

PetLife



Insta-perfect portraits

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Bunny breeds

Know your rabbit breeds

Life of the party

Catnip and your cat

Ferg the fighter

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ISSUE 24 | SUMMER 2022/23

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Editor's Note

Rabbits make such lovely pets but finding the right breed is important, so let us help you decide which rabbit breed would be right for your family!

Isn't it nice to have summer here? Nice warm days and plenty of time to go for lots of long walks with the pups. When you are out walking, don't forget to give other dog walkers space. Not all dogs like others up in their grill. We used to have a dog that didn't like other dogs too close and when one approached it always gave me a little bit of apprehension. Back then, colour-coded leads and collars were not a thing but, man, I wish they were. We would have slapped a bright red combo on him! Read on to learn more about this system and whether it is something you should adopt for your dog.

It is also time to be wary of karaka berries while on walks. They are highly toxic to dogs. Dr Cori from Vet Online Consult shares the signs to be aware of if you think your pup has accidentally eaten one. If you didn't read Dr Cori's article on giardia in our spring issue, it's also good, just pop on to our website and have a read. It's always good to know what symptoms to look out for if your pet enjoys a bit of river or lake swimming.

Rabbits make such lovely pets but finding the right breed is important, so let us help you decide which rabbit breed would be right for your family! And we chat to Raylene Holder from Auckland Cavy Care Rescue to learn more about the great work they do.

Our cat, Dusty, loves catnip, goes crazy over it. He only has to have a whiff and he heads into overdrive. Is your cat the same? Learn why some cats like it while others don't, and whether it is safe.

Have a wonderful and safe summer with your pets.

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For they're a jolly good fellow!

Auckland Cavy Care Rescue (ACCR) is celebrating a decade of helping New Zealand guinea pigs and other pets. They currently have 107 guinea pigs, 84 rabbits, 10 cats/kittens and six chinchillas in care. We talk to Raylene Holder to learn more about ACCR and their journey over the past 10 years.



When did Auckland Cavy Care Rescue start and what did you do to celebrate 10 years?

Our first rescue was on 28 October 2012, when my daughter Hartley saw a very sick guinea pig being advertised on Trade Me in a small bird cage and wanted to help it. Not long after that our local pet store contacted us to ask if we would take a guinea pig they had in store as it was biting everyone and would need to be put down if they could not find someone to take her. Trixie came into our lives and was the cavy that

inspired Auckland Cavy Care.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary we commissioned New Zealand artist Joanne Bowe to draw our special guinea pig Trixie. This artwork will grace the cover of our 2023 ACCR calendar.

Do you help cavies anywhere in New Zealand?

We generally help guinea pigs in the upper North Island area, but are happy to provide advice for guinea pig owners anywhere in New Zealand.

How many guinea pigs come into your care each year?

Each year, around 150-200 guinea pigs come into our rescue. In the past 10 years, we have had over 2000 guinea pigs pass through our care and on to their forever homes.

Why do so many cavies end up in your care and how can we change the current situation?

Guinea pigs come to us from a range of situations, from owners surrendering them due to life changes, unable to cope with caring for them, family separations, buying two of the "same" gender and then finding out they are a male and a female. We have seen people unsuspectingly buying cavies that were already pregnant before they took them home, and some people just have a lack of knowledge about them.

Often people get new pets, mostly dogs, that don't get along with the guineas so they are the ones to be rehomed.

Sadly, quite often when people no longer want them they will just open the hutches and let them go or dump them in public spaces thinking they will have a great life. This just isn't the case; in fact they have no defences to fend off predators and have very sad outcomes.

Do you have a favourite rescue story?

Lucky Lizzy was the last guinea pig from a family of guinea pigs left to fend for themselves in the owner's backyard, without a hutch or any proper shelter or protection from cats or dogs. She was a long haired merino guinea pig and her beautiful long white hair was stained yellow and badly matted with poo. She was surrendered to the rescue, after some negotiation, where she was given a shave, medicated bath and medical treatment to recover from the sad state she was in. Once recovered, Lizzy was desexed and rehomed to a wonderful guinea pig owner who has a guinea pig heaven in her backyard.

If you could tell the public one thing about guinea pigs, what would it be?

That they are not an easy care pet and they are a five to nine year commitment, with some living over 10 years old. They are a long term commitment just like a cat or a dog.

What is the most challenging part of this work?

Seeing the neglect and suffering that people put their animals through, be it intentionally or unintentionally due to lack of knowledge.

How can people help out?

Adopting, fostering, donating, sharing social posts or purchasing merchandise, every little bit helps support ACCR to support animals in need.



ABOVE Lizzy before and after she has been washed and shaved.

What else would you like to tell our readers?

Since 2008, Switzerland's Animal Protection Ordinance has prohibited owning solitary guinea pigs. This is because they are highly social animals that rely on companionship.

To make a donation to Auckland Cavy Care Rescue, please visit aucklandcavycare.org.nz or email aucklandcavycarerescue@gmail.com.

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Dogs of war

UKRAINE

The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) is helping pets affected by the war in the Ukraine. Nigel Allsop, founder and president of AWAMO, tells Pet Life about his heart-breaking visit to a dog sanctuary in the war-torn country.

It's been a while since Nigel Allsop had last shed a tear.

At a dog sanctuary, some 40 kilometres out of Lviv, he was swamped by too many dogs to count, all trying their best in their own way to say "pick me, take me home".

"It was a place of refuge for many dogs that had been transported from the front lines, however, it was originally built for 50 dogs, not for the around 1800 it has – too many to count," says Nigel who visited earlier this year.

"It'd been a while since I'd last had a tear in my eye."

It's not just people who are affected by war.

"Conflict often results in the depopulation of entire regions,

causing animals to be left behind," says Nigel.

Domestic animals, deserted during conflict or war or whose owners may be killed, are left with no provisions of food or water. They may be left tied up or kept inside an abandoned building, or else left to roam the streets and defend for themselves.

"Abandoned animals perpetuate stray populations and are vulnerable to outbreaks of diseases and, once the conflict has ended, animals who were once healthy are likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder or physical ailments that decrease their likelihood of adoption."

Nigel says Australian Animal Aid, a sub-branch of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation Inc (AWAMO), could see the animal

'Once the conflict has ended, animals who were once healthy are likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder or physical ailments.'

TOP LEFT Nigel Allsop giving dogs some affection.

TOP RIGHT Nigel Allsop, UPAWS coordinator and guide Oksana Blahovisna, the dog sanctuary owner and Peter Kotzur.

crisis happening in Ukraine and wanted to do something about it.

He approached the Queensland area manager of PETstock to help facilitate a delivery of more than \$300,000 worth of essential pet care supplies to animals impacted by the war in Ukraine.

But he wanted to make sure the emergency food would go to areas most in need. That's why he went to Ukraine.

“We sought advice from the Ukrainian Embassy as to which non-government organisations we should work with. As such, a shipment was sent to UPAW to coordinate and deliver aid across the Ukraine.”

Nigel says AMAMO was also advised that there were animals starving and dying in zoos and farms across Ukraine.

“To help these animals, we will be purchasing fresh fodder and other fresh food and essentials and pay for them to be delivered in-situ.”

One of the first places visited by Nigel and his colleague, Peter Kotzur, was the dog sanctuary.

“The staff, all volunteers, are doing an amazing job but are simply overwhelmed. The refuge is awash in mud, many of the dogs remain dirty, but they are with help and fed.”

Nigel says the dogs need more than just food with winter approaching.

“They need better shelter and food storage areas. We have in our shipment various winter coats for dogs and horses, as well as dog bowls and collars, which will help.

“But this is just one of many shelters that need help. Apart from food, they need free veterinary assistance and structures for a food preparation area.”



TOP Dr Vol Dzhuryk from NOWZAD. **ABOVE** The kennels were too few so now a double storied house is being used as a home for 100 dogs.

‘The staff, all volunteers, are doing an amazing job but are simply overwhelmed.’

Nigel says AWAMO's outlook is providing a balance of food and equipment that is useful in the long term, such as power plants, fridges and sheds.

Like many other countries, Ukraine has a large population of companion animals, with one estimate claiming some 750,000 dogs and 5.5 million cats are owned by Ukrainian families.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, more than 7.5 million people have fled.

Many of them were pet owners who left when the first bombs started to fall, taking nothing with them but necessary documents and pets in cages or carriers or dogs on leads.

Of those who haven't fled, a study has found that 39 per cent of the families chose to stay in Kyiv rather than leave their pets or animals behind.

Of those who fled, fewer than 10 per cent of families left their pets behind.

WHAT'S NEW

We check out the latest products available on the market for dog lovers!



Bowie Drools Over the Alphabet

Healthy fresh foods and recipes you can share with your furry best friend.

Good health starts with good food and that also applies to your furry best friend. Australia's hungriest Labrador, Bowie, has been trying, testing and drooling over his human mama's wholesome home cooking and enjoying the health benefits, too!

Having studied raw dog food nutrition, author Riesa Renata talks about a dog's physiology and the nutrients they need to thrive in her recipe book, *Bowie Drools over the Alphabet*. She provides useful guidelines with practical advice and tips to ensure your dog has a nutritionally complete and balanced diet and a successful transition to a fresh food diet if you'd like to feed your dog fresh foods.

Whether you are new to fresh food feeding or a seasoned fresh food feeder, there is something in this book for everyone and for every paw!

LickiMat

Reduce spills and stop naughty chewers with LickiMat's Keeper® range.

Lickimat Keeper® and Outdoor Keeper™ are perfect pet accessories to shield your Classic and Tuff™ Lickimat Buddy, Soother and Playdate from naughty chewers and protect floors from spills. The Lickimat Outdoor Keeper™ is perfect for pet feeding outdoors and has an anti-ant channel. Simply add water to the anti-ant channel to keep those pesky little insects out of your pets food.

Lickimat Keeper® turns Lickimat into a combination Lickimat and large feeding bowl. Lickimat Keepers are specially designed to fit genuine Classic and Tuff™ Lickimat Buddy, Soother and Playdate. Our new Keepers are available in green, orange, turquoise, pink and grey and are both dishwasher safe.



Explore the paw-some world of pooches!

Satisfy your canine curiosity with this who's who (or should that be 'woof's woof') of dogs.

This fully illustrated guide lets us off the lead to explore all the weird and wonderful dog breeds from around the globe.

Large maps of each continent show where each dog breed (both common and rare) is from. Follow-on doggy profile pages will then give the low-down on each one – where they come from, their history, their physical characteristics and their personality traits. There are also special themed spreads on 'dogs that work', 'how dogs communicate' and 'doggy heroes' and more.

From the Alaskan malamute and the dalmatian to the Labrador and the Welsh Corgi, this new book has canines covered.



Acclimitising a new wet pet

Acclimitising your new tank addition is important. Cam Scott from The Fish Room explains the best practice for introducing new fish into your aquarium.

If you have a quarantine aquarium available, we strongly encourage you to quarantine your new pet for four weeks before you introduce it into your main display aquarium. If you do not have one available, we then encourage a very close monitoring system for the first four weeks; remember the faster you detect any issues (if you have any), the better chance you have to successfully treat the problem.

Directions

1 If you know you have fish arriving, we suggest doing a water change and feeding your current aquarium within half an hour of the time you are introducing your new pet. This will lower the nitrate level, fill the bellies of your new fish and should lower the chance of aggression. If you are introducing cichlids or predatory fish, we would encourage changing decorations as well so no territory is established.

2 Float your bag in your aquarium for 10 minutes. This will ensure the temperature from bag and aquarium match.

3 Open the new bag and remove about a cup of water from the bag and replace it with the same amount from your aquarium.

4 Repeat this process every 15 minutes for two hours. This will ensure that the water chemistry does not shock your new pet.

5 Catch your new fish from the bag and place it into your aquarium. Do not add the bag water to your aquarium.

6 We encourage you to leave your aquarium lights off for the rest of the day to help your new pet settle in.

For more information or help on acclimatising your new pet, visit [youtube.com/TheFishRoom](https://www.youtube.com/TheFishRoom) and watch the tutorial.

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Karaka berry toxicity in dogs

From January to April, dogs are at risk of karaka berry poisoning.

 Dr Cory

Karaka berries come from the karaka tree. This tree grows roughly 15 metres and has thick, dark green, glossy leaves. The berries are distinctive, being bright orange in colour. The berries are oval and grow between two and four centimetres long. Karaka trees are found all over New Zealand, but particularly in the North Island, and are a food source for our native kererū.

Karaka berries are bright and are therefore attractive to dogs to eat. They are toxic because they contain a strong alkaloid poison called

kerakin. The berries remain toxic even if they have fallen from the tree a long time ago.

If you see your dog eat karaka berries, you need to seek urgent veterinary attention. If ingested within the last one to three hours, a vet can attempt to make your pet sick, bringing up the berries and significantly reducing the chances of toxicity.

Karaka berry ingestion toxicity can take 24-48 hours to show clinically. This is important to note because you may not have seen your dog eating the berries.

It is important to be vigilant on walks and look out for karaka trees.

The signs of toxicity include:

- + lethargy
- + vomiting
- + tremors
- + seizures
- + collapse
- + disorientation or dizziness.

Treatment involves intravenous fluids, anti-nausea medication, gastro protectants and activated charcoal to help bind the toxins. If seizures occur then this can be controlled with medications.

The disease can progress quickly and even lead to death if not treated. Once patients are showing the signs above, they require intensive veterinary treatment, often for at least a couple of days to help them recover. Sometimes, even with medical support, there are dogs who pass away due to the severity of their symptoms.

It is important to be vigilant on walks and look out for karaka trees. Avoid any area where you know karaka trees are situated. If you cannot avoid going past an area where karaka trees are, put your dog on a short lead and keep them by your side at all times to reduce the chances of accidental ingestion. Keep a toy or treat with you to keep their attention on you while you walk through this high risk area. Make sure your friends and family are aware of the risks of karaka berries if they are taking your dog for a walk on your behalf.

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Colour coded leads and collars

WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Tail ribbons have been used in the horse world for many years; the red tail ribbon means “keep away, I might kick”.

This trend of using colour to help people distinguish animal traits such as fear or aggression is now common within the dog community also.

While out on a walk with your dog, it is all too common to have another dog bound up to you and hear their owner yelling from afar: “It’s OK, my dog is friendly!”

But what about your dog? Not all dogs are carefree and easy going on walks and this is where colour-coded leads and collars can be useful. So what do the colours mean?

-  **RED** means caution. STOP. If your dog doesn’t like to socialise with other dogs and/or people while on a walk, then click on that red lead.
-  **YELLOW** leads are typically used by dogs who are vulnerable. They may have anxiety, be deaf or blind, or vulnerable in some other way. Because of these vulnerabilities it is important that people know to proceed with caution so as not to frighten them.
-  **ORANGE** indicates that the dog doesn’t always play nicely with others – so while not saying stop, it means slow down and give the dog and owner some space.
-  **GREEN** is good! Dogs who wear a green lead and collar are generally happy to be around other dogs and/or people most of the time.

So next time you are out on a walk with your dog, take a moment to look for these colour-coded leads, or maybe even implement one on your pup to be sure of a safe and hassle-free walk.



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Get to know your rabbit breeds

THE BIG, THE SMALL AND THE FLUFFY

Rabbits make wonderful pets but choosing the correct breed for your family is important. If you have a lot of space you could look at a large breed like a Flemish giant, or maybe a miniature lop would be more suitable for the area you have available. How do you feel about grooming a longhaired breed like an angora? Can you handle pink eyes?

Here is a rundown on rabbit breeds and their attributes.



NETHERLAND DWARF

Size: Small (0.9-1.1kg).

Coat: A soft, short and dense coat.

Ears: Erect with slightly rounded tips and well furred.

Eyes: Round and bold.

Temperament: Can be timid, very alert.



ANGORA (ENGLISH)

Size: Medium (3-4kg).

Coat: Silky.

Ears: Short, well wooled and tufted ears.

Eyes: Bright and bold, ruby in colour.

Temperament: Docile and friendly.



DUTCH

Size: Medium (2-2.5kg).

Coat: Short glossy fur.

Ears: Short, strong and broad at their base.

Eyes: Large and bright.

Temperament: Gentle and easy to train.



MINI REX

Size: Small (1.7-2kg).

Coat: Fine with a silky texture, firm and plush-like.

Ears: Erect ears that are proportional to the body.

Eyes: Should match body colour.

Temperament: Calm and inquisitive.



MINIATURE LOP

Size: Small (1.5kg).

Coat: Dense with multiple guard hairs.

Ears: Broad and thick that are carried close to the cheeks.

Eyes: Bold, bright and large.

Temperament: Friendly and playful.

REMEMBER

Welcoming a rabbit into your home is a long term commitment. Domestic rabbits can live between five and eight years with some living until 12 years, depending on the breed. The SPCA and other rescue groups, like Wellington Rabbit Rescue, have many rabbits looking for their forever homes so be sure to check their websites. You never know, you might just find your new best friend.



FLEMISH GIANT

Size: Large, the largest breed in NZ (5-7kg).

Coat: Close and uniform in length.

Ears: Large ears carried erect.

Eyes: Bold and dark in colour.

Temperament: Sociable and gentle.



NEW ZEALAND WHITE

Size: Large (4-5kg).

Coat: Short, dense and thick to touch.

Ears: Large, round-ended ears carried erect.

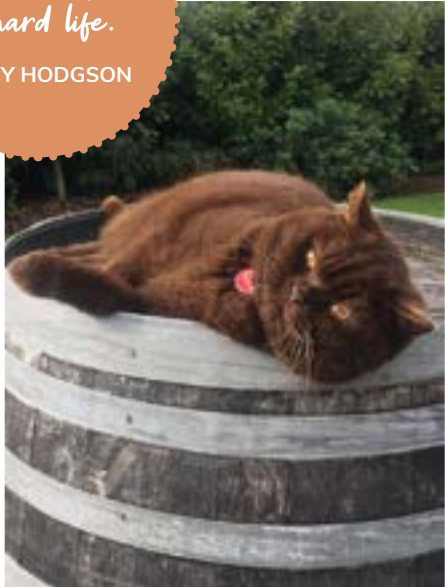
Eyes: Pink and expressive.

Temperament: Affectionate and even tempered.

READER'S PETS

Felix has quite a hard life.

CATHY HODGSON



Bling was blessed to be blessed at Church.

ELLY MOORE



Mimi the snuggle bug.

GARY SCOTT



all about Axolotl

We like our water temperature to be 17-18 degrees.

We eat brine shrimp, bloodworms and specialised axolotl food.

We prefer fine sand or large gravel (to big for us to eat) on the tank floor.

Getting the perfect shot

Struggling to get the perfect shot of your pet? Then you are not alone. Many pet owners have phones full of dud photos with the hopes of catching that one amazing shot. Here are some tips to help you capture that elusive photo.

Type of photo

Determine the type of photo you want to take. Do you want an action shot, a studio portrait look or something a bit different like dress up?

Setting

Once you have decided on the type of photo you are going to take then you can sort your setting. If you are setting up inside then consider things such as the amount of light the room gets. If you are heading to the beach, determine the best time to go so it's not too busy.

Natural light

Try using natural or ambient light rather than hitting the flash as this will remove any eye glow. If you need to use the flash then make sure your pet is not looking directly at you. Remember, a flash may frighten your pet so try to get them used to this before your shoot.

Use angles

Mix it up and try using multiple angles or manipulating the natural light. Consider taking a photo of just one body part of your pet, for example, paws, ears or eyes and lashes.

Safe and comfortable

In order to get a good photo of your pet, they need to feel safe. If you have a nervous pet then try setting up a "studio" background in or around your home or take them to their favourite park. A familiar setting will calm their nerves.



Get their attention

Getting and maintaining your pet's attention is important. Try whistling, dangling a favourite toy or offering a treat. Their eyes will light up.

Positive reinforcement

Positive reinforcement will help you direct your pet and make it easier to get the perfect shot. Try using cuddles, pats or treats; do what works best for your pet.

Stay calm

Be patient with your pet. Do not expect them to sit, stand or roll over on command just when you need them to. Sometimes, just watching them and taking random photos will result in a fabulous print.

Editing

There are many different software packages that you can use to edit your photo. Post-processing allows you to enhance the colour, tone and/or light, which in turn can drastically improve your photo.

Ferg the fighter

Living with a disabled pet isn't easy for them or for us! But Ferg, a 2-year-old German shorthaired pointer, is living his best life.

Racking up over 2000 followers on Instagram and becoming a calendar pup, nothing is holding Ferg back, not even his wheelchair.

Ferg wasn't born with his disability. When his human, Scott McIvor, got him at around 5 months old he was a normal, cheeky, active pup.

"Around 9 months, Ferg appeared to have hurt his leg and would cry whenever he laid down or stood up, but he came right within days so we just assumed he had hurt himself while running around like a maniac," says Sharlene McIvor, Ferg's grandma.

Unfortunately, a month or so later, Ferg had his next episode where it looked like he had hurt his front legs rather than the back. Just as his front legs came right, Ferg started walking in a 'twisted' fashion and was put on anti-inflammatories. Things kept getting worse. He started having trouble turning his head, didn't like chewing his food, had red eyes and was panting. Another trip to the vets had his blood tests come back normal and an X-ray indicating a possible C1 injury (atlas joint in neck).

"During this time, the country went into lockdown which made it harder to get help for Ferg so it took several weeks to try to get a diagnosis," laments Sharlene.



After multiple vet visits, the team determined Ferg's condition was not caused by meningitis or a stroke. The vet mentioned Ferg had visited him as a young pup and was treated for an ear infection (he was running around with his head to one side), but there had been a neurological question there.

"Ferg was also tested for toxoplasmosis; the test came back showing that it could be a possibility. So from six weeks from when he first became sick, Ferg was treated for toxoplasmosis which involved a dose of very strong antibiotics for several weeks."

Ferg started acupuncture with a vet and after one treatment started walking almost normally again, but unfortunately this was short lived. After the next acupuncture session, his walking went downhill. Soon he was having difficulty standing at all and the vet suggested euthanasia might be an option to consider, or getting a dog wheelchair.

Ferg loves the wheelchair and took to it straight away as soon as they put him in it for a test run.

Ferg loves the wheelchair and took to it straight away during a test run. The wheelchair gives him independence; without it, he is totally dependent on Scott. Luckily, Ferg can go to work with Scott and the backseat of the ute has been converted into a suitable area for him.

As for toileting, Ferg knows when he needs to go although he needs help to express his bladder. But this is a step up since he'd at first lost all bladder control.

“When you see how much he has progressed and how happy he is, it makes the hard work worthwhile!”

Keeping Ferg happy with a relatively normal life is hugely important, and the wheelchair has helped make that a reality.

“It gives him independence and he gets into all sorts of mischief, tries to chase bunnies, goes for walks. When he’s not in his chair he is with Scott or us so he always has people around him, interacting with him.”

Ferg enjoys going for walks at a nearby lake and has learnt how to play with a ball while in the wheelchair. He races around in his wheelchair, not even slowing for the corners, but rather drifting around them. He loves his squeaky toys and homemade snacks, including homemade icecream made with bananas, yogurt and peanut butter. He smacks his lips together when he is asked if he would like some.

Unfortunately, going forward, Ferg will require frequent vet visits, tests and medications to help maintain his health. By using a treadmill to try and help him regain a normal gait and build muscle, he has been able to stand up briefly unassisted and taken a couple of steps.

Hydrotherapy and further animal physio is currently being planned, and Sharlene has set up a Give A Little page to help with costs.

“While it can be expensive owning a disabled pet, we will do anything to help rehabilitate Ferg. He is so young, determined and healthy. He really is a joy and such a happy pup,” says Sharlene.

Ferg is such a great ambassador for disabled animals. We also think he could be a great model for people who are struggling with disability, especially young people, by showing they could lead a relatively normal life with help and determination.



2023 Walkin’ Pets Calendar

Ferg beat fierce competition to secure a spot in this calendar. He is the only Australasian animal to be selected for it.

The calendar was created to help promote awareness of animals with disabilities. Pre-order your calendar today at handicappedpets.com/calendar.

Follow Ferg on Instagram
[@Fergdogsjourney](https://www.instagram.com/Fergdogsjourney) or if you would like to help towards Ferg’s ongoing treatment visit givealittle.co.nz/cause/fergies-wheelc6

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Toilet block inspires pet afterlife innovation

Peter Russell shares his story behind Reterniti, proof that lightbulb moments come from anywhere.

Inspiration, they say, can come from anywhere. While driving, or in the shower, driven by adversity or simply from identifying a glaring need. Reterniti was born from one of those moments, but in this case the main protagonist was a council toilet block.

Reterniti is in the business of afterlife. Specifically pet afterlife, a solution for a pet's ashes once they have passed away. We create a stone from a pet's ashes, a keepsake, a tactile object that one can hold, caress, place and, importantly, move or take with you.

What most won't know is what inspired the Reterniti Stone. It was a misplaced council toilet block. Hardly glamorous, but an inspiration point nevertheless.

Flash back to Sydney 2013. Our family dog, Hogan, a beautiful, gentle golden retriever, had just passed away. He was only 10 years old. Cancer, we were told, gets a lot of retrievers.

My kids and I had taught Hogan to jump up and lay upon a boulder at the local park. It was his party trick.

He would resolutely stay on that boulder until we were hundreds of metres away, at the other end of the park, and only move once we whistled. Then he'd sprint at top speed to catch

up and nearly take our legs out from under us like a speeding bowling ball hitting ten pins.

He loved it, we loved it. It was his thing.

So it made sense for us to scatter Hogan's ashes (quietly at night time) beneath that rock, which had affectionately become known as Hogan's Rock. It was a meaningful place for him and for us.

Two years later, the kids and I went back to that Sydney park to say hi to Hogan. We missed him and our time playing human ten pin at that park.

Imagine our horror when we not only could we not find Hogan's Rock but the council had erected a shiny new toilet block on that exact spot, right over the top of our beloved pooch!

It was a classic WTF moment.

I shook my fist to the sky and thought "there has to be a better way".

Damn you toilet block! Damn you dumb bag of ashes. I wish we could simply retrieve the retriever and relocate him. But you can't do that if the ashes have been scattered; however, you could if the ashes were made into a stone.

Cue lightbulb moment, a sound of thunder and a nearly religious experience.

The Reterniti Stone was born.



ABOVE Peter Russell, his two sons and Hogans Rock. Sadly no Hogan.

In my head at least. Maybe I'd had a mini seizure? Either way, the idea stuck and the more I spoke of it, the more I found the genuine need and gap in the market for this sort of thing.

Lots of people don't really know what to do with a pet's (or people's for that matter) ashes.

The problem is the ashes themselves. I presume we've been cremating our loved ones since we were cavemen, yet no-one has really solved for the resultant pile of cremains.

After years of prototyping, development deadends and sideways glances normally reserved for the mad, we perfected the Reterniti production methodology. It wasn't easy, but it's worth it.

Since then people have been holding their pet's Reterniti Stone close. They've found new, more modern places to keep their departed pet nearby. Next to their PC screen on their desk; on their bedside table, beside the front door, in the glovebox of their car, under the car seat, in their handbag; wow, we learn of new places every week.

They are all meaningful places and every single one entirely correct. And they can be moved. And they won't have a toilet block built over them!

SnipPETS

The latest pet news from around the country.



SAFE launches hotline to expose animal cruelty

Animal rights charity SAFE has launched 0800 EXPOSE, a supportive programme to provide confidential reports of animal abuse. Witnesses can use a hotline or web form to share their concerns when they see animals abused on farms or in their community.

Retired greyhounds hit the red carpet

For the first time ever, greyhounds in fancy dress took over red carpets across New Zealand. On 25 September, hundreds of retired racing greyhounds and their owners took part in the Great Global Greyhound Walk (GGGW) to help raise awareness for the breed. While greyhounds are renowned for their speed, these puppies cruised the red carpets as proud ambassadors for other ex-racers that are still awaiting a loving home.



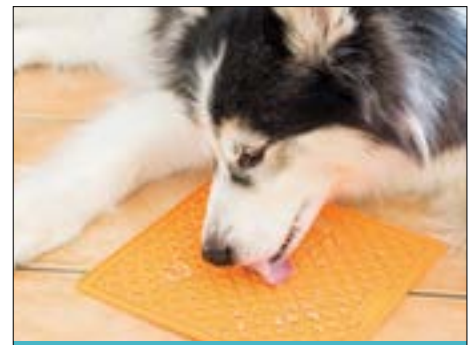
'Paws-itive' news for lost dogs

When Jess McDonnell realised her rescue dog may not get the care needed if she became lost, McDonnell created Lost and Hound, a QR code system that easily and instantly displays your pet's information when scanned.

Dog owners sign up to Lost and Hound and create a profile. They then make their profile active by purchasing a monthly subscription and a one-off purchase of an ID tag.

If the pet is lost, a person can scan the ID tag using their phone and have instant access to the owner's contact information, the pet's bio, photos, training information and any health issues the pet may have.

Lost and Hound is now live online and available nationwide.
www.lostandhound.co.nz



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Full articles available online at petlife.co.nz/articles



Catnip crazy

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) is a flowering plant known to make cats go crazy due to the release of allomones such as nepetalactone. Nepetalactone is a volatile (smell) product produced by the plant to repel insects, yet its smell can cause cats to become playful, rambunctious, euphoric or even spaced out.

The response to catnip is hereditary, meaning it is passed on from the parents, and catnip sensitivity only affects two-thirds of cats. Catnip does not cause an effect on kittens until about six months to one year of age.

Like dogs, cats have highly developed senses, including smell, and they are attracted to catnip due to its smell rather than taste. Cats enjoy the smell of catnip by rolling on the plant, sniffing, licking or smooching on the stalks. The smell released by the plant binds to receptors inside the cat's nose that are linked to the brain. The cat's brain responds to these signals as it would to sex pheromones and this is why some

cats will exhibit signs similar to a female cat in heat.

Catnip is generally believed to be safe. It is considered non toxic or addictive for cats and dogs, or humans for that matter. Your cat's catnip reaction may last anywhere from five to 15 minutes, however, it could take a further 30 minutes without smelling catnip for the cat to enjoy its effects again. If your cat decides to ingest the plant rather than just smell it, the catnip will likely act as a sedative rather than giving your cat a high.

Should you have catnip available for your cat?

Some studies have shown that shy or scared cats will respond to catnip the same as a bold cat. So if you have a timid cat, think about offering catnip to it and see their personality come out. Smell stimulation can be overlooked in our indoor dwelling felines, leading to them becoming bored or stressed. Provide catnip in

Cats enjoy the smell of catnip by rolling on the plant, sniffing, licking or smooching on the stalks.

GET GROWING

Want to grow some catnip for your cat? Here are a few tips for good plant growth.

- * Choose a hardy plant from your local garden store
- * Place in a full sun or partial shade position
- * Water regularly
- * Ensure well draining soil
- * Prune yearly to encourage new growth
- * Cover plant to protect from cats until established

pot plants or in a toy to allow them to use their olfactory/smell senses. If your cat gets an upset tummy from ingesting the plant then consider a spray or stuffed toy instead.

PetSHOP

Your one-stop-shop for products and services for your pet.

To advertise contact sales@petlife.co.nz



BARKING CLEAN DOG WASH

✉ maria@barkingclean.co.nz

Keep your pooch clean 24/7 with two locations in Christchurch, Prebbleton Veterinary Hospital and Tunnel Wash on Sawyers Arms Rd. Units suitable for dogs of all shapes and sizes. Barking Clean Dog Wash provides everything you need to wash your dog: warm water, shampoo, conditioner, optional flea rinse and blow dryer.



RED DOG REHABILITATION

🌐 reddogrehab.co.nz

📞 027 487 7600

Get your pack back up and running! Providing high quality products to aid injured dogs during their recovery and to assist competitive dogs reach and maintain their peak of fitness. Offering a wide range of specialty products available that can assist your dog and cat with various mobility issues. Shop online from the comfort of your own home.



PET FIRST AID AND TRAINING

🌐 petfat.co.nz

📞 0508 738 347

Did you know that 90% of pets will experience at least one emergency situation in their lifetime? Attend a Pet First Aid Course and you will learn the skills and gain the knowledge to help your pet in an emergency. Knowing pet first aid can help keep your pet and animals in your care alive and alleviate pain and suffering.



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🌐 anatomie.co.nz

📞 03 925 8620

South Island's advanced and certified hydrotherapy rehabilitation clinic. Offering state of the art pet underwater treadmill, animal acupuncture, cold laser therapy, vet nurse clinic and more. From muscle strengthening to nail clipping, dental checks, Anatomie has you covered. Use code PNS11 to receive 15% off your first session. By appointment only.



IMMUNOVET

🌐 immunovetnewzealand.co.nz

📞 0800 466 866

Is your pet suffering from skin issues or allergies? Don't stick a Band-Aid on it, heal from the inside naturally. The use of Immunovet reduces the risk of disease development and inflammation. Immunovet is a highly concentrated, nutrient dense supplement rich in vitamins, minerals and fatty acids. Use Immunovet to give your pet a glossy coat, clear skin and better health today.



LITTLE LIONS

🌐 littlionsnz.co.nz

📞 022 632 5807

Designed to help protect the birds from your cat. Birds are genetically predisposed to look for bright colours when looking for food and they will therefore see your cat moving much earlier and have time to move away rather than be ambushed. Also unlike a bell (which cat can learn to stop jingling) your cat can't work around having the Scrunchie.



REMEMBRANCE SPHERES

🌐 remembranceglass.co.nz

✉ viesnik@xtra.co.nz

We love our pets their whole lives and we miss them for the rest of ours. Enclose the ashes of your beloved pet into a handblown glass sphere, providing you with an object of beauty to treasure forever. Choose your preferred colour and have your pet's ashes safely enclosed in a unique piece of artwork to admire..

Giveaways

Head to petlife.co.nz/win and enter today

Competitions close 28 February 2023. Winners will be notified by email.



IMAGE Bowie Drools Over the Alphabet



Bowie Drools Over the Alphabet

(RRP \$34.99)

With more than 30 dog friendly recipes to inspire you to become your dog's personal Master Chef. The recipes range from supplemental foods to formulated complete meals, both raw and cooked options to accommodate dogs with different types of diet.

We have one electronic copy of Bowie Drools Over the Alphabet to give away.



Lickimat® Ufo™

(RRP \$29.99)

This innovative slow-feeding mat combines the best of the LickiMat® Soother and LickiMat® Splash to create an innovative feeder for sticking to flat surfaces such as windows, showers and hard floors.

We have one Lickimat® Ufo™ to give away.



Reterniti Stone

(Approx RRP \$249 - \$399)

Reterniti is a New Zealand innovation in pet afterlife; a way to keep your friend close even after they've gone. Your pet's ashes are converted into a tasteful, discreet Reterniti Stone. The Stone is the ashes that you can hold and keep close to you.

Go in the draw to have your pets ashes transformed into a Reterniti Stone. We have one to give away.



Lead the Way

(RRP \$11.95)

Lead the Way leads provide a visual clue of your dog's temperament and encourage dog owners to become wildlife-wise. Read our article to learn more about the hazards wildlife and dogs encounter when enjoying the coastline, and how you can help protect both

We have 5 leads to give away.

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