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AUTUMN 2018
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Letter from the Editor



As editor of this magazine, I get to meet and talk to many new people who are passionate about pets. But I also get to rope in animal lovers I know to share their stories with our readers. In this issue, that person is Jude MacDonald.

I met Jude when we visited her property in Aotea Harbour on the west coast of the North Island a couple of years ago for the purpose of possibly sending our (then two) dogs to her for four weeks while we went on holiday.

Jude has a doggy homestay, and I was instantly impressed when she told me on the phone that, no, I didn't need to bring kennels or bedding because the dogs could all sleep on the couches!

For someone whose dogs bounce off the walls and furniture at home, that was music to my ears. In the past we had always had house sitters while on holiday, for the sole purpose of looking after our dogs. But Facebook posts by them only ever showed our pups with their faces pressed against the glass doors wanting to come inside. Not to mention there was always a mountain of dog poo in the garden when we got home.

So, sending the dogs away was something different for us. We wanted our dogs to have freedom, be walked, be mad, be allowed to get unruly, be cared for by someone who does love dogs not just pretend they do. A kennel wasn't going to cut it. Basically, we wanted a home away from home.

I fell in love with Jude's setup the moment we set foot on her property (on the way home Bald Pommy Bloke said to me "I bet you want to sell up and move out here and have your own doggy homestay") but I'll leave it with you to read her story.

Elsewhere in this issue, I spoke to the partners of ARK Property Management, who advocate pets to landlords.

They make up CVs for the pets of prospective tenants, based on personality and responsible ownership, and remove risk for

landlords by offering a free carpet clean and extra inspections every year.

It's such an awesome concept! We are constantly bombarded with sad stories about tenants unable to find new homes that will allow their pets. And it ensures pet owner responsibility. Although, I can't but help think that if I was a tenant my property manager would have to offer a bit more than a carpet clean.

I often look at my kitchen door with its giant grizzly bear scratch marks down it and think: Oh well, not much point in sanding and painting that, it's only going to happen again! Anyway, we hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we did putting it together.

inger

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COVER PET COMPETITION

THIS COULD BE YOUR PET!

We are now searching for a special pet to feature on our winter cover. If you think your pet has what it takes then head to www.petlife.co.nz to view competition details and enter your pet.



OPENING MORE DOORS TO PAWS



ARK Property Management is changing the mindset of landlords who oppose pets.

A rental property that allows pets seems to be about as rare as hen's teeth these days.

Deb Meleisea and Grace Gray, who have over 18 years' experience in property management, have heard all the sad stories from tenants who have been told to move out of their homes, that they are unable to find a new place because of their pets.

The pair recognised a niche in the market and came up with ARK Property Management, helping people find homes for themselves and their beloved animals.

Currently based in Auckland, the two have so far helped and had inquiries from well over 100 tenants with pets since starting up at the end of last year.

Deb and Grace, who have had pets all their lives, say landlords usually make the blanket decision to say "no" to pets because of the negative stories they may have heard, or experienced, in the rental industry.

ARK Property eases that pain by offering landlords two free property pet inspections every year (in addition to routine property inspections) and a free carpet clean.

Deb and Grace have also created the ARK Pet CV® to allow a landlord to make a well informed decision, whether or not to

allow a pet into their rental property.

"ARK's aim is to change the mindset of landlords by managing the risk for them," says Deb.

The pet CV costs \$199 (10 per cent is donated to Paw Justice) and rates pets on a points system, with the highest rating being five paws and the lowest being no paws.

Pets are marked on regular vet checks, vaccinations, whether they have been neutered, treated for fleas and worms, their shedding resistance, character, temperament and much more. Photos of the pet are included, too.

"We vet everything on the pet CV by making checks with the councils, vets, doggy daycare centres and references. The CV is a really powerful tool that opens doors for pets. It gives the landlord peace of mind that maybe the dog doesn't shed, is fully trained and is well looked after. It proves that the tenant is a responsible pet owner and that the pet won't be left alone for great lengths of time without toys to play with, or that they can't have babies because they have been neutered.

"The landlords can learn about the pet's personality, what his likes are or dislikes are; it gives a face to the pet, that here is someone you could allow into your home. They can't resist them."

That's what happened when a client, Anna, was looking for a home for herself and pet pug Max. Anna applied for a property that was listed as "no pets allowed" but, armed with Max's five-paws rating pet CV, she and ARK won the landlord over.

"The landlord fell in love with Max after reading his CV," Deb laughs. "Now they have a wonderful new home."

Deb and Grace have been inundated with inquiries from all over New Zealand, and have even created an ARK CV for a woman and her beloved cat, both who are moving to New Zealand from France.

They don't even have a chance to put any listings up on their website because all the properties go straight out the door. But while waiting for more listings, they actively advocate for responsible pet owners – like Max and Anna – by presenting ARK CVs to other rental agents.

"We've heard many heart breaking stories. 'My landlord has given me notice and I can't find anywhere that will allow a dog.' Or old people are being moved out of their rental properties and have had a companion of 15 years but they can't find anywhere that will let them take their pet.

"We have seen this with our own kids, who can't have pets because they are renting. But the benefits of having pets are great, for adults and children. Children learn unconditional love, responsibility and caring for another living being; having pets also encourages regular exercise. And research shows



that having a pet can lower blood pressure and is a wonderful antidote for anxiety and depression.” This is now being recognised by the New Zealand Government. Housing Minister Phil Twyford announced at the end of last year that there was a role for pets in improving quality of life for Housing NZ tenants, and proposed changes to tenancy laws this year include respecting a tenant’s right to own a pet. “We have been part of the discussions,” say Deb and Grace. “We think it’s pretty exciting!”



ARK is proud to be partnered with Paw Justice, and donate 10% of all Pet CV sales to the organisation.



Deb Meleisea and Grace Gray with Paw Justice founders Craig Dunn and Shaughan Campbell.

ARK PET PROGRAMME

ARK specialises in pet-friendly lettings for responsible pet owners.

Quite simply, there is less choice for tenants that own pets.

- 67% of New Zealanders are pet owners.
- Currently, only 13% of landlords allow pets as tenants to reside at their rental properties.

ARK has created a process that officially certifies the suitability of a pet to live in a rental home. This is called the 'ARK Pet CV®'. ARK presents responsible pet owners that have completed the ARK Pet CV® and who have been thoroughly checked and verified.

ARK give landlords “the reasons to say YES to responsible pet owners”. As part of the ARK pet programme:

- carpets are professionally cleaned, annually, at no cost to the landlords
- two additional pet inspections of the property are conducted each year (this is on top of the regular three-monthly property inspections)
- all tenants are strongly recommended to have contents insurance, and provide annual policy renewal information.

Paw Justice has zero tolerance for animal abuse. It is dedicated to ensuring animal abuse, neglect and suffering is reduced and/or eradicated through raising public awareness, action, education, and advocacy. They want to see those who commit animal abuse punished appropriately. Paw Justice wants to give you and your pets a voice.

WIN!

Waata the Weta: Can He Find The Perfect Home?

Author: Jo Carson Barr Illustrator: Simon Barr
(RRP \$15 NZD)

Waata the Weta is different from the other weta, he has ginger dreadlocks and seems fearless.

After an encounter with the ginger haired boy he decides he does not want to live in the dark and scare people any more, he wants adventures and fun in the sun. So he sets off to find the perfect home.

He has many adventures along the way, including coming face to face with Banjo the Jack Russell and the chooks in the chook house. He has lots of ‘oh nooo’ moments until eventually he arrives to the place he thinks will be the perfect home ... but will it be?

Pet Life has one copy of *Waata the Weta: Can He Find The Perfect Home?* to give away.

Email competition@petlife.co.nz with Waata in the subject line and include your name and address to be in the draw.



Competition closes 31 May 2018, with winners details published in our winter issue.

PUP TREATS

My favourite thing about the Kong range of toys is trying to think of new and exciting ways to fill them to keep my dog entertained. Once you have a basic idea of the treats and food items your dog is allowed, the opportunities are endless as to what you can create.

These are three of my favourite and easiest recipes. They can be given frozen or fresh and your dog will absolutely adore them. I have used the Kong Classic, Leo and Mike toys to show off these recipes but you can use any type of Kong or equivalent that you own.

YOGHURT, CARROT & BEETROOT

This recipe is perfect for dogs that love vegetables, and if you want to treat them to something different to their usual kibble. Measurements will depend on the size of your Kong, but the following amounts will fill two large Kong Classics.

INGREDIENTS

1 punnet of greek yoghurt
¼ cup grated beetroot
¼ cup grated carrot

- Mix the ingredients together in a bowl until well combined.
- Stuff Kong with this mixture, ensuring that the little hole at the other end isn't completely blocked over.
- Put in the freezer for a few hours or overnight to harden mixture.

BEEF STOCK & KIBBLE

I love Kong recipes that involve using my dog's daily kibble, as this means I am not overfeeding him on too many treats. This one is easy to make the night before, and perfect for hot days.

INGREDIENTS

1 beef stock cube
Kibble
Peanut butter

- Place the beef stock cube in a cup of hot water and dissolve completely.
- Fill the Kong with as much dry kibble as you can. Depending on the size of your dog's meal, or your Kong, this may not be enough for your dog's entire breakfast.

- Put peanut butter completely over one of the end holes of the Kong. Place the Kong, peanut butter side down, into a mug or container that will keep it upright.
- Fill the Kong with the beef stock while still hot.
- Quickly plug the other end of the Kong with peanut butter, and put in the freezer.

This creates an ice-block type treat for your dog. Make sure you only give this type of Kong on warm days. Try to scrape a hole into either end of the frozen Kong so your dog's tongue doesn't suction into the toy.



KIBBLE

This is probably the most basic of the three recipes, but is the one that my dog loves the most. It is easy to make, doesn't require anything super fancy, and takes your dog a while to consume.

INGREDIENTS

Kibble
Bully Stick (optional)

- Place your dog's serving of kibble in a bowl and pour boiling hot water over it. The aim is to soak the kibble, so use only just enough water to soak into the kibble.
- Place a plate on top of the bowl to keep the heat in and leave to cool.
- Once cool, the kibble will have become sloppy and more of a wet consistency. At this point, stuff your Kong full with the mixture. (I used the Kong Leo for this recipe, which is perfect to place a bully stick down its centre. You can do this with any of the Kongs or leave the bully stick out.)
- You can now either freeze the Kong overnight or give fresh.



I rotate how I feed this type of Kong and find that my dog loves them frozen or fresh. It's a challenge either way because the mixture is wet so it sticks to the sides of the toy making it harder to get out.

- Morgan Healey



Pet Life recommends supervision of your pup when feeding any treats.



Feline-only veterinary clinics are becoming common all around the world, and Christchurch now has its first one.

Owner Dr Ian Ross, who trained in Prince Edward Island, Canada, opened The Cat Vet 12 months ago, and says his clients think the clinic is just the cat's pyjamas. It's getting busier and busier every day!

"Visiting the vet can be incredibly stressful for a cat at the best of times, and sick cats are even more upset at being exposed to noise and strange smells," says Ian, who has a background in emergency and after-hours care. "It makes sense that they should be able to visit the vet and not have to listen to the sound of barking dogs, be beside them in the waiting room or, even worse, have to smell them and listen to them if they need to stay in hospital.

"When cats are less frightened, it is also easier for the vets and nurses to handle them. Under these conditions it is surprising how much can be carried out without the need for sedation. Many cats will allow blood testing and catheter placement quite calmly when they are handled gently. Being less stressed also helps for a speedy recovery, so cats spend less time in the hospital when they are unwell."

The team at The Cat Vet are all about removing the stress from feline friends. They are all cat fanatics and are passionate about their jobs.

Dr Kate Arnold, who works alongside Ian, has postgraduate qualifications in feline medicine. She is a member of the

Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists and belongs to the ISFM Academy of Feline Practitioners. Four veterinary nurses complete the crew, and together they are able to provide comprehensive veterinary care tailored for cats, complete with up to date knowledge and expertise. The clinic takes a proactive approach to caring for cats. Both Ian and Kate believe that prevention is better than cure, so give plenty of advice on what owners should do to make sure their cats live long and happy lives.

"Rather than waiting for a pet to become unwell, we advocate for regular checkups so that problems such as kidney disease and dental disease can be detected and managed as early as possible," says Ian.



Vaccination protocols and wellness plans are tailored to the individual cat's needs, and the vets have plenty of behavioural advice to make sure problem behaviours are addressed early.

The clinic provides after-hours care, at nights and during the weekend, so they are always available in the event of an emergency.

"This means that critically ill cats can stay in the clinic rather than be transferred across town for overnight care.

"It's all about providing the best veterinary care possible for your pet cat."

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*Winner will receive one SureFlap Microchip Pet Door Connect and Hub bundle. Phone not included in competition. Competition closes 31 May 2018, with winners details published in our winter issue.

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Pet insurance and pre-existing conditions

Every day at Petplan, we help people to understand how pre-existing conditions work on a pet insurance policy. We reassure them that even if their pet has a pre-existing condition there's a good chance their pet is still eligible to get pet insurance.

What is a pre-existing condition?

A pre-existing condition is an illness or injury that happened before the policy started or within the 21 day waiting period. Because insurance is designed to protect against unexpected things, pet insurance companies won't cover anything that is pre-existing.

If the pet has a condition that neither you nor your veterinarian is aware of, then it is not a pre-existing condition. However, if the pet has shown clinical signs of the condition either prior to cover commencing, or within the waiting period, it is regarded as a pre-existing condition.

How do pet insurance companies handle pre-existing conditions?

In general, pet insurance companies will exclude any condition that has shown clinical signs before the commencement of the policy, this includes illnesses that haven't yet been diagnosed or are in remission. Applied exclusions are either temporary or permanent. With Petplan pet insurance, we will provide coverage for an illness or disorder that is not permanent, or likely to reoccur, after an incident-free period of time has passed. The period will depend on the type of condition.

Unless you have a Petplan genuine 'Covered for Life' pet insurance policy, you may not have cover should your pet be unfortunate enough to suffer a chronic or reoccurring illness or condition. Some companies offer covered-for-life insurance but they are only guaranteeing to renew the pet's insurance for life and may reset pre-existing conditions, so will not cover any ongoing chronic or recurring illness. That means that any illness that has been treated in the previous 12 months will become an exclusion on renewal of the policy. This insurance cover is referred to as a '12 month cover'. It is usually less expensive than a genuine 'Covered for Life' pet insurance

policy that will cover chronic and reoccurring conditions as long as you continue to pay your premiums each year without a gap in cover.

When researching pet insurance, you have to ask the company if it has a limit on the time you can claim for a condition or has a set amount you can claim for a reoccurring or chronic illness. Not what you expected from your pet insurance policy? This is why it is important to ask about time limits and set condition amounts.

Petplan pet insurance pre-existing condition guidelines

There are really two types of pre-existing conditions: those that will be cured or heal, like broken bones, and those that may never be cured, like diabetes or chronic skin disease.

How does Petplan pet insurance handle pre-existing conditions?

We distinguish between temporary and permanent conditions. Just because your pet has a pre-existing condition of one sort or another, does not mean he can't get pet insurance.

Temporary pre-existing conditions

Our philosophy on pre-existing conditions that will eventually heal is to place an exclusion for the condition temporarily. Depending on the condition it may only be for three or six months, or one to two years. During this period, any treatment that is for the pre-existing condition will not be covered, however, if your pet remains clear of this condition during the excluded period, the exclusion will be removed for the subsequent years.

Permanent pre-existing conditions

Pre-existing conditions that are not curable will be excluded permanently from your policy but coverage remains for any other conditions that the pet may get after the start of the policy. It is important to have a policy that will continue to pay claims to treat chronic illnesses for the whole of the pet's life!

We designed Petplan pet insurance with chronic conditions in mind. As long as you continue to renew your policy each year, without a gap in your cover, we will continue to pay claims for lifelong illnesses. You can rest easy knowing that you're covered.

For more information on Petplan Pet Insurance visit petplan.co.nz.

Advertorial

Kids Safe With Dogs Charitable Trust

One Year On

In January 2017, Kids Safe With Dogs was granted charitable status. It's one year on and so much has been achieved by the charity.

When Laura Purkis and Joanna Clough decided that they needed to help reduce the number of dog bites in New Zealand, they did not realise how much they could achieve in one year! Their programme, Kids Safe With Dogs, has so far:

- Educated over 11,000 children
- Been run through 41 separate branches of Animates in the country
- Received over \$12,000 in funding
- And it works closely with Armourguard who looks after dog control for Whangarei and Kaipara district councils.

The charity has also just been accepted as a finalist in the Trusts Million Dollar Mission, where every vote they get earns them \$5. Kids Safe With Dogs wants to make enough money from the competition to get a programme into every daycare, primary school, intermediate and college in the Waitakere district.

"It's amazing how much we have done in just one year," says Joanna, who is up to the challenge of lowering New Zealand's grim dog bite statistics.

She and Laura came up with the idea of Kids Safe With Dogs after yet another horrific dog bite to a young child in 2014. Joanna got reports from ACC to study the dog bite statistics and discovered that the figures "were staggering and increasing every year".

"In 2017 we had over 14,600 dog bites and in the last 10 years we have spent over \$39 million dollars and it has affected over 125,000 people."

The two researched what prevention or awareness programmes were available in New Zealand and it became obvious that something new was needed.

"We could see that what was being delivered was not reaching enough people and in some situations we saw that the way children were interacting with dogs in a meet-and-greet could get them bitten.

"There was one formalised programme offered to every primary and daycare facility by Internal Affairs but it was 20 years old. While it covered some very important safety aspects, it needed to be updated to recognise new research."

So Joanna and Laura decided to put a programme together based on teaching children to use empathy with dogs. The programmes gets kids to understand how it would feel if a stranger came up to them and touched them, cuddled them or took their food.

"We put together 3 Golden Rules and various scenarios, all based around a fictional rescue dog called Jelly."

They delivered their first school holiday programme in January 2015 and have not looked back since.

Kids Safe With Dogs are always looking for instructors.

The charity doesn't use volunteers; everyone who works for them is paid.

All instructors have to go through a training programme, are police checked (which is essential when working with children) and all dogs used have to be temperament tested.

The instructors will have to pay for their training, however, but it is not a lot of money and they make it back in the first couple of sessions that they run.

Please get in touch if you are interested in finding out more.

Visit
www.kidssafewithdogs.co.nz
or email
laura@dogsafeworkplace.com



Laura Purkis with pups Kai and Keira

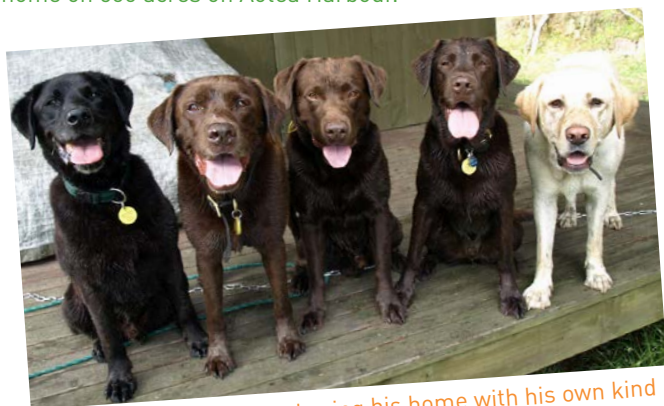


Joanna Clough

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Dogs go to stay with Jude MacDonald to be part of the family.

Doggy guests sleep on couches at Jude MacDonald's place. Or is that at Hugo's Place, because that is what her doggy homestay is called, after the golden labrador she had when she set up the business about eight years ago. But no! No need to bring your dog's kennel or bed, Jude will quite happily have up to five other dogs sharing her rustic home on 500 acres on Aotea Harbour.



Hudson, far right, loves sharing his home with his own kind

"I don't mind it that people think I am a bit nuts but we've always had dogs inside otherwise they might as well go to a regular kennel," says Judy, who now has another Labrador,

Hudson, welcoming his kind and bigger into his territory.

A relief teacher, Jude set up Hugo's Place so she could have a business at home – after all Aotea Harbour is a pretty remote place to live and everyone can do without a commute!

Hugo's Place caters only for big dogs, because Jude prefers them – their behaviour – and they have to be dogs that want to be part of a pack.

Because they all sleep inside, Jude has her limit.

"It's a room thing, especially when we have great danes here." One dog has just gone home and Jude is expecting another two arrivals later in the week, so it's a quiet time at the moment.

Hudson likes it like that for maybe a day or two but then he gets bored and wants someone to play with again.

"Yes, they bounce of the walls but we like it like that. If it gets too yahooey they get sent out to play."

Anyway, that's how it should be because people want a home away from home for their dogs, she says. They want them to be part of a family.

"Great danes are a good example of that, they don't do well in kennels, it's their temperament. They don't think they are a dog, they think they are people. They don't like all the noise and confusion you get with regular kennels."

Jude and Hudson, having quiet time



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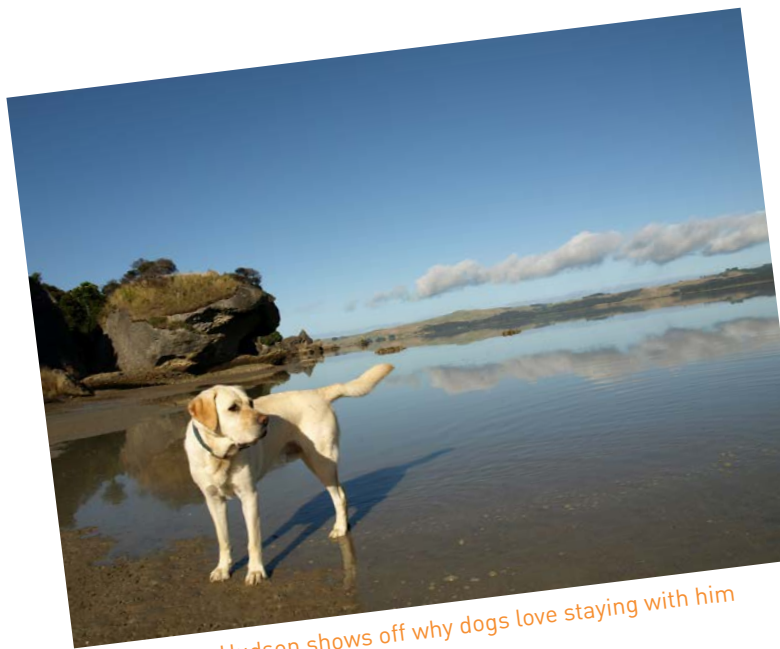


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Hudson shows off why dogs love staying with him

Jude makes sure her dog guests are a good mix, that they gel together and fit in. Each dog starts with a preliminary visit and run on the beach with Hudson and what ever other guests Jude may have in her care at the time. The preliminary visit is also to ensure that the owners are happy with where their dog will be staying.

Jude has 30 regulars that call Hugo's Place their second home, enough to keep her going all year round.

They love coming and get super-excited as soon as they hit the metal road. Once inside the gate they are off!

"The families are like 'bye-bye, come back and say good bye', but they've gone, running and playing, happy and relaxed to be back."

With 500 acres there is plenty of space; plenty of bush tracks, farmland and harbour to tear around in for daily exercise.

"I do end up washing them every day. Most are keen on water and mud and sea and sand. It's quite funny watching them. Hilarious! Seeing the dogs have such a great time and running on the beach and playing together and making the most of the space. They have such a great time! And then it is nice seeing them sleep."

Jude has a whole Facebook page dedicated to their daily antics. She must go through no end of couch stuffing and toys, judging by the photos.

"The dogs in general don't tend to pine for their owners.

Facebook lets owners know what their dogs are up to, they tend to pine more than the dogs do.

"I get it, especially with Hugo. When I went away I would be stressing, he's such a weirdo, they won't understand his weirdo ways, but when you see them being fine you enjoy your holiday more."

- Inger Vos

TOP TIPS TO ENSURE CARE WHEN YOU ARE NOT THERE

Your dog or cat depends on you for good care – even when you are not there. Friends and neighbours may not have the experience or time to properly look after your pet, particularly if you are away for a long time.

Here are some tips when it comes to boarding your pet.

- Ask a friend, neighbour, veterinarian, animal shelter or dog trainer for a recommendation. You can also check online. Once you have names, do a little background check to make sure they have a good reputation.
- Start planning early. Kennels and catteries are often full over holiday breaks so you might need to book your pet in early. Or it may take a few weeks to find the right one for your pet.
- Make sure your pet is fully vaccinated at least two weeks before boarding. Full proof of vaccination **SHOULD** be required prior to boarding.
- On enquiry, make sure interest is shown in your pet – they should ask for details such as your pet's name, breed, temperament and daily routine, and for their medical history and name of vet clinic.
- Find out about any extra charges (eg, for diet or exercise).
- Think about any special feeding, bedding or exercise requirements your pet needs or might enjoy during their stay, and make sure it can be accommodated for.
- Take a visit! Does the facility look and smell clean? Is there enough air and light? Is it comfortable? Are the people knowledgeable and caring? Will your pet get regular exercise and attention? Is there protection from the weather? Will your pet be comfortable?

The dogs love playing in the harbour



BRUCE'S STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING



When you have over 38,000 fans all around the world you warrant your own story book.

Bruce the Cat became an internet sensation after his story of survival was documented on Facebook by his owner, writer Kathryn van Beek. Kathryn had found him, 1 day old with his umbilical cord still attached, soaking wet on the footpath in Auckland and

took him home to raise him as her own.

"Once I realised I was taking him home with me I would have done anything for him," says the animal lover, who already had one rescue cat.

Last month, Kathryn launched her first children's book, *Bruce Finds a Home*, which is loosely based on the story of how Bruce, named after the orphan Bruce Wayne, was found.

"He had a big audience, it would have been a shame not to do anything," says Kathryn, from her home in Port Chalmers, Dunedin, where she and Bruce now live. "He just really fit being a kid's story."

Kathryn says she had initially made a Facebook page for Bruce



so her friends could see how he was doing.

"He was quite poorly and it really was touch and go. It was really hard looking after him. Thank goodness they grow up quickly. It's like looking after a baby, regularly feeding and a surprising amount of washing."

Kathryn says it was a complete shock to her that Bruce became famous.

"I guess you don't really choose what goes viral. Because I worked in communications in Auckland and had friends who were friends with people in the media he ended up on the front page of The Herald and then on to international websites Love Meow and The Dodo. So he has a lot of fans from all over the world.

"I honestly didn't know whether he would survive, and once he was okay I thought the interest would go away but then he changed colour, from grey to black."

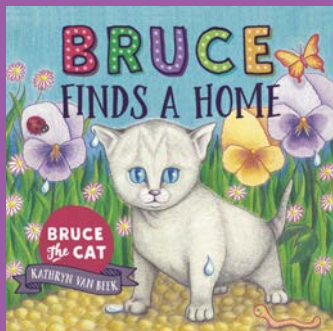
As a newborn, Bruce had what is called a "fever coat", due to his mum being poorly when she was pregnant.

"There had been a lot of speculation on social media that he was a British Blue or a Siamese but, nah, he was just a black cat. But he keeps picking up fans every day."



WIN!

Bruce Finds A Home is available from brucethecat.co.nz and all good bookstores.



Bruce Finds A Home

Author: Kathryn van Beek
(RRP \$20 NZD)

Bruce Finds A Home is an illustrated children's book loosely based on the story of how Bruce was found. In the book a girl called Kate is walking home from school when she finds a kitten. She has to figure out where his home is and get him to safety before a thunderstorm drenches both of them.

Pet Life has one copy of *Bruce Finds A Home* to give away. Email competition@petlife.co.nz with Bruce in the subject line and include your name and address to be in the draw.

Competition closes 31 May 2018, with winners details published in our winter issue.

Kathryn wrote the children's story, about 6-year-old Kate finding a kitten on her way home from school, with editorial advice from the new entrants at Port Chalmers School. She hand drew the beautiful illustrations herself – "I'm married to an art teacher so he was a big help" – and ran a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to cover printing costs. As for Bruce, he's oblivious to all the fuss and has grown to be a really independent cat.

"He is like any other cat, not at all clingy, as you may expect. He likes playing outside and causing mischief."



Do you have a heartwarming story you would like to share with us?
Email info@petlife.co.nz



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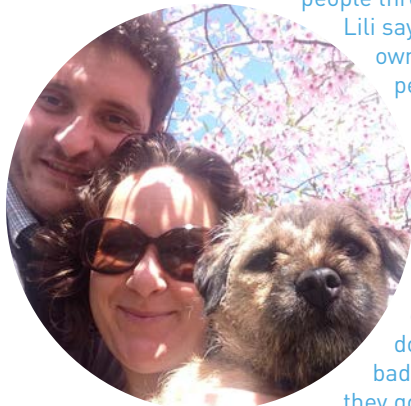
💻 www.safe4all.co.nz

MY PET IS YOUR PET!



You and your pets can look forward to forming new friendships and connections this year with the launch of Share My Pet.

Share My Pet, a website started recently by Lili and Dave Wenzel of Nelson, connects New Zealand pet owners with people in their community who want to look after other's pets. The couple's vision is to help improve the lives of pets and people through sharing and caring.



Lili says they regularly walk their own dogs, Snout and Miss Muppet, on the beach, bumping into other dog walkers or solo animal lovers, and have recognised a need. "People will stop to pat our dogs and lament how they'd love one but can't keep one for some reason or another, and there are dog owners who tell us how bad they feel for their pet when they go on holiday or can't walk them sometimes.

"So, we found that there are a lot of good people out there who would love to share the care of an animal and have the joy of an animal's companionship, and there are many pet owners who occasionally wish they had someone else they know and trust in their lives to help with the looking after of their beloved pet. Whether they're going on holiday or just want their pet to have extra companionship during the day.

"We hope to connect the community, elderly people, animal lovers and people of all walks of life together with the

ambition of creating happy pets and happy people."

Share My Pet is a win-win situation for pet owners and animal lovers alike, the Wenzels reckon.

The concept is a simple one, and anyone in New Zealand over the age of 18 can join Share My Pet. Simply log on to sharemypet.co.nz and create a profile as a sharer (pet owner) or a carer (animal lover). Registered sharers and carers can then connect with each other online.

Membership to the website is free for the first 12 months, then it will cost \$19.95 a year to be a carer and \$29.99 to be a sharer/carers. Terms and conditions apply but the process is free, fun, and simple.

SIGN UP TODAY AND GET 12 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP

Follow Share My Pet on Facebook and Instagram.

Read their regular blogs under www.sharemypet.co.nz

STEP ONE

Create your profile by registering for free.

Your free profile will allow you to view 'Sharers' or 'Carers' in your area.

STEP TWO

Upgrade your profile to a 'Sharer', 'Carer' or both.

12 months FREE membership!

STEP THREE

Start adding and sharing.

If you have joined as a 'Sharer', start adding your pets and create their own profiles with a photo.

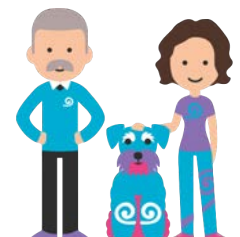
If you have joined as a 'Carer', get searching and contact 'Sharers' in your area.

Find a perfect connection that brings everyone joy and increases a pet's happiness!

STEP FOUR

Share the love.

So many people wish they could have a pet, others wish they could find a pet sitter. Help them out and point them this way!



YOUR PET'S ITCHY SKIN

These are cases that we see frequently and they often provide much frustration to pets, owners and vets. By addressing nutrition and integrating complementary therapies we often help to prevent the need for reliance on medications. But for some animals, medication is an invaluable tool to enhance their quality of life.

An itchy animal will scratch or chew at themselves causing inflammation, leading to a further itch which often progresses to infection (a change in the population of natural bacteria that live on the skin or a foreign bug may be introduced) and a vicious cycle is established. Conventional medicine then makes use of antibiotics to control the infection and various medications to suppress the itch as a means of breaking this cycle. Immunotherapy may also be used. The prevention of this scenario is our ultimate goal and to achieve this we need to address the underlying issues.

Animals have an itch threshold, basically a line drawn at a certain level which is different for each individual depending on their genetic makeup. Many factors contribute to this itch threshold and one or more factors can push the animal over the edge causing them to itch.

There are five main factors which play a role in causing animals to itch. These are nutrition, stress, parasites, environmental factors and mechanical irritation. Other contributors can include hormone imbalances, worms and infections.

There are various diagnostic techniques available to establish the main contributing factor/s, these include cytology, biopsy, intradermal skin testing, diet trials and blood tests, which can be helpful but unfortunately they aren't always conclusive. As a practical first line of defence we focus on managing the main contributing factors so that the itch threshold is not reached.

1. Nutrition plays a major role. Poor quality food, artificial preservatives, allergies to specific proteins and lack of essential fats, vitamins and minerals can all play a part in contributing to the itch. Generally we recommend a well-balanced raw food diet together with the addition of optimal amounts of vitamins, minerals, anti-oxidants and omega 3 fatty acids found in high amounts in flax oil, krill oil and cold water fish. Omega 3s are usually deficient in optimal amounts in most pets' diets. They have anti-inflammatory properties and help to give the skin an extra barrier of protection in addition to many other helpful properties. This works well for most dogs and cats but some times we need to design a special diet addressing specific issues.

2. Stress weakens the immune system and lowers the body's itch threshold. In cats we commonly see itchy skin problems and establish in the history that there is a new tomcat in the area bullying the cat. Stress can also be due to other factors such as a much loved owner going away, a new baby in the house or even a fellow companion no longer being present. Addressing the underlying issue is important but wholesome nutrition, various supplements such as vitamin B complex, pheromones and remedies such as Rescue Remedy can be very useful aids to help animals to cope with stress.

3. Parasites like sarcoptic mange and fleas can contribute greatly to an itch. Fleas can be very irritating and can also be responsible for flea allergy dermatitis where just one flea bite can cause an itch that lasts for weeks – we find this latter issue much less common in animals receiving optimal nutrition with a well-balanced raw food diet. Fleas are natural parasites and have evolved with animals for hundreds of years. When they are becoming a problem it means that either the animal's body is not in top shape to prevent this or the environment that the animal is in is unbalanced and the fleas are "taking over". Environmental flea control as well as supporting the immune system helps to address this issue and, where necessary, additional supplements and parasite control products can be used.

4. Environmental factors can be difficult to isolate or control, for example pollens and dust mites. Also many dogs love swimming in the sea but the salty water can cause them to be itchy. It is therefore a good idea to always hose them down with fresh water afterwards. Various shampoos can also contribute to an itch. Plants such as wandering jew can cause some dogs to react with a violent itch. It is important to be aware of these factors that may play a role and limit exposure where possible. We often find that by addressing other factors that contribute to the itch threshold and making use of various supplements and homeopathic remedies, many dogs don't react as badly to the environment.

5. Mechanical irritation such as waxy, hairy or sore ears, painful teeth, full anal glands, long nails and worm burdens can make an animal unsettled and uncomfortable. Sometimes they display this by scratching or chewing their paws. A check up at the vet will help to identify these issues and strategise a management plan to address them.

When animals are itchy some useful first line treatments to help break the itch cycle are a soothing shampoo like oatmeal, a cold bath or applying soothing creams or lotions like aloe vera gel (ensure that it's not preserved with benzoic acid), pawpaw ointment or colloidal silver.

There are many options available to help a chronically itchy animal. Time, effort and patience are often necessary for long-term success. Most cases respond well within two to four weeks if using a holistic approach and making use of complementary therapies. Occasionally, however, some animals can't be adequately managed and medications are required to suppress itching. Some animals will even need ongoing maintenance doses of these medications to keep them comfortable.



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NEW FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY HELPS FIND LOST PETS

New Zealand is now home to one of the most sophisticated and intelligent systems in the world when it comes to finding your lost pet.

'PiP' facial recognition, will revolutionise the way we reunite lost pets with their families, according to the New Zealand Companion Animal Council (NZCAC). The council is the owner of the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR), and it has now added this highly advanced facial recognition system to its services.

PiP facial recognition uses cutting-edge technology. Anyone can take a photo of a pet they find and upload it to the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. The image will then be compared against the pet photos they have to identify the animal in a few minutes. Using the PiP app, people will also be able to upload images of any found animals, thereby expanding the lost and found network into the public arena.

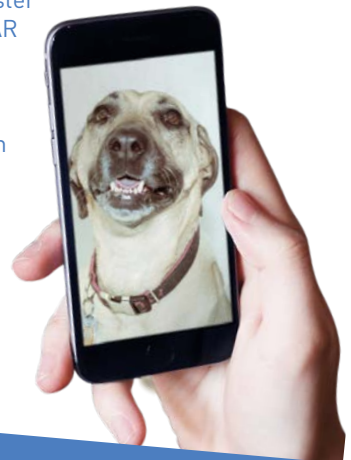
"Combined with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register microchip database and Scanner Angel smart network, PiP facial recognition will add another dimension to helping find lost animals" says NZCAC manager Dr Jessica Walker.

"These exciting advancements in technology will work alongside traditional microchipping to maximise the number of lost pets that are reunited with their owners in New Zealand."

Lost and found animals can be reported at no cost to the user on LostPet.co.nz. The website also provides an interactive map showing a live account of lost and found pets within New Zealand.

New Zealand Companion Animal Register manager Nygllhuw Morris says "NZCAR is extremely pleased to partner with SPCA New Zealand, the New Zealand Institute of Animal Management, Pets on the Net, and Neighbourly, so we can all work together".

"More partners will be added as more organisations sign up to use LostPet.co.nz."



The New Zealand Companion Animal Council would like to take this opportunity to remind animal owners that while LostPet.co.nz and PiP facial recognition are exciting initiatives, they do not replace the need for microchipping.

Microchipping is the only form of permanent identification for companion animals, and ensuring your animals are microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register is still the most reliable way for owners of lost pets to be contacted.

For more information about microchipping and to register your animal's microchip and/or photo with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register and PiP facial recognition please visit animalregister.co.nz.



The New Zealand Companion Animal Register also has a website called LostPet.co.nz. This new website gathers together all the free lost pet services in one easy to access location, with the goal of reuniting lost pets with their owners as fast as possible. It has already merged with Pets on the Net and includes automatic notification to Neighbourly users.



"These women are amazing. They genuinely care about the dogs that come through their doors and go above and beyond. They do everything with kindness, earning the dog's trust. I'm positive they have greatly improved the quality of life of my dogs." Lynne

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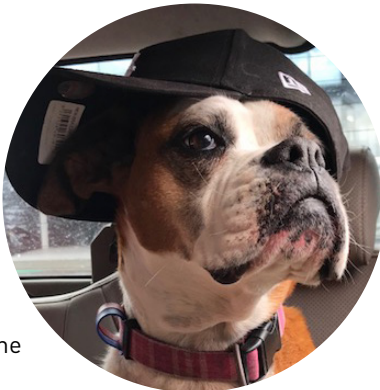
All the care you need for your dog at one location.

Meet our readers



Max is a 10 ½ year old big softie of a Labrador. He enjoys a cuddle with Mum and Dad, but prefers to eat [anything] and swim in the lake. He is the softest and sweetest member of our family.

Haley Passmore

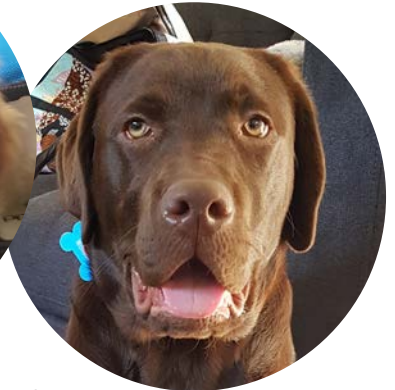


This is Neesha my Boxer, she's nearly 10 years old but still acts like a teenager. Last week we had to borrow a random family's kayak to go collect her from the middle of a lake after she swam for 20 minutes chasing a swan. She is such a funny dog.

She's been hit by two cars, stood on by a cow and lost some of her sight, and broke into the neighbour's house for five hours and had a search party out looking her - she came home with pasta sauce all over her face! She has swallowed a bee and nearly died, she's had

cancer cut out of her and is now very arthritic and on expensive medication but she is still such a puppy and honestly my best friend.

Julia Willis



Alfie the golden Labrador Retriever (5 months old) and Murphy the NZKC chocolate Labrador (10 months old). Living it up in Christchurch, follow their antics on Instagram. @murphy.alfie.theretrievers

Morgan McPhail

We want to hear from you, send us a photo and tell us about your pets.
Email info@petlife.co.nz

Fanimals

Are you animal obsessed?

Do you love the camera?

Whitebait Media (creators of TV show *What Now*) are on the hunt for talent for their new kids show, *Fanimals*.

Contact Mercy Cornish by email at mercy.cornish@whitebaitmedia.com

This series highlights the relationships between Kiwi kids and their pets and animals.

If you're between the ages of 7 and 15 and want to share your love for your pets with New Zealand then get in touch!



WIN!

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

How To Live Like Your Cat (RRP \$22.99NZD)

Stéphane Garnier

Let your cat be your life coach.

Do cats worry about their pension? Nope. Do cats take on work they don't want to do? As if! Do cats rush around hectically when they'd rather be licking their paws and looking out of the window? Please.

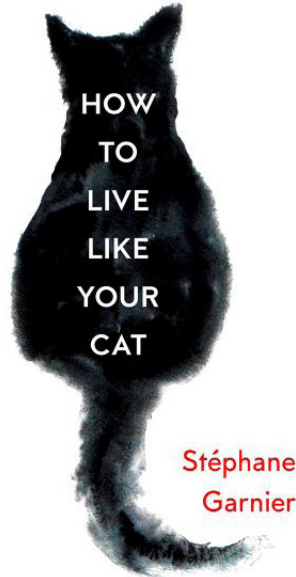
Cats are free. They are calm, observant, wise, elegant, charismatic and proud. In fact, cats have found nothing less than the secret of how we should all live, whatever species we are! And in this book, Stéphane Garnier will show you what he's learned over 15 years of closely observing his cat, and teach you all the ways in which you, too, can apply the secrets of cats to your own life – at work at home and with your friends.

Unplug your laptop. Throw away your alarm clock. It's time to live like your cat!

Pet Life has five copies of *How To Live Like Your Cat* to give away.

Email competition@petlife.co.nz with Cat Coach in the subject line and include your name and address to be in the draw.

Competition close 31 May 2018, with winners details published in our winter issue.



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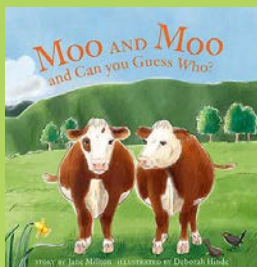
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SUMMER
 ISSUE
 WINNERS



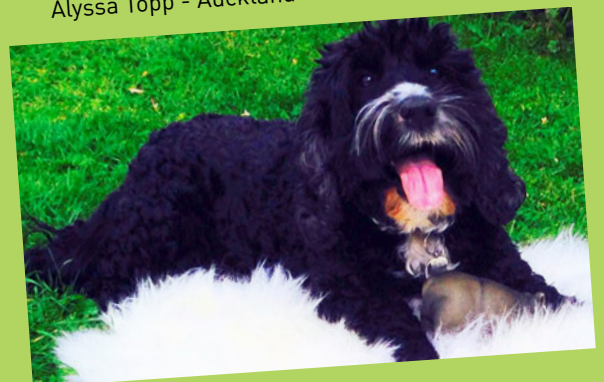
Anthony Mason - Nelson

Amy Williams - Auckland



Annie Percy - Blenheim

Jane King - Napier
 Barb Shaw - Christchurch
 Hayley Passmore - Queenstown
 Alyssa Topp - Auckland



Competitions drawn using random number generator

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NEW RABBIT CALICIVIRUS STRAIN APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Rabbit Haemorrhagic Virus Disease strain, known as RHDV1-K5, has been approved for use within New Zealand. A nationwide release of the virus will take place over March and April 2018.

It is important for pet rabbit owners to contact their veterinarian to discuss vaccination plans against the new strain, to ensure their rabbits have the best protection available.

For more information head to <https://mpigovtnz.cwp.govt.nz/> and follow links to their frequently asked questions.



WELFARE RESCUE GROUPS

NATIONWIDE

KITTYCAT FIXERS

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

ROTTWEILER RESCUE & REHOMING NEW ZEALAND

Location: Servicing all New Zealand
Phone: 021 022 006633
Email: rottierescuenz@gmail.com

NZ RAT RESCUE

Location: New Zealand
Email: office@nzrr.org
Website: www.nzrr.org

AUCKLAND

CRAZY CAT LADY CAT RESCUE SOUTH AUCKLAND

Location: Papakura
Phone: 027 248 0577
Email: cclcr@hotmail.com

FRANKLIN CAT RESCUE

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

9 LIVES ORPHANAGE

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

HOPE RESCUE SOUTH AUCKLAND

Location: South Auckland

Phone: 027 686 2778 or 021 0200 8791
Email: hope.rescue.south.auckland@gmail.com

PASSION 4 PAWZ

Location: Auckland
Phone: 021 126 1031
Email: passionforpawz@gmail.com

NORTH SHORE TURTLE, REPTILES & AMPHIBIAN RESCUE

Location: Birkenhead, Auckland
Phone: 021 140 9491
Email: nsrescues@gmail.com

AUCKLAND FISH, TURTLE & REPTILE RESCUE

Location: Auckland
Phone: 021 113 3469
Email: reptilerescuenz@gmail.com

AUCKLAND PUPPY RESCUE

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

AUCKLAND CAVY CARE

Location: Auckland
Phone: 021969301
Email: jrpetkeeper@gmail.com
Website: www.aucklandcavycare.org

CHAINED DOG AWARENESS

Location: Auckland
Email: info@cdanz.org
Website: www.cdanz.org

BAY OF PLENTY

WHANGAMATA CAT

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

FREE AS A BIRD BATTERY HEN AND POULTRY RESCUE

Location: Mamaku, Rotorua
Phone: 021 212 4788
Email: freeasabirdrescue@outlook.co.nz

ARRC WILDLIFE TRUST

Location: Tauranga
Phone: 07 579 9115

Email: info@arrc.org.nz
Website: www.arrc.org.nz

WAIKATO

ADOPTABLE

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

PAWS 4 LIFE

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

NEW LIVES ANIMAL RESCUE

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

PAWS 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

SOUTH WAIKATO BRANCH RNZSPCA

Location: Tokoroa
Phone: 07 886 7722
Email: swspca.reception@xtra.co.nz

DC RESCUE

Location: Waikato
Phone: 021 041 4108
Email: dc_rescue@yahoo.co.nz

HAWKES BAY

HASTINGS & DISTRICTS SPCA

Location: Hastings
Phone: 06 878 8733 (Shelter)
Email: committee@spcahastings.org.nz



GOAT WELFARE NZ

Location: Central Hawkes Bay
Phone: 0211 602 329
Email: goatwelfare@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: wgtn.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: http://catrescue.org.nz/

CHRISTCHURCH BULL BREED RESCUE

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

TURTLE RESCUE AND REHOMING

Location: Christchurch
Phone: 021 202 0185
Email: turtleinfo@paradise.net.nz
Website: 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

OTAGO

ANIMAL RESCUE NETWORK NEW ZEALAND

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

ONE BY ONE RESCUE NZ

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Ph: 03 926 9325 Trina
Ph: 0278579379 Jaimee

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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.

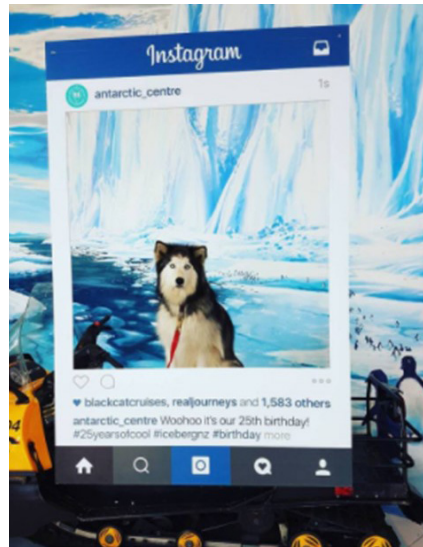
Breed specific rescues are becoming more common thanks to social media playing a big part in pushing popularity.

More and more people are buying dogs based on appearance and not traits. Huskies and malamutes are high on the rehoming list.

Morgan Healey talks to Michelle Attwood, founder of Husky Rescue NZ in Christchurch.

Michelle Attwood started Husky Rescue NZ in 2009 – not just to rehome unwanted dogs but to educate potential owners to husky related traits. Huskies are notorious escape dogs who can easily clear a 1.8m fence if they want to. They also like to run, so require at least 5 kilometres of leashed exercise every day. They are not the most suitable dog to be around cats, small dogs or stock animals. Some of the main reasons that huskies are abandoned or released to Husky Rescue NZ are “my dog keeps jumping the fence”, “my dog killed a cat” and “my dog won’t ever come back when called”.

For the first eight years that Husky Rescue NZ was in operation, Michelle funded the project entirely herself. She worked full time, then would come home and do Husky Rescue NZ, which was also about the equivalent of full time job. There were no nights out, holidays, savings or home ownership for her. But Michelle says those first years were when she made her greatest achievements. One of the things she did was secure an amazing contract at the International Antarctic Centre, in Christchurch, where she does husky encounters with visitors,



creating awareness of the breed and talking about their history in Antarctica.

All huskies taken in by Husky Rescue NZ go through a series of checks to make sure they are healthy and suitable for rehoming. The dogs are also desexed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. All dogs are cared for until a suitable home is found, and Husky Rescue NZ has foster homes in Christchurch,

Wellington and Te Puke. Often, the foster homes help pay for their keep out of their own pocket.

The rescue dogs get adopted by volunteers and husky lovers. Akira arrived with a ruptured cruciate which had never been treated. It was filled with arthritis and Akira was in a terrible amount of pain. Husky Rescue NZ paid the large bill for her surgery and gave her the rehabilitation she needed. It was all worth it in the end. Akira is the most loveliest dog and was adopted by a friend of Michelle’s who has a lot of husky experience.

Noctis, a malamute, was adopted by a volunteer. He arrived weighing just 28kg – the healthy weight of a male malamute is about 40kg or more – so he was incredibly emaciated. Noctis was also completely covered in fleas and petrified of people, particularly men. With a lot of work, time and love, Michelle and a team of volunteers taught him to be comfortable around a variety of different people. He did very well with all the attention and the volunteer who adopted him was even male.

However, it’s not just friends and volunteers who can’t resist a rescue.





HUSKY RESCUE NZ



Samurai is a beautiful white husky who came into Michelle's life and has become her family and a crucial part of her work. He is pack leader and the lead dog of the fastest sled team in the 24km dry-land race in 2015 and the



36km dry-land race in 2016. Samurai helps with the education side of Husky Rescue NZ, is a therapy dog, and a perfect model behind the camera. Michelle says Samurai is her best mate and he has taught her so much in the time they have been together. Sadly, he recently damaged his cruciate and will be going into sur-

gery later this month.

While it's great that these dogs have found loving homes, they have had to endure a sad reality, and it's not a happy ending for all. A lot of people see adorable images of husky pups on social media and want to own one but don't learn about the hard work that's required to keep one. This has led to backyard breeding, where people realise they can make a quick buck by breeding and selling huskies based on their cuteness factor. Michelle believes that a good way to prevent huskies ending up in rescues is to ban all backyard breeding and to make desexing compulsory unless you are a registered breeder. This would prevent a lot of dogs from being bought by uninformed people who are unable to give them the lifestyle they deserve.

Michelle also believes there needs to be more emphasis on blaming the owner, not the dog, for problems such as escaping, or the killing of cats and chickens. At the moment, a dog will get a "dangerous dog" title or be rehomed, leaving the owner to get another dog and continue the cycle.

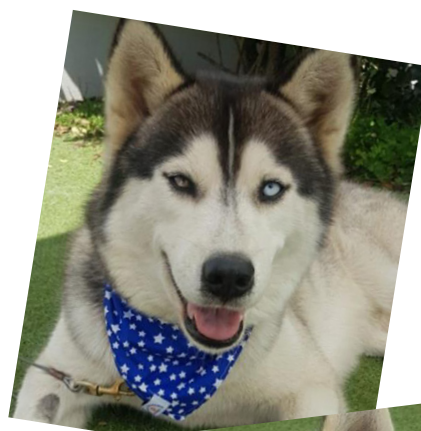
The reality is, backyard breeding is making Husky Rescue NZ's job a lot harder and busier. They are in desperate need of donations to continue the work they do and provide better accommodation for the many dogs awaiting adoption. At the

moment, Michelle has her eye on a \$1.1 million existing kennel complex, but if that doesn't happen she needs enough money to buy some land and build her own kennels. And in the meantime, it's still business as usual.

DONATE TODAY

If you have any spare dollars and want to donate to this cause you can do so by direct deposit to Husky Rescue NZ, account number 01-0274-0372039-30.

To find out more about Husky Rescue NZ, visit them on Facebook or at huskyrescue.co.nz.



If you would like to be featured as our rescue superstar email morgan@petlife.co.nz



Samurai absolutely loves his visits to the snow room at the Antarctic Centre where he works. Minus 8 degrees Celsius ... PAWFECT FOR HUSKIES!

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