

Pet Life - Magazine Issue 7.  
SPRING 2018  
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COMPETITION WINNER

**Rabbit Care 101**

**GROOMING**  
FUR THE LOVE OF DOGS

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Every pet deserves



# Letter from the Editor



I've got thousands of photos on my mobile phone, and they're predominantly of my naughty pack. Take a scroll down my Facebook page, all the best ones end up there! And it seems I am not alone.

A study that looked at how 1000 American dog parents behaved on social media found, on average, dog people post a picture or talk about their dog on social media six times per week. They also look at others' dog videos or photos three times a week. One of the biggest reasons, they say, is that most dog owners see their fur baby as family. We're all crazy about our dogs.

So, it's no surprise that we had 697 entries in our Pet Cover Page competition, which was taken out by the cuties on the front of this magazine. And we had thousands of onlookers and hundreds of voters.

But it wasn't just doggy photos we got either. The entries included cats, horses, rabbits, rats, fish, goats, bearded dragons, guinea pigs, kune kune pigs, cockatiels, a tortoise, lambs, sheep, chinchilla and even a lama.

And looking at the photos, what was clear was that all those pets were very well loved and spoiled.

We had dogs dressed up in fancy sweaters and collars, going on great adventures (some awesome background going on in the photos) and cats lounging in their human's bed.

It was super hard having to choose just five for the public to vote on.

This is the first time we have run this competition and it certainly won't be the last. I mean, seriously, we've got the best cover page ever!

Elsewhere in this issue we have two first-time contributors who will write regularly for Pet Life.

Rabbit lady Nicki Lewis of Forage NZ, which sells a range of rabbit treats and goodness, is super active with rabbit rescue groups and will share her bunny knowledge with us. On the topic of dog socialisation is Lucy Anderson, of Confident Canines, who uses positive reinforcement training methods to teach dogs to become, well, confident canines.

In the future we hope to introduce more writers on specific animal topics, and next issue a fish expert will join the menagerie.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy sharing all the love within these pages.

*Inger*

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## COVER PET WINNER

### KAYA & MIKA - ASHLEIGH MACPHERSON

Kaya is an amazing and intelligent 3-year-old white shepherd. She knows many tricks (too many to count!). Mika is a 4-month-old Finnish Spitz (she comes from champion show lines), who is an energetic and happy girl.



# GROOMING - FUR THE LOVE OF DOGS



Her job has taken Angela Anderson further than she ever would have imagined.

Master groomer Angela Anderson reckons she has the best job ever.

Once upon a time a burnt out office worker, she quit the corporate world and took some

lessons in dog grooming.

"I had been trying to adopt a child and I wanted something I could do at home and loved animals, loved being creative," says Angela, who's still manic in her work but it's "good because it is about animals and a complete balance to my brain".

Now a mother of three, Angela owns Angels Professional Grooming Centre in Auckland, which includes a parlour and academy.

She has 20 staff, and "I find myself getting really excited for them because I know what is ahead for them and they don't know".

"After 18 years I love the job way more than when I first started."

Of course, for her it's all about the dogs, and she has some 3000 in her books.

"We are not washing someone's car, we have a connection with these dogs.

"I don't know why I love it, it's just dogs feed off energy; you can say what you want to them but it's the way you say it. And whatever energy they have I thrive off that, too."

To become a master groomer took four years of workshops and exams.

Angela practiced a lot on her poodle, Angel - "we named her so she became the parlour dog and tax detectable". Angela got her because she was learning all sorts of haircuts and colours and didn't have a dog to practice on.

"My husband was, like, I am not going to walk a pink poodle up the road!"

But there's more to grooming, than clipping and dying a doggy.

"You have to have to know everything about a dog that happens.

"You're tested in four groups of dogs: poodle, gundog, terrier and bichon."

And it turned out that Angela was pretty good at it. She entered her first competition, came runner-up, and every competition since she's come either first or second.

Twice, Angela was part of the New Zealand grooming team, competing in Barcelona and Australia, and then she went on to become an internationally certified groomer, which meant she "had to do all those dogs again but all at once".

She got into judging and certifying, managed a groom team, created and ran seminars, and most recently was the key speaker on a cruise ship.

"I don't compete any more," says Angela. "It's my turn to give

back to the next load of people, now."

One thing that's always bothered her is that people can't always afford to get their dog groomed, which is a huge irony because "it can be a low paying job ... if you make \$40 an hour you are doing pretty well".

Angela helps by offering \$10 grooms via her training academy: "It just takes ages, but the dogs are all patient and lovely."

Another rewarding part of her job is getting SPCA cases of badly neglected dogs.

"They can't go to the toilet because their hair is so matted, or their hair is glued to their eyeballs.

"Usually by that stage they have given up on everything.

Sometimes you free them from almost a plaster cast of hair.

Underneath they are all white and pristine, because nothing can touch under there. They come alive and animated. Some dogs fall asleep because they enjoy the experience, but for some it is the last straw."

People don't realise it but every dog needs to be groomed, says Angela - and every cat.

"Even the shortest, shortest hair because it falls out easily.

Twenty-thirty years ago they said 'don't wash your dog, it's not good for them'. But now we have good dog shampoos. You could wash your dog every day with good quality shampoo, as you would wash your own hair.

"We do a lot of deshedding so people don't have hair around the house. Brushing alone is still grooming. If someone wants to do something at home they should brush - that is definitely the biggest problem we see, people are not brushing enough. Brushing will fix 90 per cent of the problems dogs have, and it stimulates the skin and follicles and gets rid of the shedding coat.

"We have quite few hairless dogs come to us because they get blackheads.

"The dogs that don't shed, their coats get matted, so you have to get the matts out. But more and more now we see a lot of skin problems from bad diets. We are doing a lot of skin treatments with very good results."



# BUNNIES, BUNNIES, BUNNIES

Nicki Lewis from Forage NZ is mum to two Flemish Giants, Willow and Charlie, and excited to be sharing some great care information and fun tips to enhance your relationship with your rabbits.



## FEED

Let's start with the basics ... I grew up watching Saturday morning cartoons that showed rabbits eating lots of carrots, but this is in fact such a small part of what they need in their diet. So, what should we feed our rabbits to keep them happy and healthy? Did you know that a rabbit's most important food is fresh hay? This is 80 per cent of what they need every day. When buying hay, have a good sniff. You are looking for a sweet smell, and hay that is at least four months old. Aged hay is important because it reduces the risk of your rabbit catching a virus, such as calicivirus, which can lay active in the environment for up to three months. What else should we feed? You would be surprised at how many amazing weeds and plants are hiding in your backyard, such as plantain, puha (sow thistle) and cleavers (biddy bids).



Plantain



Puha/sow thistle



Cleavers/biddy bids

When foraging for these, make sure you get them from areas that are free from wild rabbits and dog or cat urine. Give the plants a good wash before you feed them to your rabbit. Another great way to ensure you have healthy and safe options of fresh greens is to plant a bunny garden. I use the blue shell-shaped sandpits for kids. If you don't have a green thumb then stick to growing easy greens like fennel, mint, pineapple sage, lemon balm, plantain, dandelions and puha. These are all really low maintenance and easy to grow in pots or in the garden. They can be fed fresh or dried in a dehydrator to be stored in an airtight container to make them last even longer. Pellets help make a balanced diet. Be sure to source pellets that are high in fibre - don't feed too much though. My two 6kg+ Flemish giants get an eighth of a cup each day between them, along with fresh hay, fresh greens and dried forage.

## TEETH CARE

Rabbit teeth constantly grow so a good way to maintain good bunny chompers is to provide them with things to chew and bite. Fruit tree branches are a fantastic option, such as apple, pear and quince, or weeping and twisted willow. Make sure the branches are spray free, and scrub off any lichen before feeding. I use a wire brush to get off any nasties.

## HOUSING

A hutch is not enough is the catchphrase for many rabbit welfare associations across the world. But what does this really mean? In New Zealand, some really small hutches can be found for sale but they don't allow rabbits to be rabbits - to run, hop, stand up or lie down. Rabbits love to run around and do binklies - this is when a bunny jumps in the air and flicks

its body in joy. Dog pens are a great option to connect to an existing hutch to give your bunny more room. Rabbits also make wonderful house pets and can be litter trained. Willow and Charlie have their own room but are free range in our home and live with Vada, a 19-year-old cat, and Nemo and Dexter, our dynamic duo Griffon dogs.

## VACCINATIONS

There are multiple viruses in New Zealand designed to control the wild rabbit population which put our beloved pets at risk. Your rabbits need to be vaccinated with the Filavac vaccine, Filavie. This is a new vaccine that replaces the CYLAP vaccine previously used, and is relatively new to the country. Ask your vet to order this for you from Assure Quality.

## DESEXING

Pet rabbits live happier and healthier lives when desexed, and desexing significantly reduces their chances of uterine or testicular cancer as they get older. Desexing also helps with undesirable territorial behaviour, crucial when wanting to have a pair of rabbits.

When choosing a vet to desex your rabbit, make sure they are experienced with rabbits; not all vets are rabbit savvy. Rabbit care has come a long way in the last decade but rabbits are internationally recognised as exotic animals and you need a vet that has had training in their care.

I always tell people to ask a few questions when finding a rabbit vet. These include:

- How many female rabbits do you desex? *(If they only desex males then find another vet.)*
- Do you provide take home pain relief after the surgery? *(Rabbits feel pain like we do and they have a super-fast metabolism so pain relief only lasts about 12 hours. Pain is the leading cause of complications following surgery because rabbits in pain stop eating, slowing their digestive system. Complications like GI stasis can occur when the tummy stops moving. If the vet does not or will not provide pain relief for you to give then try another vet.)*
- Should I starve my rabbit the night before surgery like you would a cat or dog? *(If they say yes then go to another vet. Rabbits should NEVER be starved of food.)*

## PLAYTIME

Rabbits are highly intelligent, love problem solving and love to play. The best way to play with your rabbit is to get down on the grass or, if you have a house rabbit, lie on the floor with them. Simple toys they like to play with include a toilet paper roll filled with hay and fresh herbs, a cat/dog treat ball filled with pellets, or pegging food to a little washing line. Pinterest has some great ideas for DIY toys. If you purchase toys from a pet store make sure to choose a natural option that has no artificial dyes, dairy, artificial flavour or glue.

## COMPETITION

We have a \$100 hamper full of healthy Forage NZ treats to giveaway. For more details and to enter, head to [petlife.co.nz/competitions](http://petlife.co.nz/competitions).



Nicki Lewis  
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Forage supports New Zealand rabbit rescues

WIN!

# PCTI TAKES ANIMAL CARE TO NEW HEIGHTS

Pacific Coast Technical Institute is offering a free course in animal care which takes into account a new code of welfare coming into force later this year – and fish!

PCTI director Mark Hellyer says once the Code of Welfare: Temporary Housing of Companion Animals comes into practice, anyone working with companion animals, such as pet shops, doggy daycare, quarantine and welfare centres, will have to have some formal qualification in animal care. And that includes those working with fish!

“The fish has been a poor cousin to companion animals in the past, and it’s great to see we’ve come a long way in terms of the welfare of this animal group,” says Mark.

“We’ve come a long way in terms of how we house fish: aquarium size, availability of food and oxygen; what the husbandry looks like: what varieties work together, their needs and wellbeing.

“What was OK in the past isn’t OK any more, and the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Care has a specific fish strand that students may choose to study.”

Mark says the course, which also has a strand in lifestyle block, is a new take on a programme that was delivered by Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT).

“We sat down with industry experts and MIT earlier this year and it was agreed that the animal care industry in New Zealand deserved improved support and expertise in delivery New Zealand wide.

“It was decided PCTI would take the lead in delivering the programme, and we subcontract through MIT.”

Mark says responding to animal industry’s needs was right up PCTI’s alley.

“We determined the industry’s needs, and rethought the process to get the appropriate qualification.

“Industry environments and access to appropriate species are paramount to having relevant animal care training experiences, as are people and expertise.”

The course can be used as a direct pathway to vet nursing/ technology, he says.

“We’re really thinking here about young people, and we aim to engage our students from day one.

“Right from the start, it’s all about species and environment.

“We have cool staff; industry leaders. We have some pretty cool access to people and industries. Coming into contact with fish experts, they’re are like hen’s teeth, and two of New Zealand’s foremost aquarium and fish breeding experts are tutors on the programme. The fish thing, it’s a real niche expertise, and 75 per cent of our students so far have chosen to do the fish strand.

“We’re also attracting the commercial industry, particularly in the lifestyle sector, who are helping support students’ study.”

The course runs over 34 weeks. It’s a blended approach of distance learning and practical visits by tutors, even if students live in Stewart Island.

The fish strand is straight forward as a selection. However, the companion animal and lifestyle block strands require students

to select three animal categories to apply their study to.

“If you’re in a pet environment, you may wish to look at cats, dogs, small animals or birds, for example. Or if you select the lifestyle block strand you’ll need to apply your learning to three approved animals, such as cattle, sheep, goats, bees, pigs or chickens.”

PCTI started delivering the programmes in August this year, and the programmes are expected to change to keep up to date with policy and code of practice changes.

And the course will change, keeping consistent with policy and code of practice changes.

## NZ CERTIFICATE IN ANIMAL CARE (LEVEL 3) OVERVIEW:

This is an entry-level programme available all year round. It is an opportunity to upskill and gain further confidence in animal care, and be recognised with a qualification. The course has a strong practical focus, ensuring you will have the skill level necessary to work in an exciting, fast growing and diverse industry.

This NZQA approved 34 week part-time programme is available throughout New Zealand. If you are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, this course is **FREE**. The programme involves a significant amount of practical, onsite training.



Pacific Coast  
Technical Institute

## WHAT THE NZ CERTIFICATE IN ANIMAL CARE WILL TEACH YOU:

- Graduates of this qualification will be able to:
- assist with the day-to-day care of animals
- respond to normal and abnormal health and behaviour in animals
- comply with all regulatory requirements and relevant industry codes of practice for animal care.

Completion of this course will give you confidence in dealing with either fish, and/or companion animals, and/or lifestyle block animals.

In the fish strand, you will gain a strong understanding of the principles of water quality management, aquatic system design and construction, filtration and maintenance procedures, fish nutrition and how to treat common fish diseases.

In the companion animal and lifestyle block strands, you will learn about various breeds, caring for animals correctly, dealing with infections and the transportation of animals.



# FELINE BODY LANGUAGE

## WHAT IS YOUR CAT TELLING YOU?



Do you really understand what your cat is telling you? Learning to understand your feline friend's facial expressions, vocalisations and body language can help with bonding and prevent misunderstandings that may result in aggression.

A cat's ears, eyes and tail can give you clues about their current temperament and also what they may be asking of you. While some signs are obvious, such as a cat spitting and hissing at you, there are more subtle ones that you may be missing. Like when you see a cat roll onto its back exposing its tummy to you, you automatically assume that it's relaxed and content? In many situations this is true, however, if a cat is feeling cornered it may also lay on its back but have its claws extended and bare its teeth.

Have you ever wondered why your cat blinks slowly at you? This is referred to as the fluttering blink. If your cat blinks at you slowly, squints its eyes or is content to close them in your presence then it is communicating affection. Closing their eyes is an ultimate sign of trust from the cat. Try slowly blinking back at your cat to communicate that you pose no threat. Directly staring at your cat can indicate that you are challenging them by establishing your dominance; likewise, if you avert your gaze frequently from theirs, you have become the submissive party. Think back to any social setting you have been in when the cat heads to the person that is ignoring or not making eye contact with them ... that is who they gravitate to. If you notice your cat's pupils are dilated (large and saucer looking) then this can signal that the cat is really frightened and will retreat from the situation causing them stress. Remember that a cat's eyes naturally respond to light conditions so these signals need to be taken into account with other body language as a whole.

A cat's tail is possibly one of the most accurate telltale signs of mood to determine whether they are happy or not. If the tail is straight up, it generally means your cat is in a kind disposition of offering a warm welcome, they may be walking up to you. If their tail is also shuddering then this can indicate that they are exceptionally happy to see you. On the other hand, if their tail is straight up and puffed up then your cat is feeling afraid and threatened. Quite often, the puffed up tail is accompanied by an arched back. A tail that is straight out and down indicates

a cat is ready to battle/ fight. If they position their tail up and then hang it down it may indicate that they are priming to defend themselves. When your cat is afraid their tail will be tucked in beneath the body and, if not cornered, they will usually flee. Tail whipping is when your cat is swinging their tail in large movements from side to side and is normally



associated with an energised mood.

In general, cats meow in order to obtain their needs from their owner but they also use vocal cues when interacting with other cats. For example, caterwauling is a loud sound they make when threatened by other cats, and of course they will growl and hiss as a warning sign. Purring is normally a signal of contentment and can be coupled with pawing when snuggling with their owner. Some cats can also be very "chatty" with high-pitched gurgling noises, which is their way of being friendly.

While these body languages can give you an insight into what your cat is telling you, each cat is an individual and may have their own quirks. It is important to remember that no one knows your cat better than you, so if you do see a dramatic change in your cat's behaviour, seek veterinary advice.

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## ARTHRITIS

As our pets age, they may suffer from arthritis. It can be a painful condition and is usually noticeable first thing in the morning as a stiff gait (often worse in cold weather), which improves with a bit of exercise or movement.

Arthritis describes inflammation in a joint and may be attributable to many factors. It is generally a progressive condition, but we can do a great deal to slow the course of the disease and make your pet a lot more comfortable for the rest of their days.

It is very important to keep your pet's weight under control. Carrying around extra baggage is a huge burden on the joints and lightening their load will help them to function better and cut down on their pain.

Ensuring that your pet eats a wholesome, well-balanced, biologically appropriate diet with optimal amounts of omega 3 fatty acids, which are natural anti-inflammatories, will help them maintain a good weight and joint health. Supplementing their diet with omega 3s (found in flax oil, krill oil and cold water fish) is fabulous for supporting joint function, and making this change can make a noticeable difference.

Next on the list and clinically proven to help is a chondroprotective (joint protecting) agent called polysulphated glucosaminoglycan (P-Gag) or glucosamine. This is a naturally occurring substance found in green lipped mussel extract, shark cartilage and other sources. There are many supplements available, but as with all supplements it is important to remember that they aren't all created

equal – some work better than others and may be more appropriate for your animal than others. It is very important to ensure that a supplement is of good quality and has nutrients that are bio-available. This means that they are easy for the body to digest, absorb and utilise.

There is also an injectable form of P-gag that can be used alone or in conjunction with the above; it, too, can work wonders. Usually, we do a course of four injections under the skin (not necessarily into their joint) once a week for four weeks, and most animals show an improvement in their condition by the third or fourth injection.

Another invaluable source of nutrients, from grapeseed or pine bark extract, are proanthocyanidins. They act as powerful antioxidants that assist joint function and wellbeing. Ginger and turmeric (curcumin) can be helpful to improve circulation, and the latter is also useful for its natural anti-inflammatory properties. Dogs can be given 50mg-250mg of the dried turmeric herb one to three times a day, and cats 50mg-100mg once daily, but occasionally it can cause digestive upset so take care to check for this. Devil's claw, boswelvia and other plant extracts such as epitalis can also be very useful.

Massage of the tight muscles trying to compensate for the pain is very helpful as these are frequently tired and sore. Gentle massage is loved by most animals and helps to stimulate circulation.

Gentle, low impact exercise, such as hydrotherapy, swimming or walks on the beach, is of vital importance to help keep supporting muscles strong and contribute to general wellbeing.

In addition to all of this are alternative and complementary therapy options such as homeopathy, herbal medicine,

acupuncture, NIS (the Neurological Integration System), stem cell therapy, magnetic therapies and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, as well as musculo-skeletal therapies such as chiropractics and Bowen therapy, which I have found to be very valuable aids for my patients. For optimal results, these are best done by an experienced practitioner working in conjunction with your vet to tailor make a programme to suit your animal's needs.

If none of this makes enough of a difference we make use of painkillers such as non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, which may occasionally have side effects such as causing gastric ulcers and sometimes kidney problems, to ease pain. They usually have a dramatic effect. In many animals with painful arthritis, who are unresponsive to other therapies, the benefits usually outweigh the relatively small risk of side effects.

Other supportive care is important to help preserve quality of life. Warm and comfortable bedding will go a long way to keeping your pet comfortable, and some dogs and cats benefit from special magnetic beds that theoretically help to improve their vitality.

Older animals with arthritis are less inclined to move around. This stops regular wear of their nails which can then grow long enough to put strain on their nail base or even cause them to grow inward into their pads, which is extremely painful. Decreased flexibility also makes it difficult for them to groom themselves, especially if they are obese, leading to knotted coats which are uncomfortable and harbour parasites such as fleas. Regular nail trimming and grooming is often imperative.

With a comprehensive treatment plan, a great deal of quality can be added to your pet's life – and quantity, too.



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## Finding an injured animal

Imagine you're on the way back from the shops and you spot a cat lying on the side of the road that looks injured. You pull over to check on it, but can't see it moving. You need to check if it's alive, but how do you do that on an animal?

If you're not sure what to do then don't worry, you're not alone! Even though lots of us have pets, many wouldn't.

The first thing you need to do is look out for any signs of movement as you're approaching the animal. If the animal moves at all, you need to get it to a vet to get it checked for injuries and trauma.



If there is no obvious movement then focus on whether you can see its chest rising and falling; this will show if the animal is breathing. If you can't see the chest moving then try putting your hand in front of their face to feel their breath. If they are breathing, then get them to a vet!

If they are not breathing, check for a pulse to see if their heart is still beating. The easiest place to feel for a pulse is the femoral artery, on the inside of the animal's back leg.

If the animal is not breathing but has a heartbeat/pulse, you will need to perform rescue breathing to get them breathing again. Rescue breathing is when you use mouth to nose/ mouth resuscitation with no compressions. If there is no pulse, then the heart has stopped and you need to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, otherwise known as CPR. CPR is a combination of rescue breathing and chest compressions, until a heartbeat/pulse has been detected. Once a heartbeat/pulse has been detected make your way to the nearest vet clinic.

### CPR CHECK LIST

1. Look for signs of movement.
2. If no movement check for chest rising and falling.
3. If they are not breathing check for a pulse.
4. If you find a heartbeat/pulse perform rescue breathing.
5. If no pulse, perform CPR.
6. If heartbeat/pulse resumes get animal to the nearest vet.



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# GREYT FASHION

**GAP is a worldwide clothing and accessories retailer. It's also the acronym of Greyhounds as Pets. And greyhounds are becoming by far the most stylish dogs when it comes to fashion. We take a quick peek at a winter fashion show for greyhounds, held in Christchurch.**

One of the more unique aspects of owning a greyhound is the clothing available for them. Greyhounds have low body fat and short fur so can feel the cold quite badly. As they've become popular as pets, a whole industry has emerged to keep them warm. After all, it's quite difficult to dress a greyhound in clothes made for other dogs, because of their size and shape. And the designs are turning heads. This flair for the sublime was recently celebrated with a GAP show fundraiser, Greyt Fashions, in Christchurch on July 8. Kathleen Crisley, dog massage therapist and director of The Balanced Dog, principal sponsor of the show, says greyhound parents often get stopped in the streets because of their dogs' gentle nature and colourful outfits. Greyhounds as Pets, often referred to as GAP, has an active group of owners in the Canterbury region and everyone was enthusiastic about showing their dogs and their outfits. "We had so many outfits that we couldn't show them all," laughs Kathleen, "or the show would have gone on forever. "So what I did was introduce the Take a Bow (Wow) collection, where it was owner's choice as they lead their dog out for the



final curtain call." The show, which was held at Sixty6 nightclub at Christchurch Casino, took a page out of Fashion Week, with hounds modelling their clothing in Rainwear, Knitwear & Snoods, Early Winter, Deep Winter and Summer Wear categories. Kathleen covered all the direct expenses for the show, which included hiring a runway and having it installed, advertising and printing. She says local business Parker Photography donated their time on the day and took some awesome photos. "Their contribution was huge. Since this indoor show used spot lighting we needed a professional photographer." A raffle and a silent auction were also held at the show to raise money. Local businesses and some larger corporates, like pet store chain PetStock and dog food brand Nutrience, donated products. "PetStock staff were onsite to give out goodie bags to the first 120 people through the door; this helped us encourage people to come to the venue early and made crowd control easy." An impressive total of \$4994 was raised for the cause.

**Greyhounds make wonderful pets and more information about the breed and the adoption process can be found at [greyhoundsaspets.org.nz](http://greyhoundsaspets.org.nz).**



Lucy sporting pjs



Lincoln in blanket coat



Demi



Spot





## JUNIOR DOG TRAINING CAMP 2018

The Dogs New Zealand Junior Dog Training Committee run a camp for all children aged between 5 and 19 every January. The venue alters between the North and South islands, and this year was held in the Manawatu.

Fifty-one youngsters attended the camp from all over New Zealand, from Queenstown and Dunedin to Auckland and the Hawke's Bay, and everywhere in between. The majority brought their own dogs to the camp but for those that didn't have a dog or couldn't bring their own dog, one was provided for the week.

The emphasis of the camp is on dog training. Some of New Zealand's top dog trainers taught the young people and their dogs in obedience, agility, rally-O, canine fitness and trick training. The children also learnt about first aid, thanks to a talk from a local veterinary clinic. They enjoyed practising their bandaging skills on each other.

However, JDT Camp is a lot more than just dog training. It offers other fun activities with your dogs, including a cross-country course, fastest recall challenge, loose lead walking (while holding a cup of water) and grooming sessions, and you

can have a go at sled dog racing, tracking or flygility. Then, while your dogs are resting, there is plenty of fun to be had with a water slide, top team competition, inflatable thunder run, bungee tramps, zip slides, shooting and confidence courses, to name but a few of the other exciting activities.

The week ends with a concert to which friends and relatives are invited. Camp teams show a video they have made of their week, and also perform a lip sync number to a panel of judges for the 'Top Team' competition.

The Dogs New Zealand Junior Dog Training Committee would like to thank Pet Life for their generous contribution to the goodie bags given to the children on arrival at camp.

**To find out more about camp, or if you fancy joining in next year, then please email [sallieremon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sallieremon@xtra.co.nz) (chair of Dogs NZ Junior Dog Training Committee).**

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# Pet Life

## COVER PET COMPETITION

We ran our first Cover Pet competition this year and were overwhelmed with how many awesome photos we received. With 697 entries it was very hard to choose our top five, which went on to be voted by you. Ashleigh Macpherson's Kaya and Mika won the coveted cover spot in a close competition with Patrick, Cooper, Pics and Mads (featured below). Over page you will see a snap shot of some of the other awesome entries. Do you see your pet there? No? Keep an eye on our social media accounts, perhaps your pet will appear there! It was a pleasure to see all our readers' pets and we look forward to our next cover pet competition in 2019 ... so stay tuned for the announcement.



### ◀ Patrick

Adopted from the SPCA in Christchurch, Patty (Patrick) is a Rex x Angora rabbit. He is a semi indoor rabbit, playing inside in the afternoon and night and having an outdoor house during the day.  
Owner — Anita Axcell

### ▶ Cooper

A rehomed dog who loves cuddles. Sir Cooper has a few anxiety issues and separation fear but we are working through these with love, cuddles and one-on-one time.  
Owner — Rebecca Stevenson



### Pics ▶

Pics was rescued from sleeping rough about 4yrs ago. She is a long haired Russian Blue, born in Southland about 9 years ago. She has had a rough start to her life, somewhere along the way losing a third of her tongue and most of her teeth. Mealtimes are messy to say the least, especially drinking milk - it goes everywhere! However, she is an affectionate and loving little soul, and is never far from her owner's side.  
Owner — Sam Grayson



### ▲ Mads

Mads is a Rottweiler, 8 weeks old in this picture. She's crazy, has lots of character, loves to hang out with the cats and is always smiling.  
Owner — Max lyttle



Jack



Novah



Guinness



Gilby



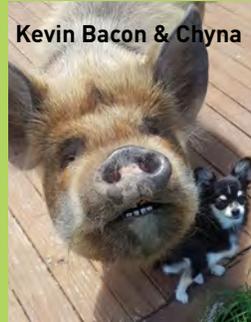
Uncle Corrado Junior



Titan & Puck



Muzz



Kevin Bacon & Chyna



Joel & Star



Monty



Barnabus



Keta



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The Big Dog Walk charity fundraiser started out as a promotional activity for organiser Alice Brine's comedy gig. Alice was wanting to sell more tickets for her show and what better way to promote it than with dogs! After all, she says, everyone loves dogs.

What came next was a total surprise. The Big Dog Walk actually took off. There was such a big interest that Bailey McCormack had to come on board and turn it into a real event. The Big Dog Walk has since grown in leaps and bounds. In 2016, just two cities took part: Wellington and Auckland. Last year, Hamilton and Napier came on board, and this year, Christchurch.

The Big Dog Walk is a collaborative event, with many people and companies coming together to make the day incredible. The concept is simple – let's get a massive group of people and dogs together and all go for a walk at the same time. You don't

## Pet Connect ... and the Big Dog Walk!

As proud sponsors of the 2018 Big Dog Walk held in Auckland, Napier, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch, Pet Connect ran a competition to find the spunkiest dog in New Zealand.

Each city held their own Next Top Model Search regional competition, and of those five winning dogs the ultimate model pooch was chosen by the New Zealand public on Pet Connect's social media.

New Zealand's Next Top Model Search doggy is Aayla from Christchurch.

### **What made you decide to sponsor the Big Dog Walk?**

We LOVE charities and we work with our charity partners New Zealand-wide – they need our help and we can give it. So when we got the opportunity to get behind the Big Dog Walk, an event that was all about helping dogs in need, we tethered up without a second thought.

### **Who decided on having a model search, and what was the main motivation for this?**

We ran a mini version of Top Model Search when we launched the business last year, and it generated so much hype (not surprising – who doesn't love cute dogs?) that we thought it would be heaps of fun to do the same competition again but on a much bigger scale. Not only was this a great way to spread the word about the Big Dog Walk, it also gave us a chance to really introduce Pet Connect to pet lovers all over the country.

have to own a dog to attend, you just have to really like dogs! And it turns out that lots of people really like dogs.

For 2018, the organisers wanted to make everything bigger, better and more profitable for the charities they were fundraising for. Pet Connect was an amazing sponsor, putting money into the project to sell bandanas and other merchandise in every region. As a result, about \$3000 was raised for charity in Wellington this year, compared with \$700 last year.

Each region has their own charity to fundraise for. Auckland raised money for Chained Dog Awareness, Napier for Adopt a Dog, Wellington for Husky Rescue and Retired Working Dogs and Christchurch for The Arc and SPCA. But instead of giving cash, it was decided to team up with Omega Plus NZ, thereby using the money to buy animal food for the charities at a discounted rate.

This year also saw the addition of the Pet Connect Model Search, where each event had a competition to find the best looking dog. The competition was run on Facebook, with people entering photos of their dogs with a short bio about them and why they should win. Based on audience vote, the top five pooches at each event battled it out to become regional winner. The regional winners then had their photograph taken professionally, and it was back to Facebook for New Zealand to choose the grand champion.

### **Can we look forward to another Pet Connect-Great Dog Walk collaboration?**

YES! Working alongside With Lots of Dogs (the charity that runs the Big Dog Walk) has been amazing, and we'll be back for more next year. It is a fantastic new charity run by incredibly talented and generous women. We would work with them all day every day if we could, but alas we'll just have to wait until 2019 ...

### **Anything else you want to mention?**

We really want to thank Pet Life for jumping on board with our Top Model competition. We are so stoked with your support and generosity throughout the holding of the competition and with Big Dog Walk itself. It's so cool that our Top Dog models will be featured in your awesome mag – what a prize! Let's be friends forever!

### **Who is Pet Connect?**

If you don't know about Pet Connect, we sell mainly New Zealand lovingly made unique products to Kiwis for their unique pets – just check us out on our fun social pages. We're rapt to partner with Fanimals on TV2, on their Tricks for Treats segment, and our suppliers include Paws & Claws, Washbar, Addiction Foods and Newflands!



# PetConnect

TOP DOG  
AAYLA

OVERALL &  
CHRISTCHURCH WINNER

Owner:  
**Georgia Buckley**

Photographer:  
**Craig (Furtography)**



TED



HAMILTON WINNER

Owner: **Christopher Vila**  
Photographer: **Tara Sutherland**

DUFFY  
THE  
FLUFFY



AUCKLAND WINNER

Owner: **Tiana Chen**  
Photographer: **Kirsty (Dog & Co.)**

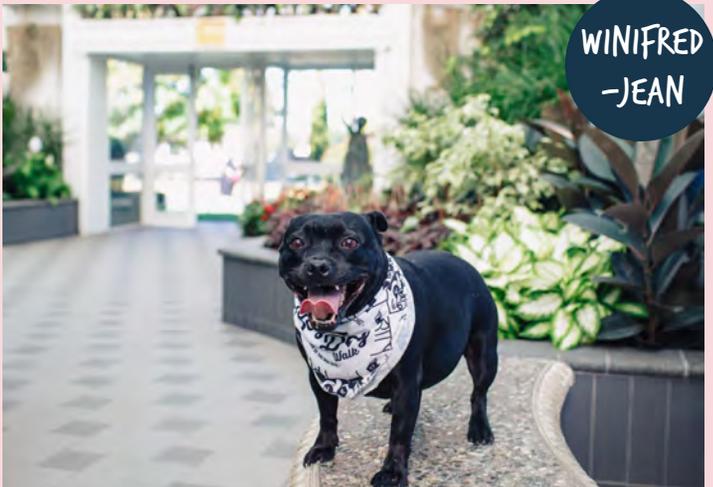
FRANKI



WELLINGTON WINNER

Owner: **Tania Beckett**  
Photographer: **Jo Moore**

WINIFRED  
-JEAN



NAPIER WINNER

Owner: **Nadine Hook**  
Photographer: **Kirsten Simcox**

# Meet our readers



Luna is a 15 month old black and white pied French Bulldog. Her personality is something I have never witnessed in a dog before, it's huge!

Since she was a wee pup she has always been a diva, extremely cuddly (not that I mind) and has never shied away from the camera.

She is true to her breed and loves to ruff and tumble with other doggos, but adores children and cuddles on the couch, too.

I have had many other breeds of dogs in my life, but honestly I could not imagine having any other dog now that I have her (farts, snoring and all)!

**Alice Petrie**

Hello, meet Tofu from Auckland. She recently turned 6 months old and is a very sweet Samoyed puppy who wears an overwhelming smile on her face every day. Tofu loves to talk in funny voices and she can run as fast as Usain Bolt. She is very rowdy for a girl but has such a kind heart, especially towards children.

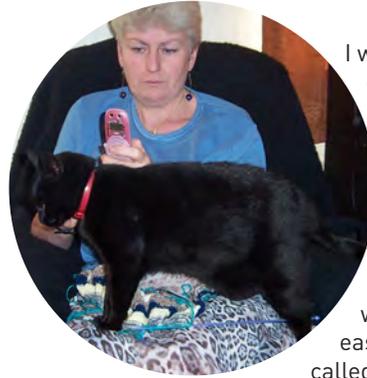
Tofu is also very generous with her kisses and she uses them when she causes trouble — it's worked a lot of times. Follow Tofu's daily silliness on instagram [@jimatofo](#)

**Jo Lau**



Oscar wearing his Lil Paws bandana. He was lucky enough to win a bow tie and this bandana in a previous issue's giveaway.

**Annie Percy**



I will tell you about my 14-year-old cat, Myst'ry. She was chosen by my husband as a kitten. At 1 year old, Myst'ry had five male kittens and after weaning them we were all off to Oamaru.

She is part Siamese so was an anxious traveller. But whenever we move she adjusts easily. She has accepted a kitten called Little Jade, who was

adopted from our vet clinic. Both Myst'ry and Little Jade are treated like our fur babies as we don't have children and they mean a lot to us.

**Louise Wainman**

This is Bruno, just after his groom. He is a little homebody. Sometimes he and I look after my sister's farm for a week or two and he loves the outdoors. But when we return home, Bruno hops into his favourite chair by the window and gives a huge sigh of contentment.

**Lesley Vlietstra**



This is captain cutie, our family pet who has kept many anxieties at bay, bridges the gap between kids and parent, and has acted as a great icebreaker for visiting Airbnb guest. He is a great wee bunny!

**Britta**

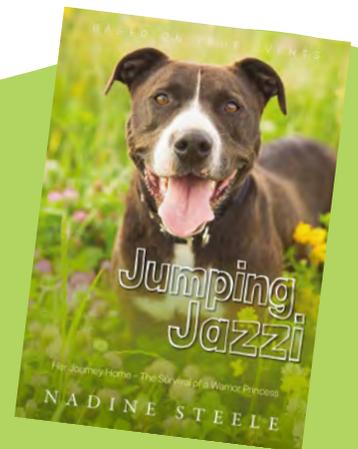
**We want to hear from you. Send us a photo and tell us about your pets. Email [info@petlife.co.nz](mailto:info@petlife.co.nz).**

## THE TAIL OF JUMPING JAZZI

In 2014, Jazzie the American Staffordshire terrier cross went missing from her boarding kennel in the Waikato and ended up on the run for 20 weeks. If it wasn't for a message on her Facebook page, @Jumping Jazzie, she may still be missing. A lady contacted Jazzie's owner, Cara Thomas, telling her she had seen a black and white dog on her property a few weeks earlier and it was this tip that prompted a massive flyer drop in the area. After the flyer drop, a couple of phone calls came in giving hope that Jazzie was still in the area and possibly hiding at an old quarry. Cara set off to the quarry, not expecting to find Jazzie that night. But to her surprise, there she was. While it took a while to get close to Jazzie, Cara persevered. It took Jazzie just one sniff of Cara's leg to recognise her owner and with that her tail was wagging furiously and she was running in excited circles.

Nadine Steele was a devout follower of the plight of Jazzie, following the daily posts on Facebook since the day she went missing. Her adventure inspired Nadine to write a novel from Jazzie's perspective, incorporating Cara's Facebook posts and possible sightings throughout. Jumping Jazzie is a moving story that shows the power of social media and the dedication of her owners to not give up.

**Jumping Jazzie by Nadine Steele is available to purchase from Real NZ Books ([www.realnzbooks.co.nz](http://www.realnzbooks.co.nz)) with a RRP of \$30.**





# (COOL, CALM AND COLLECTED CANINES)

**Everyone wants the perfect puppy. One that will grow into a confident and happy canine that takes everything in its stride and fits perfectly into your family. So what is the secret to getting the perfect dog? Well, it's understanding that everyone's perfect dog is different; but early proactive socialisation is key.**

When born, puppies, just like humans, don't have the social skills required to live within their family. These skills are learnt throughout their lives but there is a sensitive period when learning is easier. For puppies, this is until 16 weeks of age. This period is when millions of new brain connections are being made daily by everything the dog sees, smells, touches, tastes, hears and meets. These connections mean the puppy's brain is primed for learning, and what is learnt in this period of time will most often stay with them for life.

While genetics and breed disposition do affect the behaviour of a dog, ultimately it comes down to this sensitive period. Therefore, it is essential to prepare your puppy for the life he will have, and this comes down to socialisation.

Socialisation isn't about introducing your dogs to as many other puppies as possible and letting them play unsupervised. Unfortunately, this type of socialisation will often lead to behavioural problems, which are quite often embarrassing for the owner in the future.

This term socialisation simply means the learning a puppy will undergo to fit into its family lifestyle. Socialisation is a process of learning the life skills that will ensure a puppy is confident, happy and comfortable within their environment, and that they can communicate effectively.

During this critical or sensitive period, a puppy should be introduced to, and have pleasant experiences with, animals, people, objects and locations that will be commonplace within their life. We can't expect to introduce a pup to every single person, object or animal they will encounter in their life but we can make the experiences they do have positive ones. By having positive experiences when encountering new or novel situations or things, a puppy will be more open to new experiences in the future. If their experiences aren't positive during this critical period then it is more likely they will grow to become a dog that is less accepting or confident than if they had been well socialised as a pup. Poorly socialised dogs can become fearful, anxious or stressed when faced with novel experiences.

A puppy well socialised during this critical period is far more likely to be a happy, relaxed and confident canine. They will take new experiences in their stride and be less likely to respond with aggression or fear.

Socialisation can be split into several categories: people, animals, objects, locations and vehicles. Having a checklist to work through is a great way to keep track of your puppy's socialisation progress.

It is important to remember that a puppy won't be fully vaccinated until it is about 16 weeks of age, so although it is important to socialise your dog it is also important to ensure their safety. Only let your pup interact with fully vaccinated dogs or puppies whose owners have been taking the same precautions as you. Don't take your puppy to dog parks or grassed areas as parvovirus can live in the soil for up to seven years. Generally, vet clinics are cleaned with high-level disinfectant so you can carry your puppy in and then let them walk around and check things out. As always, follow your veterinarian's advice as to when your puppy is fully protected and able to explore the big wide world.

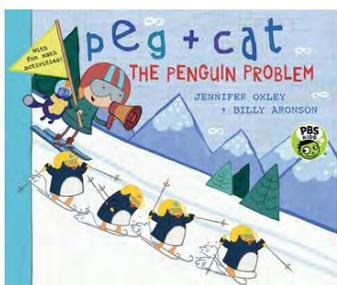
It is all about positive experiences but occasionally a puppy can have a negative one. In these cases, the best thing you can do as an owner is comfort your puppy. You cannot reinforce fear, so cuddling your puppy after they are scared isn't going to encourage them to be more scared in the future. What it will do is show your pup that you will give comfort, and it will improve your relationship, strengthening your bond. It will also make your puppy more willing to try out scary experiences when accompanied by you in the future.

Remember, positive proactive socialisation during the first 16 weeks of life is one of the most important processes to get a happy, calm and confident canine.



Lucy Anderson  
Veterinary Nurse & Dog Trainer  
confidentcanines@behaviourvet.nz  
www.behaviourvet.co.nz  
Wellington

WIN!



### Peg + Cat: The Penguin Problem (RRP \$16.99)

Billy Aronson & Jennifer Oxley

Navigating a ski course can be a problem if you don't know what over, under, and in between mean. Peg and Cat to the rescue!

At the South Pole Peg and Cat are preparing to watch the ski race at the Animal Winter Games when they spy the Penguins zooming downhill. CRASH! The Penguins keep slamming into obstacles! Peg tries to help by shouting directions: "Go over! Go under! Go in between!" But the Penguins don't know what over, under and in between mean. Luckily, Cat points out some directional arrows to follow, and a problem is solved ... for the moment. Now can anyone figure out how to keep the ice floe the Penguins have landed on from tilting?

Pet Life has **one** copy of Peg + Cat: The Penguin Problem to give away. Competition closes 30 November 2018.

### NRG+ Active Dog Treats (RRP \$22.95)

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### FIREWORKS & ANXIETY

For some, fireworks are enjoyable and bring great joy. But for others, the sale of fireworks causes concern for their pets, as many pets suffer from serious anxiety and stress as a result of fireworks being let off.

While some pets are able to cope with the noise of fireworks by simply being brought inside, others may need further comforting and even medication.



### Jumping Jazz (RRP \$30.00)

Nadine Steele

This story tells of a simple cross bred dog, the unwavering love and hope of her family, and the power of the New Zealand public via social media.

After a Houdini-like escape from the boarding kennel, Jazz was lost, scared and on the run for 20 long weeks.

It was going to take love, devotion and a lot of help to bring Jazz home.



Pet Life has **one** copy of Jumping Jazz to give away. Competition closes 30 November 2018.

### K9 Aromatherapy Paw Fix (RRP \$20) & Healing Salve (RRP \$18)



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herbs to create a potent wound and irritation

healing aid. Has been shown to help heal cuts, grazes, irritations of all kinds, burns and post-op wounds.

Pet Life has **one** Paw Fix and **one** Healing Salve to give away. Competition closes 30 November 2018.

To enter any of our giveaways, visit [petlife.co.nz/competitions](http://petlife.co.nz/competitions) or simply scan the QR code to be directed to our competitions page.

Winners' details published in our summer issue.



In preparation for the fire works season, 4URPAWS and K9 Aromatherapy have teamed up to bring you an anxiety bandana pack. The 4URPAWS bandana\* can be worn with a couple of drops of K9 Aromatherapy Freedom From Anxiety blend\*.

Pet Life have **four** anxiety bandana packs to give away.

Enter at [petlife.co.nz/competitions](http://petlife.co.nz/competitions).

The anxiety pack competition closes 30 September 2018 (earlier than the other giveaways). Winners' details published in our summer issue.

\*Ensure you follow the instructions provided with the Freedom From Anxiety blend. Bandana colours may vary.

# PET DIRECTORY

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Website: www.kittycatfixers.org.nz

### ROTTWEILER RESCUE & REHOMING NEW ZEALAND

Location: Nationwide  
Phone: 021 022 006633  
Email: rottierescuenz@gmail.com

### NZ RAT RESCUE

Location: Nationwide  
Email: office@nzzrr.org  
Website: www.nzzrr.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.cdanz.org

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### WHANGAMATA CAT

Location: Whangamata  
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Email: whangamata.cat.adoption.team@gmail.com

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Email: freeasabirdrescue@outlook.co.nz

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## 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 AWHILE 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

### DC RESCUE

Location: Waikato  
Phone: 021 041 4108  
Email: dc\_rescue@yahoo.co.nz

## HAWKE'S BAY

### HASTINGS & DISTRICTS SPCA

Location: Hastings  
Phone: 06 878 8733 (shelter)  
Email: committee@spcaghastings.org.nz

### GOAT WELFARE NZ

Location: Central Hawke's Bay  
Phone: 0211 602 329  
Email: goatwelfarenz@hotmail.com

## 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

### HAVEN BULL BREED RESCUE

Location: Manawatu & surrounding area  
Email: havenrescue@yahoo.co.nz  
Website: www.havenrescue.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: wgmt.rescue@gmail.com

### THE OUTPAWED RESCUE TRUST

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

### WAIRARAPA COMMUNITY KITTIES

Location: Featherston  
Phone: 027 882 9518  
Email: wairarapakitties@gmail.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: www.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: turtlinfo@paradise.net.nz  
Website: www.turtlerescue.co.nz

#### CAT CARE INC

Location: Rangiora  
Phone: 021 202 0185  
Ph: 03 313 3851  
Email: info@catcare.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: Christchurch  
Phone: 03 376 6094  
Email: cplcats@xtra.co.nz  
Website: www.cats.org.nz

#### DOG WATCH SANCTUARY TRUST

Location: Christchurch  
Phone: 027 319 2411  
Email: info@dogwatch.co.nz

#### THE NEW ZEALAND RAPTOR TRUST

Location: Timaru  
Phone: 027 448 9044  
Email: admin@nzraptor.co.nz

### OTAGO

#### ANIMAL RESCUE NETWORK NEW ZEALAND

Location: Dunedin  
Email: arnzn.enquiries@gmail.com  
Website: www.arnzn.org.nz

#### ONE BY ONE RESCUE NZ

Location: Dunedin  
Email: onebyonenz@gmail.com  
Ph: 03 926 9325 Trina  
Ph: 0278579379 Jaimee

### SOUTHLAND

#### SOUTHERN CROSS GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS

Location: Invercargill  
Phone: 027 201 6812  
Email: debbie.branks@sit.ac.nz

#### SOUTHLAND GREYHOUND ADOPTION

Location: Southland  
Phone: 027 511 8894  
Email: southlandgreyhoundadoption@gmail.com

#### FUREVER HOME

Location: Invercargill  
Email: info.fureverhomes@gmail.com  
Website: www.fureverhomes.org.nz

*Pet Life is not associated with any group listed within. This list has been put together to assist our readers with finding suitable rescue and welfare groups within their area.*

*If you would like to see your rescue/welfare group listed here, email [info@petlife.co.nz](mailto:info@petlife.co.nz).*

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## **Kaikōura Wildlife Rescue treats and rehabilitates sick and injured native New Zealand birds in the North Canterbury/Southern Marlborough region. The rescue facility officially opened its doors in September 2017, and more than 150 sick or injured birds have been taken into their care.**

The rescue is run by wildlife biologist Sabrina Luecht, who specialises in endangered species and has worked for many conservation organisations in New Zealand and around the world. Sabrina is originally from Germany but immigrated to New Zealand with her family in 1997. She studied zoology at the University of Canterbury, working in the New Zealand and international conservation sector. She specialises in endangered species.

"I have always aimed to make a difference in my lifetime," says Sabrina. "Every bird matters, and in most cases their injury is human-induced, whether from interference or injury, such as vehicle, boat and window strike, or from dog attacks and food shortages caused by commercial fishing or climate change."

Sabrina undertakes her wildlife rehabilitation work voluntarily and at her own expense, therefore Kaikōura Wildlife Rescue is self-funded. However, Sabrina is in the process of applying for charitable status so she can apply for national funding grants. Purchasing ongoing medical, diet and cleaning supplies for birds is expensive, and she cannot keep up the expense singlehandedly long term. And wildlife rehabilitation is not just a service to native birds but also to the local community and New Zealand – it ensures that declining species get given the best chance of survival, to help ensure they will be around for future generations.

Kaikōura Wildlife Rescue has been approved for a 10-year Department of Conservation Wildlife Act permit and is

a member of the Wildlife Rehabilitators Network of New Zealand. Sabrina has a close working relationship with VetCare Kaikōura, Wellington Zoo and a number of other wildlife vets across the country. The facility currently has a wildlife room with outdoor enclosure, and a second wildlife room is being planned. Eventually, with the help of funding, a large flight aviary will be built for long-term rehab patients.

The past season has been a busy one, says Sabrina, with a huge number of native birds in need in the Kaikōura area and nationwide. It had been a tough breeding season, with many young seabirds struggling with starvation due to La Nina conditions, which affect ocean temperatures and food availability.

At Kaikōura Wildlife Rescue, blue



Giant petrel



Morepork



Blue penguin release

penguins, Hutton's shearwaters, petrels, gulls and shags have been the main patients.

"Some days I was receiving four birds, which is a lot for one person. Less common patients this season were a giant petrel and a yellow-eyed penguin."

Sabrina says the hardest part of wildlife rehabilitation is dealing with the injuries and deaths. While she does her best for every patient, there are some cases where, despite treatment and countless hours spent on them, they cannot be saved.

"This is a very real and sad part of the job. The positives always do outweigh the negatives though, and thankfully the best part of wildlife rehabilitation is being able to help and save so many of our native birds. The moment that really makes my heart sing is when you

release a bird back into the wild and you know all your hard work has paid off for that one bird."

Sabrina says if anyone should find an injured or ill native bird, please keep them in a box at room temperature in a quiet place until they can be dropped off at the nearest rescue facility, vet clinic or Department of Conservation office. Minimise handling and do not attempt to feed or hydrate birds.

For birds found in the Kaikoura area, please call Kaikoura Wildlife Rescue on 021 585 586 for immediate assistance and handover.

## DONATE TODAY

**Kaikoura Wildlife Rescue is always in need of donations, and any amount will help with the work it does. Donations go towards extensive running costs and equipment (dietary, housing, cleaning, medical, etc). The rescue has a Givealittle page for donations at [givealittle.co.nz/cause/help4wildlife](https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help4wildlife). Alternatively, connect with them on Facebook at Kaikoura Wildlife Rescue.**



Kingfisher



Fiordland crested penguin

If you would like to be featured as our rescue superstar, email [morgan@petlife.co.nz](mailto:morgan@petlife.co.nz).

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