he had no concept of his size and he wanted to kiss every single person he met. A spell in foster care helped him learn how to be polite without losing his adorable zest for life, of course!

**Daniel:** I am very lucky in my position that I get to spend time with so many amazing hounds and humans. I’m like a big kid now when I get to see all the dogs that I have worked with visit me at events with their new families. Recently, I took a hilariously playful girl named Molly from our Levin kennels to an event in Palmerston North. By the end of the day it was very, very hard for me to not dog-nap her – just drive right past the kennels. I didn’t, and it was a very happy moment a couple of weeks later when we found the perfect home for her.

## What is the most challenging part of doing this kind of work?

**John:** Definitely communication. Both keeping engaged with our many donors and owners, as well as getting the message of Greyhound adoption across to potential owners. Fundraising is always a challenge as well. We need to kennel every dog that we take in, and feed them Petware Nutrience while we assess them and match them to families. This can sometimes take a little while so the costs really do mount up. Also, every dog needs to be registered, vaccinated, desexed and have a full health check completed. We need to fundraise all of the funds to keep the day-to-day running of these kennels going.

**Daniel:** Every once in awhile there may be a particular dog that seems to be waiting far too long to find a new home. This always makes my heart ache thinking of them there, week after week, waiting, while other hounds seem to come and go. It’s hard because in my role I can only work to get people interested in adoption in general, I don’t have control over who adopts which dogs. On the flip side, though, the day does come when that dog will finally find the right family and it turns from the most challenging part of my work to the most rewarding.

## What is something that you wish the general public knew about Greyhounds?

**John:** Greyhounds are incredibly lazy and will sleep for up to 20 hours a day if given the chance. That’s not to say they don’t love doing things, they do very much, but when there is nothing else going on they are happy to fall straight to sleep. This makes them very easy dogs to manage despite their size. Much easier, in fact, than many smaller breeds of dogs. Greyhounds are also

intelligent, loyal, affectionate, playful and very emotional. They are basically just big cuddle monsters.

#### How can the general public get involved?

**John:** Ideally by adopting a Greyhound and joining the GAP community of owners. If you can't welcome a Greyhound into your home at this stage, you could become a Steadfast Friends donor which can be done through our website [www.greyhoundsaspets.org.nz](http://www.greyhoundsaspets.org.nz).

#### THE GREYHOUND COLLECTIVE

The Greyhound Collective is a Facebook group where Greyhound owners and lovers of the breed come together to talk about their shared interest in their dogs. The page is filled with tales of Greyhounds getting up to mischief, new clothing accessories, giant caterpillars and the general day-to-day life of some of the most pampered pooches in the country. *Pet Life* asked the group to share some of their stories to show the many different faces of the Greyhound world, and got many responses from loved-up owners. Meanwhile, if you are interested in adopting a Greyhound, or just have a love for the breed, please get involved in the group by searching 'The Greyhound Collective' on Facebook and requesting to be a member.

Both my hounds are very calming, but George has a special talent. My nephew who has Asperger's is in love with him. Ollie has never met George, but if he has a meltdown my sister can pull out a picture or video of my dog and he starts laughing and calms down. I often get messages from her saying she just showed Ollie a video of George and "he is dying of laughter".

- Chelle



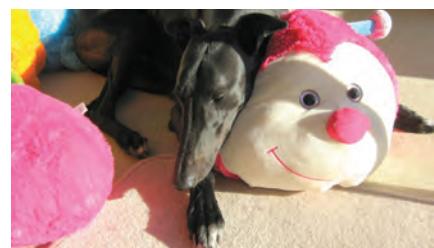
This is Dino, our third Greyhound. The day after we collected him he managed to chase a rabbit through a piece of broken fence on our property (which is out of town and not close to anything but the road). We thought he was lost! We were so worried, but then suddenly a BMW appeared in the drive with our Dino standing in the back looking like he had scored a really good ride – his tail was wagging and he looked very pleased with himself. The couple who brought him back had tried other properties along the road but our neighbour sent them our way as they had seen hounds running around the place and guessed he was ours.

We placed him in the house and closed the door while we repaired the fence to prevent any further escapes. Taking full advantage of being in the house alone he decided that the venison that was defrosting on the kitchen bench would make a very nice snack, indeed. Thanks, Dino, that was our dinner!

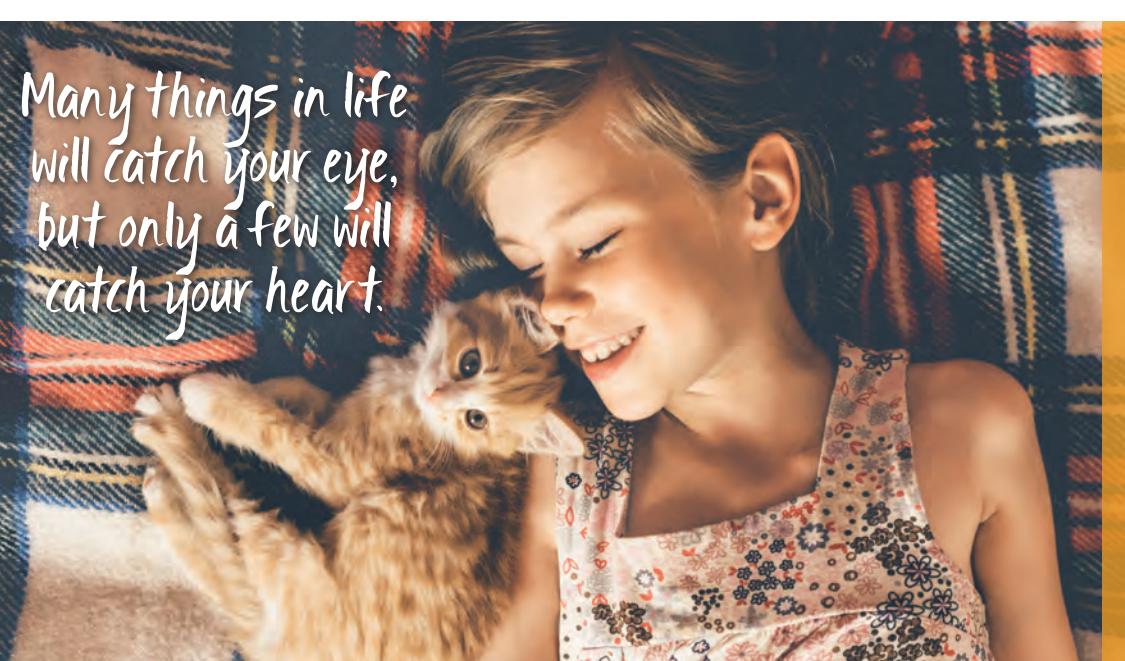
So although our first 24 hours with this stunning boy was a little challenging, he has turned out to be an utter gentle-man, soft, loving, laidback, sleeps for hours, and cuddly. Like all of his breed! - Jacqui



Jack has been with me for just over two years. Jack was up for adoption for a long time (I got him after meeting him at an adoption drive six months earlier) and now lives a second life as a classroom dog. He comes to school every other day. - Bex



Like so many of the dogs on the Greyhound Collective, Leroy is in love with his giant caterpillar. - Kat



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