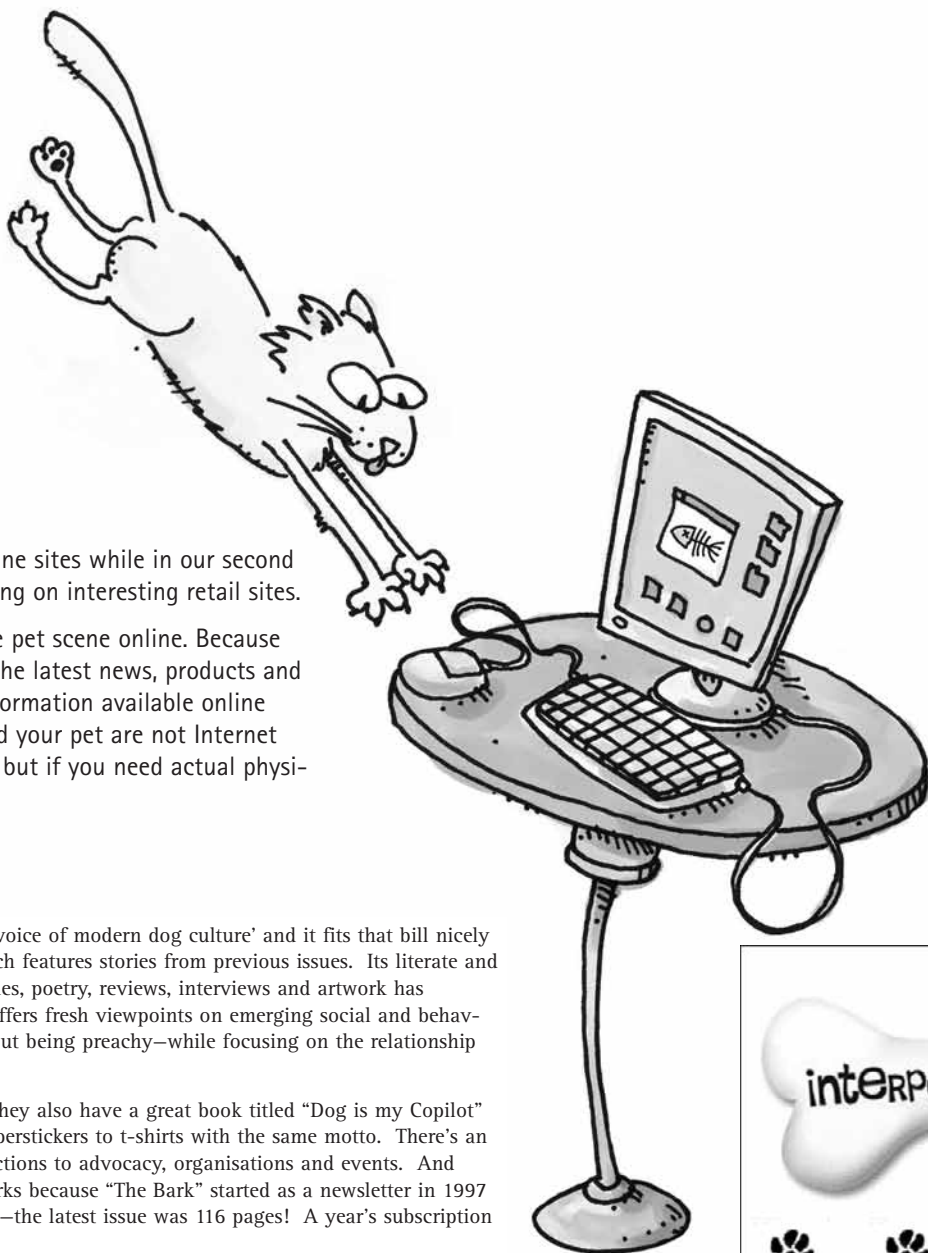
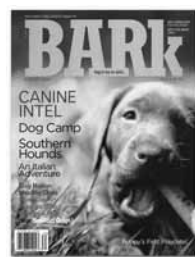


Internet Interpet



In the first instalment of this article, we showed a number of pet magazine sites while in our second edition we highlighted some bizarre Internet operations as well as focusing on interesting retail sites.

This issue we want to expose you to some great magazines that span the pet scene online. Because there is a dearth of Australian pet magazines, we often have to pick up the latest news, products and pet-specific issues from overseas magazines. So we share a wealth of information available online through the websites of pet magazines from around the world. If you and your pet are not Internet enabled at home, you can always view these at a library or internet café but if you need actual physical address contacts for these, feel free to contact us directly.



The Bark (www.thebark.com) bills itself as the 'voice of modern dog culture' and it fits that bill nicely with its bimonthly print magazine and an online forum which features stories from previous issues. Its literate and entertaining approach to canine culture through essays, stories, poetry, reviews, interviews and artwork has endeared the magazine to a growing readership. The Bark offers fresh viewpoints on emerging social and behavioural issues, ideas on health, recreation and activism—without being preachy—while focusing on the relationship between humans and dogs.

While some of the stories from the magazine are available, they also have a great book titled "Dog is my Copilot" of past features which matches their merchandise from bumperstickers to t-shirts with the same motto. There's an online forum which is a virtual 'dog pack', as well as connections to advocacy, organisations and events. And you'll note a great article on 'Dog Power' about off-leash parks because "The Bark" started as a newsletter in 1997

by two people in support of off-leash parks in Berkeley. My how the pup has grown—the latest issue was 116 pages! A year's subscription is US\$35 by airmail, no surface mail option.

New York Dog (www.thenydog.com) is also bimonthly and started up last year but is about to open a US West Coast version titled 'Hollywood Dog'. Where 'The Bark' is more intellectual and homey, 'New York Dog' is more celebrity driven like 'Vanity Fair' (or its pet equivalent 'Animal Fair') with features including Nicole Ritchie and Paris Hilton, comedienne Joan Rivers and Tori Spelling with her dog in an article titled 'Why Are Pugs So Fat'. It's fashionable, glossy, upmarket and lavish in print but their online site gives you a peek at things with outlines of their editorial, an online Doggyscope horoscope, dietary column and yes, even online obituaries from their print edition. The latest print issue was 112 pages and subscriptions are US\$40 per year by airmail.



Dogs, Dogs, Dogs (www.dogsx3.com) is our Toronto Canada counterpart as they are a free street press publication going since 1994. As 'Toronto's Favourite Newspaper... For Dog Lovers' it has more localised content in the print edition which doesn't translate online. Still they have rich content on their site. They have scads of articles from over the years, vet advice that is timely and informative, a training and behaviour column and much more. The most recent issue we have is 32 pages and subscriptions tend to be more for Canadian and local rather than international.

Cat Fancy (www.catfancy.com) is a glossy monthly that comes from the same stable as a family favourite 'Bird Talk' (see below). 'Cat Fancy' just celebrated 40 years of publication and you'll find cover shots from 1965 in the site. The May issue has online articles available including Parasite Control, Finding Out If Your Cat is Prime for the Show Circuit and a great piece on A Will of Their Own on protecting their future if they outlive you! There is a tremendous resource of articles from previous issues on all aspects of cat ownership and advice. There are also forums of a community nature and a wonderful section on breed descriptions. Back issues are available for US\$6 plus postage and annual subscriptions are US\$33 by surface delivery.



Bird Talk (www.birdtalkmagazine.com) is where it all started for me as a glossy magazine that features breeds, products and topical articles on all aspects of bird nutrition, behaviour and just plain feathered fun. Each issue has a centrefold, much like 'PlayBird' and there are a variety of columns too. There are hundreds of articles in their Resources area on Health/Nutrition, Behaviour & Training, Care, and General Topics. There are also great Species Profiles and a rich amount of forums online. 12 issues are US\$32 by surface or our preferred US\$42 by airmail.

Aquarium Fish (www.aquariumfish.com) is the third member of the Fancy Publications group—they do have reptile, ferret and horse magazines too. It's monthly for both novice and expert aquarium hobbyists and covers every imaginable topic from AquaBotany to Fungus Control, pH of water for fresh water, saltwater, ponds and pools including environmental and biochemistry issues. WHEW! But when you consider that a properly set up saltwater tank the size of a 140 cm plasma screen TV costs about the same (\$7000-10,000), and hundreds if not thousands of dollars to maintain annually, this magazine is a worthwhile investment protector. The Resources section is encyclopedic while the forums are hugely active. Subscription for 12 issues is US\$34.



Urban Animal (www.urbananimal.net) Hey! That's us!!! We have an extensive website where all three of our first year's quarterly issues are online with all articles, photos and pages including all advertisers. They can be viewed onscreen as PDFs or downloaded and printed out—so Urban Animal is accessible from around the world. You can even subscribe online through our secure site to have four copies of each print edition delivered to your home four times a year to share with friends. We are proud to be the first free Australian cross-pet magazine and welcome comments, critiques, suggestions and tips as well as your support in spreading the word on us.

If you have any suggestions of sites for consideration—whether shopping sites or other informative websites, please direct them to topdog@urbananimal.net



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