



Tid Bits

By Lisa Treen

Monkeying around with human rights

As reported in the SMH it is expected that within a year Spain will adopt a resolution to grant certain human rights to “our non-human brothers” – great apes, orang-utans, chimpanzees and gorillas. Spain wants to adopt the ‘Great Ape Project’, a consortium of philosophers, ethicists, primatologists and psychologists formed in 1993 to ensure the protection of apes from “abuse, torture and death”. After enactment, harmful experimentation on apes, as well as their use for circuses, television commercials and films, will be prohibited. It will be legal for the 350 apes in Spanish zoos to stay there, but their conditions will have to be drastically improved.

However the founder of the ‘Great Ape Project’, and Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, Peter Singer, has come under fire because of his publicly stated contention that parents should have the right to euthanise children with severe handicaps within 28 days of birth. “Killing a defective infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person,” he has written. “Sometimes it is not wrong at all.”

Pets on the radio

Pets Life Radio is a diverse online station that has a broad range of programs with an equally eclectic array of presenters talking about all types of pets. It’s at www.petliferadio.com and has podcasts, downloads, streaming and even RSS feeds to keep up with the latest programming.

Noted bird trainer Barbara Heidenreich hosts the “Wings ‘n’ Things” segment, Susan Sims of ‘Fido Friendly’ magazine does ‘Travel Tails’, there’s a show on paranormal pets, Hollywood Pets is hosted by Chris Ameruoso (whose pics grace our Pets of the Playboy Mansion article) and a great segment, ‘What Were You Thinking?’ which is all about exotic pets, among more than 20 programs.

There are also a riotous number of pet videos, a newsroom with latest stories and you can even propose to host your own show. It’s a great online resource that can even be configured to mobilecast.



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Scooter photo by Animax



Working like a dog was never so good

The inaugural MuttSpace Take Your Dog To Work Day on June 20 was a howling success with companies large and small throughout Australia participating. The majority of registered companies came from Melbourne and the city's surrounds, which goes to prove what our MuttSpace friends have been saying for so long—that Melbourne is one doggone friendly city. Participants were invited to send in their best photos to the organisers and compete for the best entry. A local Sydney resident, a Golden Retriever called Buddha, started his day with a financial planning meeting, progressing into helping out with welcoming duties at the reception area and finally moving into every worker's special afternoon activity, social Friday arvo drinks. The date for TYDTWD Australia 2009 is scheduled for June 26 and the organisers are currently talking to major sponsors.

TYDTWD Australia was created to celebrate the great companions that dogs are. Whether they have a 'job' to do such as Assistance Dogs, Guide Dogs, Therapy Dogs, and service dogs employed as bomb sniffers, quarantine or border patrol, police dogs, and fire inspection dogs - or whether they're employed in the best job a dog can find—as a companion. Take Your Dog To Work Day serves to spotlight our best friends and how they enhance our lives.

A weighty cat won't wait long for a new home

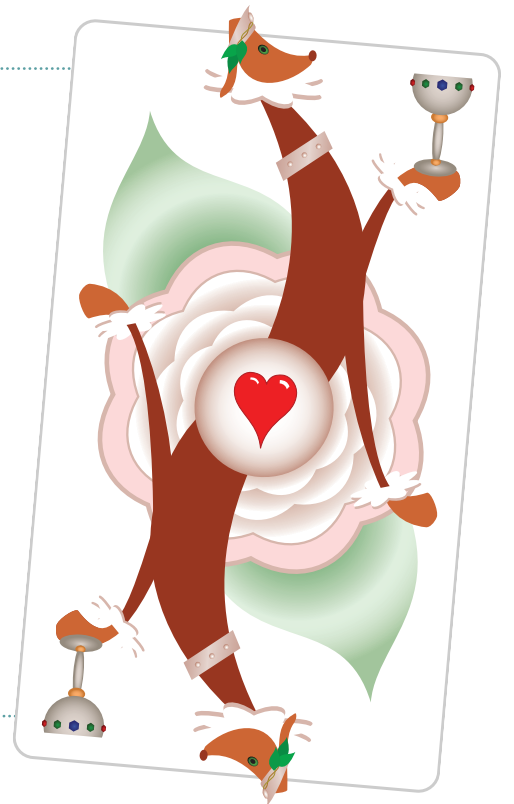
The Associated Press reports that a 44-pound stray (nearly 20 kilos) named Powder will likely find a permanent home due to the number of queries they had for the hefty kitty. This poor overweight puss was found in New Jersey and originally thought a stray. However, the original owner came forward to give past details of this portly pet to shelter staff. Powder was a victim of his owner's financial problems with a foreclosure of her home. He was abandoned rather than being handed into a shelter.

Tid Bits continues on the next two pages...

Barktoberfest, Saturday 18 October, Noon to 5pm—FREE!

Join us at this all-weather venue for a true community dog event. There will be free dog training and behavioural advice, professional pet photography by Animax Great pet products demoed and for sale. And more mutt fun than you can imagine! FREE!

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Urban foxes taking over Sydney

As reported in the Sydney Morning Herald, foxes in Sydney are as much a feature as Hills hoists and traffic congestion. It is estimated that there are between 2000 and 5000 in the metropolitan area. Introduced into Victoria by fox-hunters in 1871, these cunning Canidae are thought to have moved north in 1893. They've been sighted in Centennial Park and throughout inner city suburbs. It is estimated that there are 10 foxes per square kilometre in Sydney, where they do considerable damage to wildlife, including ground-dwelling birds, reptiles, possums and the threatened southern brown bandicoot.

Throughout August, Moss Vale Rural Lands Protection Boards, which has authority over the Sydney metropolitan area, will begin a fox-baiting program in the northern suburbs, timed to coincide with the fox-breeding season. "Foxes are more an urban problem than a rural one, because rural people can do things like trapping, shooting and fencing. Also, in urban areas the fox's opportunity to find food is greater

because of parks, gardens and garbage bins," said the Board's managing ranger, Andrew Glover.

A Hollywood shelter for homeless pets

A new pet-friendly homeless shelter called PetCo Place, situated in Hollywood, has thrown down the welcome mat to the homeless and their pets. Until now, emergency shelters for the homeless would turn away the needy if they had a pet in tow. Statistics prove that people in need won't avail themselves of emergency shelters if their pets are not allowed in. It is estimated that Los Angeles County has over 80,000 people living on the street or in temporary housing. About 5 to 10% of homeless people have pets, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

The facility is a 'shelter within a shelter'—a place where the homeless can stay and visit their pets in a nearby facility. PetCo Place is a charitable arm funded mostly by US pet-supplier, retailer PetCo which is also responsible for setting up adoption facilities for homeless pets within their chain of stores.

US Humane Society launches grant program for families facing tough financial times

To help keep families and pets together through foreclosures and financial crisis, The Humane Society of the United States has created a new grant program for shelters and rescue groups.

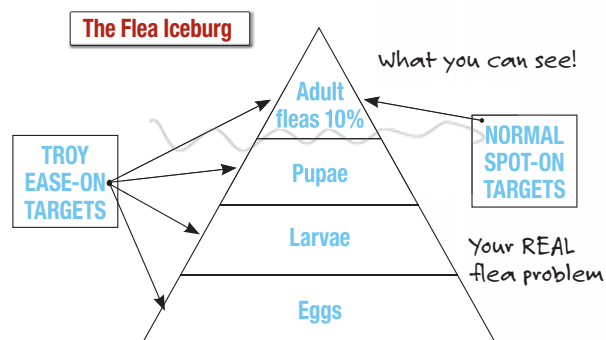
Pets have been left behind in foreclosed homes, and shelters are reporting that families are struggling to keep and feed pets. Sadly, some people struggling financially opt for leaving their pet behind rather than handing them over to a shelter.

The grants range from \$500 to \$2000 and are given to the shelters and private rescues to partner with food banks to donate and distribute pet food and supplies; working with veterinarians to provide service vouchers to people who need assistance with vaccinations, emergency care and de-sexing.

NEW TROY EASE-ON

'A revolutionary flea treatment for dogs that targets the whole flea lifecycle - maximising protection for your pet'.

Most spot-on flea treatments only manage the tip of the flea iceberg. Only 10% of the total flea population are adult biting fleas (the one's you can see). The rest of the flea population (90%) are in either the egg, larvae or pupae stage.



Troy Ease-on contains Pyriproxifen, an insect growth inhibitor that stops eggs developing into larvae, larvae developing to pupae, and pupae developing into adult fleas. Adult fleas that come into contact with Troy Ease-on will also not be able to lay eggs.

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Troy Ease on comes in packs of two for small dogs (2mL) medium dogs (4mL) and large dogs (8mL).



** Not suitable for the treatment or control of the paralysis tick.



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TROY

Blankets and Towels Update

Last issue we encouraged readers to look in the back of their linen cupboards to find old blankets and towels to donate to local shelters, which need them all year round to add a little comfort. We received a number of calls from people wanting to donate and even knit blankets for Sydney's homeless. Many callers rang to enquire which shelters were in most need and the simple answer is, all of them.

However as we were hoping, there has been an offer to have a central collection for anyone wanting to donate items for shelters. The kind folk and dedicated trainers at Leichhardt Dog Training have offered their premises as a central location for items to be dropped off. Donated goods can be delivered to the training club house next to Café Bones. Blankets, towels and even non-perishable food items can be brought any Sunday between 9am and 12 noon, Hawthorne Canal Reserve, Leichhardt.

Thank you to Kim and the team for the offer.



Saudis say no to pets in public

Smart guys know that a dog at the end of a lead can be a real chick magnet and now Saudi Arabia's Islamic religious police, in their zeal to keep the sexes apart, want to make sure the technique doesn't catch on there. Violators found outside with their pets will have their beloved dogs and other furry companions confiscated by agents of the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, the official name of the religious police, tasked with enforcing Saudi Arabia's strict Islamic code. They've also tried to enforce this by banning the sale of pets in pet stores.

In 2004, they tried to ban cameras on cell-phones, fearing that men and women would exchange pictures of each other – though the prohibition was quickly revoked. The religious police also warn against celebrating Valentine's Day and wearing red to mark the day.

Bligh wants to ban koala-killing pet dogs

A report has found south-east Queensland's koala population could vanish within 20 years, sparking calls for a ban on pet dogs. The survey by consultants GHD for the Environmental Protection Agency and Moreton Bay Regional Council showed the urban koala population in that area had declined 46% over the past six years. The Queensland State Government has announced a task force to take drastic measures. Those measures could include banning dogs in new residential areas, phasing out dog ownership in existing residential areas, and mandating koala-friendly fences for homes. And States Premier, Anna Bligh, called for tough new action against pet dogs.

However, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) executive director Greg Hallam said preservation of koala habitat, rather than controlling dogs, was a better solution to south-east Queensland's dwindling koala population. His recommendation was to provide wildlife corridors, to protect open space from urban growth in the south-east corner to maintain koala habitat. Hallam was quoted as saying, "There's an elephant in the room, and this is sort of like a nice diversion. Dogs are an issue up to a point, but the bigger issue is that we're taking away the koalas' habitat."

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