

ASIA'S LEADING MAGAZINE FOR PET LOVERS

# PETS

JUNE - AUG  
2022

## CATIFY YOUR LIFE!

- 🐾 Tips for new cat parents
- 🐾 Managing aggressive & anxious kitties
- 🐾 Posh cat hotel for meow-lords & ladies
- 🐾 Why complete food is the best diet plan

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# Northwest Naturals

## FREEZE DRIED RAW FOOD AND TREATS FOR DOGS

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“ This **single-ingredient** freeze dried food smells yummy, is extremely **easy to feed** and complements Boo's diet. Her **coat, skin and weight** has improved so much. ”

– Denise, Boo's pawrent  
@boo.\_thefrenchie

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# Northwest Naturals

## FREEZE DRIED RAW FOOD AND TREATS FOR CATS

MADE WITH PRIDE IN THE USA

“

*When it comes to attracting cats, it's all about how the food smells - and Rei loves this one! She grew more muscular and her poo firmed up too. Plus, her eyesight improved and even spotted an ant a meter away!*

”

– Quintella, Rei's pawrent

📷 @rei\_the\_rebel\_cat

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## RETRACTION

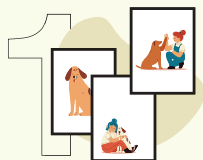
In the March issue, in article Under The Skin, we'd like to update that Janielle Tan, a veterinary nurse and certified veterinary acupuncturist is no longer working at The Visiting Vets.



# PETPRISSY PORTRAITS

— Create that matchless bond between You and your Pet —

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WORKS  
IN 3  
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# HELLO KITTY

Cats respond most readily to names that end in an “ee” sound, which naturally is vocalized in a higher intonation. Studies show that cats respond to their name much better if the name terminates in a high-pitched sound. For example, Lancelot ends on a low sound. He’s much less likely to respond to that than if we call him Lancey.

Our cover cats are called, Ham and Cheese. I’m not surprised if their pawrent Brenda Wang may have instinctively called to them as Hammey and Cheesy. After all, Wang is a self-proclaimed cat whisperer and currently living her best life as owner of a cat hotel, The Luxe Meownor. Feline guests gets treated as lords and ladies, served hand and foot by chambermaids at the hotel while she gets to cuddle all the guests daily. Amazingly, Wang revealed that despite handling cats all her life, she has never been scratched once!

Clearly, this issue is dedicated to all the cat people and their beloved felines who deserve nothing but the best. From feeding cats complete foods as their daily diet to managing aggressive behavior, we hope the articles are helpful in keeping your furry lords and ladies happy and well.

Of course, we’re not forgetting about our pooches, pocket-size pets and fish. For dogs, get clued in on superfoods to include in their daily diets and the most hardworking dog breed, the Belgian Malinois. Look out for hamsters with wet tail for they could be seriously ill and fish do really pee, apparently.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

**Zulfa JK, Managing Editor**



**COVER**  
Brenda Wang,  
owner of The Luxe Meownor

**COVER CATS**  
Ham and Cheese

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## EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY

Pampering your pooch is brought to a whole new level with a dog-and-you dining experience in the high seas. Celebrating its first anniversary of the world's first inaugural Dog Cruise, about 30 canines sailed on board the luxury tail ship Royal Albatross with their pawrents.

This unique event was the first time a luxury yacht allowed dogs onboard to not only dine with their pawrents; but to also have their own gourmet meals served at their table. Humans and their furry kids enjoyed a memorable experience which took them from the ship's berth at Resorts World Sentosa, along Sentosa's southern beaches and islands.

Since its launch in 2021, the entire dining experience for human guests on the dinner cruise has been upgraded to a new standard 5-course dining menu with an optional 7-course degustation menu available.

The furkids togged in their finest outfits enjoyed priceless bonding time with their humans over gourmet ice-creams, games and sunset views.

Visit [www.tallship.com.sg/dogcruise](http://www.tallship.com.sg/dogcruise), for more details.



Photography by Andrew Chua @arf.photography.studio

**FROM TOP** | Tyson and his three missies. | Peanuts and his pawrents. | A rare guest on board, Monday the cat, who thinks he's a dog and his dog siblings. | Lucky pooch of the day, Toto won a 1 night pawcation at Sofitel worth \$2500.

## BBQ FOR A CAUSE

Offshore Bar & Grill (OBG) and What The Mutt (WTM) organised a hyped kelong dining experience dedicated to our furry friends. And all for a good cause.



Guests can expect a specially curated menu for their dogs featuring fresh wagyu beef, free range chicken, and Norwegian salmon. Guests get to work the grill for themselves, and also their drooling companions.

To raise awareness for animal welfare and adoption, the K9 Kelong partnership will run until 31 July 2022 with plans to extend the experience in the near future. 20% of profits from the K9 Kelong experience will be donated to adopted charity, Exclusively Mongrels.

Visit [www.offshorebarandgrill.com](http://www.offshorebarandgrill.com) for more details.



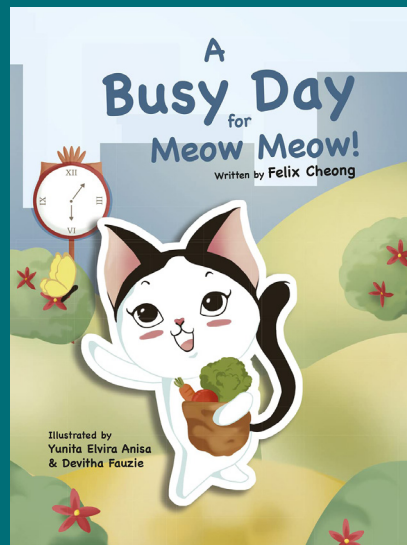
## MOVE OVER HUMANS, YOUR FURRY INFLUENCERS ARE HERE

Pet influencer platform Pawjourn, inducts new pets as ‘Empawyees’ and gives them a crash course on pet influencing through their first challenge video. The jobs platform grooms pets worldwide to earn their own treats through an in-house campaign #LifeAtPawjourn.

Local cat influencers, @\_Meowtales for example, are actively endorsing cat-centric products and services from cat food to toys in their Instagram account with 4253 followers. When the eight felines (Ninja, Minnie, Bambi, Casper, Roo, Snowy, Tinkerbelle and Leo) are not busy on promotion campaigns, you can catch them living their lives over lazy days toggled in their best outfits – no less.

Another dog influencer @belle.yorkie, features her life as a spoiled Yorkshire Terrier Princess. In between luxurious lunches and hair tutorials for her 6346 followers, she also attends openings for dog-centric events.

Pawjourn, powered by The Woof Agency was founded in 2019 as a jobs platform for pets. The platform offers pet owners an avenue to spend time with their pets while earning cash rewards and sponsored products. Visit pawjourn.com more details.



Busy Day With Meow Meow.

## Bond over books

Author Felix Cheong realised his adopted tuxedo cat Meow Meow loves being read to, and this quickly became part of their evening routine. What he did not expect was that this would inspire him to write A Busy Day for Meow Meow which feature simple yet delightful rhymes for children of ages three and upwards.

This book looks at a typical day in the life of Meow Meow, a mischievous cat. The story revolves around daily activities such as waking up, eating breakfast and going to work to teach a young reader how to tell time. This is a first in a series of illustrated books to equip children on general skills.

Available at [www.amazon.sg](http://www.amazon.sg)



**FROM LEFT** | A feline influencer at @\_Meowtales always looks picture perfect and accessorized in her feeds. | Looking pretty is a serious business for this dog influencer at @belle.yorkie. | Zoey, an Australia-based dog influencer who is just getting started at pet influencing recently at @zoey\_the\_aussie\_shepherd.



PEXELS | Samson Katt

# HEALING HANDS

HELPING DOGS WITH  
MASSAGE THERAPY

CMFMT also helps the production of melatonin that enables dogs to rest and recharge over a good night's sleep.

For Goh Suhan, dogs do speak but only to those who listens. Goh heals canines in need with Canine Myofascial Functional Manipulative Therapy (CMFMT), a branch of massage therapy that specifically promotes health in canines. The massage can help with issues such as stiff joints and muscles, pain, and circulation. It is also extremely beneficial in more senior dogs suffering from age-related conditions and dogs that suffer from stress-related anxiety.

She is inspired by her late dog Truffles, who passed early this year due to old age. "My late dog Truffles of 15 years in the last leg of her journey has taught me benevolence, empathy and patience not just in the way I treat animals in general but also in the way I relate with people," said Goh who is a regular volunteer at the animal shelter, Save Our Street Dogs (SOSD).

"Equipping myself with CMFMT was me acting on the lessons I've learnt from Truffles by applying them in the form of care and bonding to help ease her aging process both physically and psychologically."

A trained CMFMT therapist, Goh has been working with canines for various conditions including post-surgery, rehabilitation, and palliative care for over a year. Every case is different when she is presented with unique conditions, history and lifestyle.

Goh recalls one canine patient, Cody whom she fostered from SOSD who benefits from CMFMT. Cody had post-surgery issues which made his affected leg weaker than usual. Doing his bowels was difficult as he stoops in an awkward posture which meant he is always peeing or pooping into his own front foot.

A typical therapy session lasts between 30 to 60 minutes and the duration may extend depending on the dog's condition and size. While there are cases where mobility is enhanced after just one session, Goh advised a regular series of sessions to make a significant difference.

She started 'All For The Love Of Dogs' to continue her work with dogs. We chat with Goh on her journey as a CMFMT therapist.



## PETS P | WHEN AND WHERE CAN OUR PETS EXPERIENCE YOUR SERVICES?

**GOH SUHAN GS** | I try to make myself accessible to anyone who appreciates the value of CMFMT and so far I have made house calls for dogs who have no transport or who may not be ambulant, I also work from the Mad About Grooming store at shopping mall, Rocca Balestier, at open parks for those dogs who need a more neutral territory, and of course I work from animal rescue shelters specifically SOSD at the moment on a regular voluntary basis. Shelter dogs have a different set of needs and therapy can often offer them comfort, ease their anxieties and help them stay calm in an environment that can sometimes be stressful.

## P | HOW DOES CMFMT HELP DOGS?

**GS** | We all know doggos love our pats and belly rubs but CMFMT when professionally executed is an intentional and methodical massage treatment that offers our doggos many physical and mental health benefits. In my training as a CMFMT Therapist, I've come to witness the physiological importance of the therapy when regularly and appropriately administered, relieves muscular issues such as tension, soreness and fatigue.

It eliminates trigger points in muscle, fascia and joints. It improves mobility, agility, overall posture, and tones muscles, especially where there's muscle atrophy which in turn promotes blood and lymph circulation, absorption of nutrients and discharge of toxins.

It helps separate muscle fibres which helps reduce myospasms and build-up of scar tissues after surgery or an injury. It enables mineral retention in the skeletal system such as nitrogen, sulfur and phosphorus.

Beyond physical benefits, CMFMT promotes a healthy nervous system and hence good mental health by promoting the production of endorphins which is not only a pain-relieving neurochemical but



**Goh Suhan,**  
Animal advocate  
and trained CMFMT therapist.

is also responsible for giving our doggos a euphoric high and make them feel good. The release of serotonin which is a neurotransmitter, energises them and keeps them from becoming depressed.

## P | IS CMFMT WELL-RECEIVED BY SINGAPOREANS? AND WHY DO YOU THINK?

**GS** | I believe Singaporean dog owners are only just beginning to understand and appreciate the need for preventive therapy in helping their canine friends reduce their risks of pain and suffering.

A start to understanding the purpose of CMFMT is to realise that there are essentially three anchor figures in a canine's wellbeing, the veterinarian, the physiotherapist and the CMFMT therapist. The 3 experts work in tandem to bring about a holistic approach to not just canine but animal care and wellbeing.

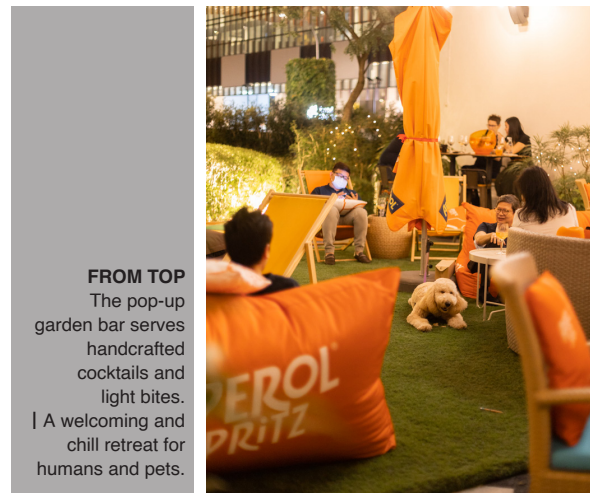
It is important for the person making decisions for their canines to have clarity on which area of expert advice each of these anchor figures provides. The veterinarian as the medical expert diagnose and prescribe treatments, the physiotherapist provides rehabilitation and therapy in support of the prescribed treatment plan by the veterinarian. And finally, the CMFMT therapist recommends and performs appropriate therapies in support of the complete treatment plan from the physiotherapist and veterinarian to achieve the desired optimal outcome.

## Pet-Friendly Pop-Up Garden Bar

At hotel Indigo Singapore, the vibrant Peranakan inspired upscale boutique hotel nestled in the quaint Katong neighborhood, your pooch can tag along for a day of lounging under the sky. It offers laidback holiday vibes with colorful deck chairs, relaxing bean bags and ample space to accommodate those with pets. If you're feeling puckish, an eclectic menu of light bites is paired perfectly with Aperol Spritz cocktails, beers and wines.

The garden bar is open to the public and opening hours are from 12pm to 10pm, Friday through Sunday.

Visit [www.hotelindigo.com](http://www.hotelindigo.com) for more details.



**FROM TOP**  
The pop-up garden bar serves handcrafted cocktails and light bites. | A welcoming and chill retreat for humans and pets.

## Oven Baked Goodness

For Canadian pet food brand Oven-Baked Tradition, the best food for cats and dogs is slowly cooked in the oven at low temperatures. Slow baking brings out the aromas, natural flavors and facilitates the digestion of ingredients as well as preserves the integrity of proteins and essential vitamins.

The Complete food for dogs comes in a vegan recipe suitable for adult dogs of different sizes. The portions are kept small to ensure freshness and quality. There is no meat inclusion and only whole grains is used in the recipe.

If your pooch prefers fish, the Semi-moist adult dog food has fresh fish as its main ingredient. Each bite is densely packed of up to 20% so a dog eats less but feels fully satiated.

For more details visit, [www.reinbiotech.com](http://www.reinbiotech.com)



**FROM LEFT**  
Semi-moist dog food for all breeds. | A vegan recipe of complete food for big and small adult dogs.



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- ✓ Nutritional snack



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LIFESTYLE FOR  
YOUR FURRY  
FRIENDS



## Finest White Fish with Green Bean & Sweet Potato

This Finest White Fish with Green Bean & Sweet Potato recipe is made from beautiful quality fish and vegetables. Designed to be deliciously appetising and to add flavour, moisture, and interest to dry dog food. The delicious Finest range includes complete and complementary recipes for an interesting and varied diet, to help your dog live life to the full.



## FISH4DOGS

### Training Puppy Salmon Bites

Made from 100% salmon, these small bites make great training treat your puppy will love. Tasty and aromatic these treats are small enough to use frequently when training and rewarding your puppy. A great product to use with puppies with sensitive tummies. These treats are made without grains, and meats that are often linked to dietary intolerances.



## Finest White Fish Flakes With Salmon

Using new Fish Flakes recipes as complementary foods, these are made using a combination of two tasty fish served in a broth. Designed to be deliciously appetising, to add flavour, moisture and interest to dry dog food. Two absolute favourites, white fish and salmon are combined in this delicious complementary recipe. A favourite with even the fussiest of our dogs.

## Finest Cod Mousse

Made of 99% cod fish, this Finest Light Cod Mousse is a delicious complementary treat that can be added to bland food or fed on its own. A moist recipe, made with delicious cod, this is a grain free recipe that is lower in fat and calories than our Salmon and Trout Mousse. Made without added artificial preservatives or colourings. Great added to bland food to encourage fussy eaters, or used on its own as a treat.





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This formula is perfect for toy and small breed adult dogs! It provides a targeted energy intake to boost vitality and helps keep extra weight off. Chicken as a great source of protein is also highly digestible. In addition, since small breed dogs are prone to constipation, prebiotic fiber has been added to optimize bowel movement and promote healthy stools. The formula also contains a unique combination of antioxidants to boost the immune system and protect the organs, skin and coat. A perfect choice for fussy little dogs.



## TIKI CAT

### After Dark Wet Cat Food Chicken & Lamb

Give cats the real meat they crave with shredded chicken, organ meat and tender lamb in a savory broth. Packed with high protein, no grains and low carbs, this is a complete food for cats' carnivores diet for all life stages. Protein sources include chicken liver, gizzards and heart add irresistible flavor and beneficial nutrients. Its high moisture content give cats the supplemental water they need.



## CATFEST

### Pillows With Salmon Cream

An excellent combination of crispy crust and the most delicate natural puree from wild salmon make this treat a cat's favorite treat, and the porous structure helps the pet to brush its teeth. Delicious ingredients include cereals, ocean salmon, egg yolk, fish meal, ocean shrimp, Omega 3/6 fatty acids, fruits and vegetables (pomegranate seeds, forest cranberries).



## BIOGANCE

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Because pet well-being does also depend on the complicity pets share with their owners, we have developed BIOGANCE Cocoon Spa line to offer pets a relaxing moment in 4 easy steps: a skin preparation lotion, a massage care, hydro active emulsion and a soft finishing shampoo.





## BURP!

### Everyday Holistic Dog Dry Food

For healthy joints, the Burp! Dog Dry Food is formulated with fresh chicken as the 1st ingredient; providing the best foundation and nutrients that fur kids need. Burp! Dog Dry Food supports strong and lean muscles with its high protein content. It improves joint health and mobility through a herbal blend of extracts from Boswellia, Bamboo, Blueberries and Filipendula, providing a natural remedy with anti-inflammatory properties. To ensure a balanced diet, this recipe contains essential vitamins and natural carbohydrates that are loaded with fibre. It is also enriched with Omega-3 and prebiotics for stronger immunity and better digestion.

### Everyday Holistic Cat Dry Food

For a lustrous coat and healthy skin, the Burp! Cat Dry Food is formulated with fresh salmon as the 1st ingredient; providing the best foundation and nutrients that fur kids need. This dry food supports strong and lean muscles with its high protein content. It features an antioxidant-rich herbal blend of extracts from Burdock (Arctium), Calendula, Red Clover and Viola Tricolor to help reduce inflammation and promote healthy skin and coat. To ensure a balanced diet, this recipe contains essential vitamins and natural carbohydrates that are loaded with fibre. It is also enriched with Omega-3 and prebiotics for stronger immunity and better digestion.



### Chawanmushi with Ham & Chicken dog wet food

Treating your dog to a cooked egg is perfectly safe and keeps it a special surprise that your dog will enjoy. The protein in Burp! Chawanmushi as a superfood for dogs are low in calories and provide lean muscle support and weight management. Nutrients dense, Burp! Chawanmushi with Ham & Chicken dog wet food is a complete food for adults and senior dogs and complementary food for puppies.





## NANO SANITAS

### Advanced Oral Gel

The Advanced Oral Care gel effectively freshens any pets' breath and maintains their teeth and gums healthy. This gel is a unique blend of meticulously engineered nanoparticles and nature's purest ingredients. It is based on a mucoadhesive formula (i.e. adhering to the gums), which ensures that the active ingredients (silver nanoparticles and papaya extract) remain in contact with the pets' teeth and gums, for a long period of time.



## TRUSTIE

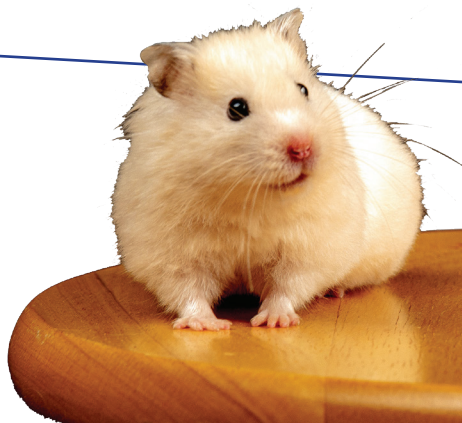
### Natural Mineral Bath sand Natural dried chrysanthemum

Trustie natural mineral bath sands are fragrance-free and safe for hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas and degus. The original sand is made with 100% natural minerals. Dust-free and soft, Trustie natural mineral bath sands help small pets remove excess skin oils. Floral range infused with naturally dried flower pastels from Rose, Chrysanthemum or Lavender. The natural flower scent is chemical free and safe for small pets.



### Natural Mineral Urine sand Extra fine urine sand (Activated carbon) Size:0.8mm-1.5mm

Trustie Extra fine urine sands are fragrance-free and safe for hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas and degus. The original sand is made with 100% natural clumping clay. An activated carbon variant infused with charcoal for odour control enhances quick absorption and is easy to clean.



# FELINE STOMATITIS

WHEN CATS GET PAINFUL MOUTHS AND REFUSE TO EAT. SPOT THE SIGNS.

**F**eline stomatitis, also known as Feline Chronic Gingivostomatitis, affects about 0.7 – 4 percent of cats. It is a painful and often debilitating, chronic inflammation of the mouth tissues. There are two main forms: One form involves inflammation

of the gums surrounding the teeth. The latter called Caudal Stomatitis or Faucitis is more challenging to treat. It affects the back of the mouth where the upper and lower jaws come together known as the "fauces."

Regular dental care and medical management are typically the first line of treatment.

## PETS (P) | WHAT ARE THE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF FELINE STOMATITIS

**DR. FOREST (F)** | Cats with feline stomatitis are often in great pain and have difficulty chewing and eating. They may lose weight, have bad breath (halitosis), drool, swallow excessively, chatter their teeth, paw their mouth, and even bleed from the gums. These cats may also have a scruffy coat because of decreased self-grooming and are thin from poor nutrition.

## P | WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF FELINE STOMATITIS?

**DR. F** | Cats with Feline Stomatitis tend to have altered immune functions that predispose them to develop Feline Stomatitis. The cat's body launches an excessive inflammatory response to the plaque bacteria in the mouth, which, without intervention, may progress to a more severe auto-immune condition in which the body also attacks the dental tissue itself.

Recent studies also suggest that feline calicivirus (a virus that can affect a cat's oral cavity), and viruses that affect the immune system such as feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), may play a role.

## P | WHAT ARE THE TREATMENTS FOR FELINE STOMATITIS?

**DR. F** | Upon an examination of the oral cavity, veterinarians may screen for FeLV and FIV, perform dental x-rays to check for tooth root resorption. They may also perform a biopsy on the affected tissue to differentiate Feline Stomatitis from oral cancer. A routine dental procedure should be performed to address any inflammatory dental disease. Medical management is aimed at controlling the pain and oral infection and reducing inflammation.

Steroids can be used to reduce the inflammation in the mouth and provide some relief from the discomfort. However, steroids lose effectiveness overtime for this condition, and significant side-effects with long-term use can be an issue. If your cat does not respond well to medical management, your vet will likely recommend extracting its teeth.

## P | IS TOOTH EXTRACTION NECESSARY?

**DR. F** | Teeth provide a surface for bacteria to cling to, which causes the body's immune system to overreact. Removing teeth eliminates the opportunity for bacterial colonisation. Usually, tooth extraction involves the removal of just the molars and premolars.

Overall, cats tend to do very well after this procedure and tend to eat better once healed. In fact, some cats can even eat dry food without teeth.



# KIWI KITCHENS

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[www.petloverscentre.com](http://www.petloverscentre.com)

# TEETHING PROBLEMS

BAD BREATH? YELLOW TEETH? YOUR DOG COULD HAVE DENTAL DISEASE!

**B**y the age of three, 70 percent of cats and 80 percent of dogs have some form of dental disease which can take years off a pet's life. Dental disease can result in life-threatening complications. Bacteria from the mouth travels under the gum line and into the bloodstream affecting all major organs, including the heart, liver, and kidneys. That is why pet owners must take preventative measures.

## P | ANY TIPS TO KEEPING BREATH FRESH IN DOGS?

**DR. F |** When performed correctly, these tips helps catch early signs of dental disease and abnormalities and possibly, prevent future extractions.

### Regular Brushing

You need to brush your pet's teeth once a day! Use a pet-safe toothpaste and a finger brush or cloth to gently clean away plaque. This is very important and is the most effective way to prevent dental disease.

Without brushing, plaque can build up, putting the dog or cat at risk of bad breath, gum disease, and tooth decay. This may later cause painful infection affecting the animal's ability or desire to eat and cause more damage to its health.



#### FROM LEFT

Dogs with dental issues usually have yellow or stained teeth with visible plaque. | Teeth cleared of plaque after a dental procedure.



## The Vet

**Dr Goh Shuling (Dr Forest),  
BVSc (Melbourne) (Hons) Principal Vet,  
Happy Vet**

Happy Vet is a dedicated housecall vet service. Professional, caring, compassionate and trusted, they provide a wide range of vet care services for your pets in the comfort of your home. Dr Forest is the Principal Vet of Happy Vet. She believes in the importance of working closely with pet owners to provide the best possible care for their furkids.

W: [myhappyvet.com](http://myhappyvet.com) T: 8877 6607

## Dental Diet & Treats

Dental diets and treats are formulated to help scrub the teeth as the dog chews.

## Chew Toys

Good chew toys can help slow dental disease through their abrasive action. A good toy is bendable, softer than teeth, and must not be so small that it can be swallowed whole. Opt for rubbery and bendable chew toys that allow treats to be tucked inside. Avoid thick, heavy, rawhide toys, hard Yak cheese or Antler horns that can break or fracture a pet's teeth or worse, cause gastrointestinal problems if a pet swallows a large piece.

## Dental Scaling & Polishing

Proper pet dental care involves more than just brushing or scraping tartar off the teeth. A thorough cleaning involves scaling, probing, and polishing at the clinic by a veterinarian.



# Mark+Chappell

Health for Pets

**NO BRUSHING REQUIRED**



## 2in1 DENTI-CARE The Solution to all your Dental Care Needs

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For more info visit [www.markandchappell.com](http://www.markandchappell.com) or email us at [info@markandchappell.com](mailto:info@markandchappell.com)

# Proteger



## NATURE ENZYME TOOTH PASTE FOR DOGS & CATS

**Fight Tartar & Plaque**

**Freshens Breath**

**Soothe Periodontal Problems**

**Promote Healthy Gums & Teeth**

**MADE IN TAIWAN**



SINGAPORE  
QUALITY CLASS



[www.petloverscentre.com](http://www.petloverscentre.com)



# BALANCING ACT

WHY COMPLETE FOOD IS THE BEST DIET PLAN

PIXELS | Rhalp

**C**ats are notoriously picky eaters. While cats do enjoy a varied selection of food and should be fed both dry and wet foods, canned cat food has the advantage of a high water content, which helps to keep your kitty hydrated. Most cats don't drink much water, so it's important for them to "eat" their fluids.

A study published in 2011 showed that when cats are given access to foods of different protein, fat, and carbohydrate

concentrations they tend to self-select a diet that provides them with around 52 percent of their calories from protein, 36 percent from fat, and 12 percent from carbohydrates, explains veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Coates.

"While there isn't a single diet that is ideal for all cats, in general, most do best when they eat foods that are high in moisture and protein and relatively low in carbohydrates."

## Complete Food vs Complimentary Food

Complete foods contain all the nutrients required by a cat to stay healthy. If a cat eats only one brand of complete meal, it will get all the nutrients required to stay alive and healthy. A good complete food should include meat and fat, fiber, minerals and vitamins and can be dry or wet. From a nutritional point of view, a complete food

could hypothetically be given every day, forever.

Complimentary foods, individually, are not sufficient to meet all the nutritional requirements of a cat in a single meal because they have no supplements added. Like in humans, we do not ask if our lunch is complete, because we know that our diet provides us with balanced nutrition, with no deficiencies or excesses, if we alternate between different food sources.



## Protein is a Cat's Most Important Source of Energy

Cats also use protein for energy. In fact, it is their most important source of energy. Unlike other species, a cat's liver enzymes are constantly breaking down proteins for energy and maintenance of blood glucose levels. When cats do not receive enough dietary protein even when other sources of energy, such as carbohydrates, are present their bodies start breaking down their own muscle tissue to meet their protein and amino acid requirements.

## Choosing a Complete Meal

Cats are obligate carnivores, which means that they rely on nutrients found only in animal products. When selecting food for your feline friend, look for one that has been certified "Complete and Balanced". This means the food contains a high-quality mix of ingredients to meet your feline's basic nutritional needs and including meat, taurine (a building block for protein synthesis and a vital amino acid for cats), and water.

## Animal and Plant-Based Protein

There are two main sources of protein used in cat food: animal protein and plant protein. Common sources of animal

proteins in cat food include beef, chicken, turkey, lamb, and fish. In addition to seeing these animal proteins on a label, you may also see different meat meals or meat by-products. And although many pet parents think these are bad ingredients, they actually provide concentrated protein sources.

While some plant sources, such as soybean meal and sunflower meal, contain comparable levels of protein to animal-based ingredients, experts suggest that cats are not able to digest and utilize these energy and nitrogen sources as readily as animal proteins.

Popular pet food brand Aixia, for eg, offers complete cat foods made in human-grade facilities, which means the foods are made of the highest quality ingredients. The brand uses real tuna from Japan's Yaizu port and chicken as protein sources. Their Miaw Miaw products contain "a-i peptide" or anti + inhibitory-factors, which is jointly developed by a professor of Kitasato University School. The tuna-based ingredient which is sourced from plant-derived enzymes are easier to digest and absorb.

As a general rule, you should feed your cat 1 ounce of food for each pound of body weight daily, spread out over two meals.

“ Cats also use protein for energy.

In fact, it is their most important source of energy.





Unlike other species, a cat's liver enzymes are constantly breaking down proteins for energy and maintenance of blood glucose levels.

”



PIXELS | Cottonbro

## What to Look for on the Label

-  Compliance with AAFCO's\* requirements for "Complete and Balanced," as evidenced by that wording on the label.
-  Named protein source—look for "chicken, turkey, lamb, or beef," rather than "meat."
-  On canned food particularly, the protein source should be the first listed ingredient
-  Check the expiration date for freshness

\*The AAFCO (American Association of Feed Control Officials) is an advisory body that proposes regulations for the production and labeling of animal feeds, including pet food. Its membership consists of regulatory officials from many states' feed control bodies, Federal agencies (FDA), as well as the Animal Protection Institute, and various veterinarian colleges.

“

As a general rule, you should feed your cat 1 ounce of food for each pound of body weight daily, spread out over two meals.

”







**Amy Snells,**  
Spokesperson  
at Northwest Naturals

## Choosing a Complete Meal

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We check in with a spokesperson for popular American pet food brand Northwest Naturals, Amy Snells on a healthy diet for cats.

### **PETS P | What is the best diet to feed cats?**

**AMY SNELLS AS |** Cats are obligate carnivores, which means they depend only on the nutrients found in prey animals for survival. They do not require any vegetable matter.

### **P | What is defined as Complete food for cats?**

**AS |** Organs provide amino acids, vitamins and minerals. Heart is the primary source of the amino acid Taurine. Bones are a rich source of minerals, particularly calcium and phosphorus, and the marrow and collagen associated with bones are also full of valuable nutrients.

### **P | Would a mix of Complete and Complimentary foods be considered an unbalanced diet for cats?**

**AS |** Cats do need to eat a complete and balanced meal proportioned to their body weight. If they eat complementary foods, such as treats, over time cats will become obese and/or can deteriorate their health substantially over time. Experts say that when it comes to offering treats to cats, moderation is crucial. Treats are fine to give your cat, but they “should be a very minor part of the diet.

### **P | There are so many brands available. What should I look for when buying Complete food for cats? Is there a quick way to tell from the ingredients label?**

**AS |** The ingredient panel should consist of meat, organ meat and raw ground bone. Vitamins from whole foods are also okay to be sure the cat is getting everything he/she needs from his diet to thrive.

Any time a cat doesn't eat or eats only small amounts of food for even a few days, they are at risk of developing a condition called hepatic lipidosis. This disease only occurs in cats and is most common in overweight kitties.

### **P | In the absence of Complete food, what's the next best thing to fulfill a nutritious diet for cats?**

**AS |** Muscle meat, organ meat, and raw ground bones.

# PETS AT HOME

GOOD-LOOKING PET ESSENTIALS  
AROUND THE HOME

## KEEP OUT!

This decorative acrylic divider sections off a room without ruining the aesthetics of your home. Simply adjust once to the desired width and you're all set. Shiny metallic feet and connecting hardware are at once functional and add a sophisticated design detail, too. CB2 exclusive. Available at [www.cb2.com](http://www.cb2.com)



Keep them out but visible with this transparent gate.

## SUN SEEKER

When selecting pet-friendly furniture, you'll want to choose materials that are durable and easy to clean. Wicker is a great material to consider if you want cat and dog-friendly furniture. Made out of weather-resistant polyresin, wicker is a hardy material and is also highly resistant to pet issues (i.e. scratching, shedding, biting). With The Paris Lounge chair from Sika-Design, you can easily create a natural extension of your indoor space into a stylish pet zone too. Available at [www.sika-design.com](http://www.sika-design.com)



The Paris Lounge chair comes with an optional seat pad.





## HAUTE KITTY

If you're a cat lover with a penchant for home decor, you know the struggle to find stylish products for your feline friends is real. Thankfully, American fashion designer Jason Wu has joined forces with cat care brand Cat Person on a collection of feline home essentials. Featuring furniture and toys for your fur baby, the range boasts a minimal yet chic aesthetic that will further elevate your space. The mostly black and white collection includes an enclosed litter box, a bowl, a scoop, a catnip toy, and a hoodie. Available at [www.catperson.com](http://www.catperson.com)



### FROM TOP |

The semi-gloss Messa bowl stand and tray is ergonomically designed for comfort and easy eating.

The enclosed litter box features a ventilated pinewood top and corner accessibility.

## HAPPY SEAT

Finnish designer Eero Aarnio, one of the greatest innovators of modern furniture design, created Happy Bird, an iconic addition to the Me Too collection. Characterised by an amusing round shape and large funny feet, it has become one of children's and adults' favorites and a design classic. Available in two different dimensions, the smaller version is entirely made of polyethylene and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. The larger one features solid ash feet which make it not only a quirky playmate but also a stable seat and a great decorative element for pet-friendly spaces. Enquire at [www.magisdesign.com](http://www.magisdesign.com).



Happy Bird was first created in 2015 and remains a design classic for its organic forms and vivid colours.



Photography by  
SARJOUN FAOUR

# THE BOSS IS IN

AN INTERIOR THEME CONCEIVED  
AROUND A DOG BED

**A** dog bed is at the top of the list in the design of this house.

Canadian architecture firm StudioAC design approach to the Sheridan Residence in Toronto involves using plywood as the main material for its scandi-chic aesthetic and functional appeal. The smooth surface of plywood is easy to clean for a dog-friendly space.

"The genesis of producing a space for the pup came out of a simple line in the brief, requesting we consider a space for a dog bed," the studio said. "With such a modest amount of

space it wasn't an insignificant request."

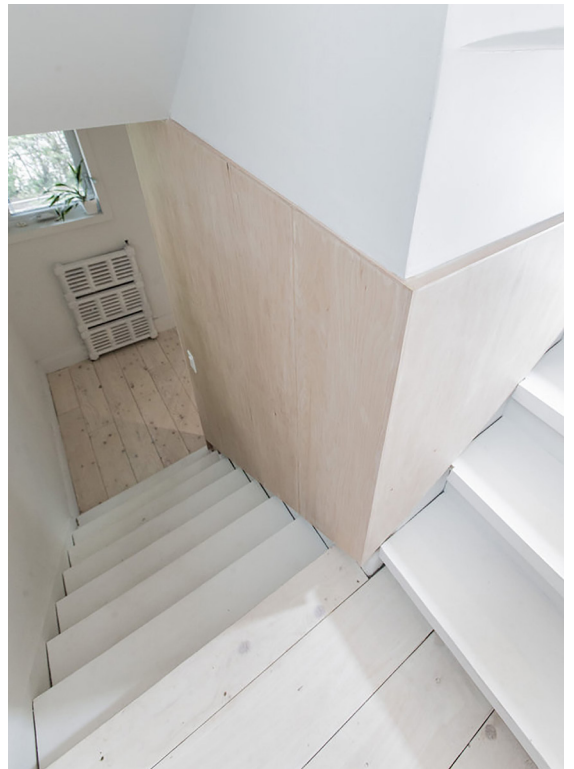
Within the 1,500 square feet of floor area, the plywood volume is used to lengthen the relatively modest floor plan that contains the living, dining, kitchen and entry. By stretching itself across the programs and extending the kitchen surface, the plywood volume creates a functional graphic that leads the eye across the space.

While the mass acts as an aesthetic tool it also contains a foyer, closet, stairs, kitchen and even as a little house for their family dog, Rusty.





Entrance to Rusty's nook is recessed and trimmed in white to complement the wood.







“

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“With such a modest amount of space it wasn't an insignificant request.”

As the design of the plywood piece progressed an opportunity was observed at its centre to produce a moment of delight and fun while also making better use of the overall floor plan.

Upstairs are two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a master bedroom with en-suite, all following the white and wooden palette that runs throughout the home.

“We stuck with the prototypical form and finished the dog house in white paint so it can pop against the plywood mass it lives in,” said the studio.

**THIS PAGE** The kitchen is open plan in a white theme to complement the wooden palette.

**OPPOSITE PAGE FROM CLOCKWISE** | The dog house wrapped in plywood forms a central mass guiding the interior design throughout the house. | The plywood wraps around the central wall leading upstairs. | The wooden palette continues upstairs as wainscoting to protect the walls from scratches.

**SOURCE**  
Studio Arc, [www.archcollab.com](http://www.archcollab.com)

## Fabric

Shield leathers are highly durable and resistant to scratches.

## Modular Carpets

Keep floors fresh with anti-odour carpet tiles.

# PLAYTIME

HARMONY AT HOME IS POSSIBLE WITH THE CORRECT TYPE OF FABRIC, CARPET AND FLOORING

## Flooring

EcoClick+ flooring keeps the floor free from stains and bacteria.

It's important that your pets have their very own throne in your kingdom. Create spaces to give them as much of a similar vibe to your décor as you possibly can. It's all about matching their space with yours. The idea is to make them truly comfortable.

With the bonus of being incredibly versatile, hardy, care and maintenance hassle-free, it's possible to pull off a multitude of interior design styles, whether you want rustic-chic or modern and luxurious with a curation of chic fabric and flooring solutions.

### SHIELD LEATHERS

Nothing is more tedious than having to clean hair all day long from the couch. Seek only fabrics that has a fur-resistant finish that is silicone based. Performance leather made of 100% silicone, Shield leathers boast the best combination of leather textures and the superior advantages of silicone. It is inherently flame retardant and unlike polyurethanes (PU), silicone does not degrade from harsh chemical. A hygienic alternative, this synthetic fabric does not support microbiological growth.

Smooth surfaces such as Shield leathers are hardy and effortlessly chic.

### ECO-CLICK FLOORS

In light of rainy days and those early months when your puppy or kitten is still learning to toilet-train, we highly recommend flooring that is easy to clean.

Imitating nature with its wonderful prints, the NOX EcoClick+ is designed to create a natural feeling in your spaces. Equipped with anti-microbial technology Eco-Protect (EPT™) Shield, NOX EcoClick+ is a hygienic option and bacteria-free. Eco-Multi Tecture (EMT™) Core, ensures superior dimensional stability of the planks.

### MODULAR CARPETS

Modular carpets are great ways to add colour to any space and protect the floor from scratches. The Ecofresh carpet tiles keep indoor air fresh and work against spillages, soiling and any unpleasant odours. What's more, the carpet is environmentally-friendly with no harmful chemicals involved. Simply replace the damaged spot to refresh instead of a complete overhaul.

Experience more pet-friendly solutions at selected Goodrich gallery. For more interior decorating tips, visit [goodrichglobal.com](http://goodrichglobal.com)



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# WORKING DOG

UPFRONT WITH THE  
BELGIAN MALINOIS BREED

Pexels | Pixabay

The Belgian Malinois is a loyal and steadfast companion.



**W**hile movie fans may be swooning over the four-legged star of Channing Tatum's film 'Dog', experts fear that it may lead to an increase in cases of abandoned Belgian Malinois, the dog breed featured in the film. The dog star of the hit movie is Lulu, who is played by three different Belgian Malinois Britta, Lana 5 and Zuza. The dog who appears the most in the movie is Britta, who now lives with her trainer in Hamilton, Montana.

In the film, Tatum plays U.S. Army Ranger Jackson Briggs, who is taking Lulu, the troubled dog who served in Afghanistan, to the funeral of her handler.

## Breed Profile

One of four Belgian herding breeds, the Belgian Malinois, affectionately called the Mal, is a medium-to-large dog with a strong, elegant body. This high-energy breed needs plenty of daily strenuous exercise and mental stimulation, but is otherwise low-maintenance. Revered for their strong work ethic and their smarts, the Belgian Malinois is a top pick for police and military K-9 units, drug-detection dogs, and search-and-rescue dogs. Though more frequently seen on the job than at the park, the Mal's gentle, playful demeanor and loyalty can make him a great family companion.



## BREED OVERVIEW

<b>BREED GROUP</b>	Herding
<b>HEIGHT</b>	22 to 26 inches at the shoulder
<b>WEIGHT</b>	40 to 80 pounds
<b>COAT</b>	Short, smooth double coat
<b>COAT COLOR</b>	Fawn, mahogany, red, with a black mask
<b>LIFE SPAN</b>	12 to 14 years

### History of the Belgian Malinois

Though the Belgian Malinois may resemble the German shepherd in passing, the breeds are distinct and historically unrelated. Mals were originally bred in northwestern Belgium, near the city of Malines, hence the name, where this strong, intelligent breed was prized for its hard-working character and employed to herd sheep and cattle. Back then, all four Belgian shepherd varieties (Malinois, Tervuren, Laekenois, and Groenendael) were typically lumped into one breed.

### Temperament

Intelligent, active and loyal, there are good reasons the Belgian Malinois is a favorite among working dogs. With his strong, powerful body and confident demeanor, there isn't much this dog can't accomplish. The Mal is a steadfast companion and an eager learner, who takes to positive reinforcement training well. As with all dogs, training your Mal is important. Though sweet, sensitive, and deeply devoted, he's an intense dog and will do best in a home with an experienced dog owner.

### Living Needs

Belgian Malinois were historically bred to herd sheep for hours on end. Though rarely employed as herding dogs today, their stamina remains. Mals require lots of daily outdoor exercise and mental stimulation. Though they can adapt to many living situations, including apartments, if properly exercised, a Mal will be happiest in a home with a large, securely fenced yard to stretch his legs. Malinois enjoy spending time outside, but what they want most is your constant companionship.

They form intense bonds with their owners and are happiest accompanying their humans in anything, and everything, they do. This devout loyalty makes Belgian Malinois unsuitable to be alone for long periods of time, and a lonely Mal will likely develop separation anxiety. If not properly exercised or cared for, they can become unhappy and develop undesirable behaviors.

“The Mal is a steadfast companion and an eager learner, who takes to positive reinforcement training well. As with all dogs, training your Mal is important.”



Gerrie Van Der Walt

Be aware that the Belgian Malinois' herding instinct might create a tendency to chase cars, bikes, and other moving objects. So it must be kept on leash or in a secure fenced area.

## Diet and Nutrition

Do feed a high-quality, nutritionally balanced canine diet. Discuss the variety and quantity with your veterinarian, as this can vary based on age, size, activity level, and other factors. And be sure to account for treats in your dog's daily caloric intake to prevent overeating.

## Fun Facts

The Belgian Malinois is one of the fastest breeds in the world. It has been clocked to run up to 30 mph.

Mals performed important jobs in World War I, such as carrying messages, pulling ambulance carts, and assisting the Red Cross.

Belgian Malinois like to have a job to do, but sometimes it's hard to channel their enthusiasm.



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Delicious light recipe - 60% fewer calories\*



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99%  
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Dash, Ralph and Burt  
Part of the Fish4Dogs® family

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DELICIOUS  
FLAVOURS

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TikTok

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“

No two cats  
are the same,  
and no one  
cat remains  
the same.

”

Wang is seated with her  
furbids, Ham and Cheese.  
Both are adopted and are  
domestic long hair breeds.

**Photography**  
JAMES LIANG  
**Hair & Make-up**  
JANICE LAI



# IN THE LAP LUXURY OF

WITH “CHAMBERMAIDS” WAITING ON FELINE GUESTS BOARDED IN SPACIOUS “BED CHAMBERS” FITTED WITH BESPOKE CAT FURNITURE, THE LUXE MEOWNOR IS BASED ON THE KNOWLEDGE THAT CONVIVIALITY IS FOR LIFE, FOR BOTH HUMANS AND CATS.

**T**heir oddness intrigues me. I also love how they melt into our embrace after they've gained our trust,” says 49 year old Brenda Wang who is an avid cat rescuer and the owner of The Luxe Meownor.

An interior design contractor by profession, she started The Luxe Meownor by chance and during the pandemic when she turned much of her time to rescuing street cats.

“As I mainly do overseas interior contracting works, I started physical cat rescue work when Covid put a stop to my work as I can no longer travel. Two years ago, my office was dead with no work activities so I thought instead of waiting for the pandemic to be over, I'll use the space to house rescued cats.”

At around the same time, she also started a private Facebook group Cats & Kittens of Singapore, which has more than 14,000 members with over 40 volunteers. Together,

the team has rescued about 100 cats and rehomed 80.

“However all these had to come to a stop, when URA enforcement officers knocked on my office door and slapped us with a 'no pets allowed in the office' advisory,” shares Wang.

After much persuasion from her volunteers and Facebook members, Wang proceeded to secure a shophouse along Jalan Besar and applied for all the necessary licenses.

“With their heartfelt enormous support, I decided to continue rescuing but at the same time, I also felt that it is the human behind the cats that really need the help. Hence, this explains my hand-written quip at the main entrance of the hotel, 'Behind every happy & healthy cat, there's always a great carer.' The Luxe Meownor is set up for the human and the help for cats just come naturally,” says Wang who has a diploma in feline psychology.



One of Wang's favourite activity is bonding with her guests such as giving cuddles. She's seen here feeding EnEn, the hotel's resident cat.



## Pampering the Hands Who Feed the Cats

Every weekend, Wang conducts cat care classes for humans to learn how to properly care for their feline friends covering basic knowledge on cats, such as the type of food to feed them, how to train them to use a litter pan and how to cat proof their house.

She envisioned The Luxe Meownor as a nurturing space for staff and volunteers. The Drawing Room and Botanic Terrace on the first floor and the Chambermaids Hall, located on the second floor of the hotel, are designed as comfortable spaces for staff and volunteers to lounge and relax.

Wang is also a mother of two furkids who are now 3.5 years old. Ham and Cheese were adopted from a multi-cats household when they were 3 months old.

“Both of them have completely opposite personalities. Ham, is a cheeky, playful boy who loves to stalk me even when I’m using the bathroom while Cheese is a shy, sweet and docile doll.”

The Luxe Meownor opens in February as a “luxury” boarding house for cats while their owners are away as well as for cats in need and those with behavioral issues. The hotel has a Cat Ambassador named EnEn. The 5 year old Tortoiseshell domestic short hair female cat was adopted from the Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS). Suspected as a victim of abuse, she was thrown down from height and found with a broken neck, rib cage, front leg and punctured lungs.

Thanks to Wang’s tender loving care, EnEn now walks with a crippled front paw and is undergoing physiotherapy and hydrotherapy.

## Rooms Fit for Royalty

At the hotel, feline guests stay in spacious “bed chambers” fitted with bespoke furniture for cats that range from 25 sq ft to 35 sq ft. There are 13 bed chambers and all feature “invisible” safety grills and furnished with cat furniture designed by Wang herself. Some rooms have interconnecting doors that can be opened for cats from the same family.

The MBC1 suite at 35 sq. ft. for example, can accommodate up to 3 cats and is equipped with a solarium for feline lord or ladies who love to bask in the sun. Other guest perks include fur massages, facials, ear cleaning, teeth brushing and nail clipping and subject to the guests approval.

Boarding rates start from S\$48 nett per cat per night and go up to S\$88 nett per cat per night, depending on room type. Second and third cats are charged at an additional S\$20 nett. Rates are inclusive of cat litter, two wet-food meals a day, free flow of dry food and water changes twice daily.

The Luxe Meownor is located at 259 Jalan Besar, Level 2, Singapore 208934

## 6 CAT ESSENTIALS FOR FIRST-TIME PAWRENTS

- ✓ Quality food, both wet and dry in different ingredients and at least 2 different brands.
- ✓ Unscented and natural color litter so that you can easily monitor your cat’s health from their elimination.
- ✓ Food and water bowls that are not made of plastic and with a heavy bottom and wide opening.
- ✓ Different types of scratch boards/houses.
- ✓ Cat Tree/Tower or Shelvings
- ✓ Loads of love



Drawing Room specially designed for staff and volunteers to relax.

Give your new cat their pawsonal space, let them come to you. Don't rush them to know you.



Lighting in the cat hotel is dimmed to induce a cosy and relaxing ambience for kitties and humans.



Ham and Cheese sometimes visit the hotel and prefer to lounge in The Chambermaids Hall.



**PETS | YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND IS IN INTERIOR DESIGN AND LUXURY FURNITURE. HOW HAS YOUR BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SETTING UP OF LUXE MEOWNOR?**

**BRENDA WANG BW** | My job's exposure in 6-stars hotel furnishings and high-end luxury stores certainly helped at create functional usage of space and the finer details, especially for the cat furniture that I've custom made. I've been observing cats and their behaviour for years, the furniture here are basically cat centric.

**P | YOU UNDERWENT TRAINING AS A CAT BEHAVIORIST? WHAT'S THE EXPERIENCE LIKE?**

**BW** | I wouldn't think I'm considered a Cat Behaviorist. I merely took up a course offered by a UK-based learning centre to see if I could learn more basics about a cat. After all, I've always advised other cat owners, that no one can teach you about your cat. You're the best teacher for yourself about your cat. My cat experience comes from my handling of them. It's also something I don't know how to impart to other cat owners. Instead, I'll remind cat owners to build their own confidence in handling their cats. Once one has confidence, everything else will come naturally.

**P | HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE LUXE MEOWNOR?**

**BW** | We are not just a boarding place that just provides water, food and clearing of your cat's litter. We are a cat caring hotel. Every cat guest that comes through our door, becomes our cat during their stay.

**P | WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH THE LUXE MEOWNOR?**

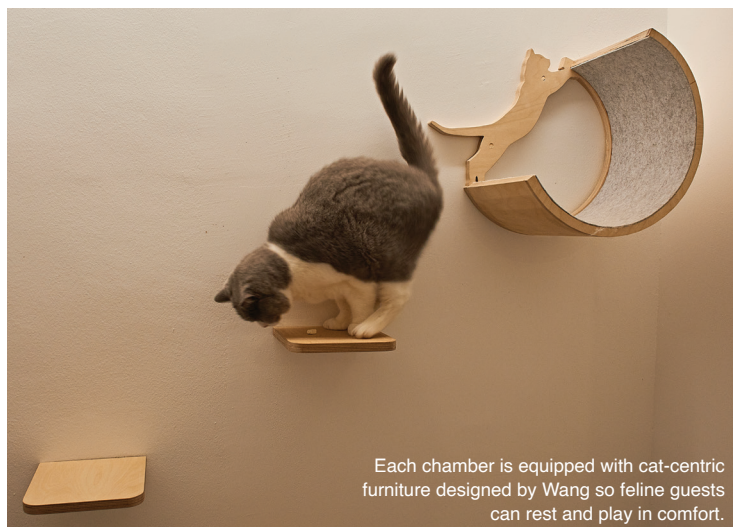
**BW** | I aim to provide a space where cat lovers could gather to support one another and in return, more needy cats can get help from.

**P | HOW IS THE LUXE MEOWNOR DIFFERENT FROM THE NEXT CAT BOARDING FACILITY?**

**BW** | We only have rooms for boarding, not tiny glass cabinets and we only board cats. We also provide basic daily cat care. If cat owners have concerns about their cats, we can also provide them guidance and support if it's within our knowledge.

**P | ANY TIPS FOR A NEW CAT PARENT?**

- BW** |
1. Enjoy the journey of learning your cat. Do remind yourself that no one is born a cat parent.
  2. The more you spend time with your cat, the more you'll know your cat well.
  3. Be patient, and give time towards your new family meowber, very soon you'll see your cat blossoming.
  4. Give your new cat their pawsonal space, let them come to you. Don't rush them to know you.
  5. Confine your new cat in a room when he/she first arrives. Slowly introduce other parts of the house to the cat. Provide a semi-private space for your new cat where he/she feels safe and yet still has eye view of you. Close up all the hiding spaces and crevices where you can't see your cat.
  6. Never to compare your cat with other cats. No two cats are the same.



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Interactive toys and cat trees help cats redirect their aggression. Pexels | Arina Krasnikova

# AGGRESSION IN CATS

**L**ike humans, cats do have their limits. There are many different reasons for aggressive behaviour and sometimes it can be a combination of causes.

Cats that are nervous, aggressive or act in what we consider is an inappropriate way such as spraying indoors behave that way for a reason. These 'misbehaviours' are usually signs that something – from the cat's perspective, at least – is very wrong. Punishing your cat will only make matters worse. It often helps to consider the cat's normal behaviour, needs and motivations.

Cat Whisperer and author of The Cat Behaviour Science book, Mieshelle Nagelschneider weighs in on tips to manage aggression in cats.

A CAT WHISPERER, WEIGHS IN ON REASONS WHY A CAT MISBEHAVES

## Cats May Be More Inclined To Show Aggressive Behaviour If They Are ...

kept indoors without stimulation, access to essential resources or an outlet for their hunting instinct

young

misunderstood by their owner

not neutered





## How To Stop Biting And Scratching

Aggressive biting often happens during a petting session, when the human companion either doesn't understand or ignores the cat's body language. Sometimes a cat becomes overstimulated for one reason or another and wants to opt out of the petting session, but don't know how to tell you when to stop.

With patience and time, you can teach your cat that you prefer not to be the target of its attacks, even if the cat views it as playtime.

tips to minimize play attacks by your cat

1



### TRIM ITS CLAWS

Claw trimming should be done regularly anyway to keep cats' claws from becoming ingrown. Keeping those claws trimmed can make the rogue attack less painful for the recipient.

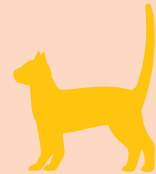
2



### REDIRECT ITS ATTENTION

Playful biting of hands or feet often occurs simply because your cat is bored and is looking for a play object. Give it 15 minutes of active play with an interactive toy. You can also direct them to a scratching post or another outlet for their behavior. This accomplishes the need to not just correct them but also give them an outlet for their behavior that is appropriate.

3



### SAY, "NO!" OR ANY OTHER SINGLE WORD PHRASE TO USE WHEN CORRECTING YOUR PET

Use this one word as your "corrective" word and be consistent in its use. Don't scream it, but say it loudly and clearly. While you have your cat's attention, slowly remove your hand from its clutches. Don't yank it away or the cat will think the play is on and grab it again.

4



### KNOW YOUR CAT

It's up to you to be aware of changes in your cat's behavior or physical condition. Try to routinely examine your cat so it's accustomed to your touching every area of its body, from head to toe. Then keep your eyes open for the warning signs of impending aggression.

5



### GRAB THE CAT BY THE SCRUFF

In severe circumstances, where you are afraid your cat may continue to hurt you, grasp the cat by the scruff of its neck and pick the cat up and move it to another area of the house or room. This serves to break the behavior and remove them from the situation causing you pain.

## Types Of Cat Aggression Explained

Biting can happen when your cat simply doesn't like to be held.



### PLAY AGGRESSION

What looks cute and playful to us, is, in fact, several predatory motor pattern sequences that kittens practice to become good hunters. Without

littermates to sharpen these skills with, they will turn to another cat in the household, human, or even the family dog for the budding hunter. At 16 weeks of age, there is a noticeable increase in their play aggression activity and many kitten owners begin to wonder what they've gotten themselves into.



### REDIRECTED CAT AGGRESSION

This is a typical kind of aggression that is a result of something triggering your cat's fear and your cat unable to direct the

aggression at the stimulus that caused the fear. Your cat can then misdirect the aggression on anything nearby the dining room chair, another cat or person. The attack comes suddenly out of nowhere and sometimes several hours after the cat's fear was initially triggered. About half of all feline aggression towards humans is redirected aggression. The cat's fear is what needs to be addressed to prevent what might possibly happen next, the redirected aggression.



### INTER-CAT AGGRESSION

Being more territorial than dogs, cats not getting along is one of the most common complaints amongst cat owners.

If you are introducing cats for the first time, follow a behavior plan that gradually introduces them to avoid a confrontation that can cause aggression. For cats that once got along and no longer are, they may need to be gradually re-introduced.



### PETTING-INDUCED CAT AGGRESSION

Cats generally prefer to have short but frequent interactions, which is normal in feline social etiquette. Many have a

limit when it comes to petting. Cats can become overstimulated or fearful if you pet them for too long or on an area of the body they don't enjoy. The cat will lash out clawing or biting as part of a natural fear-based aggression response.



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# ANXIETY BUSTERS FOR ANXIOUS FELINES

## EASY WAYS TO CALM A STRESSED CAT

**J**ust like people, cats can get stressed out from time to time. Boredom, overstimulation from too much noise to excessive touching, and changes in their environment can easily set them off. Some cats are naturally stressed and anxious as part of their demeanor, while others save their freak-outs for car trips and vet visits.

Here are ways to calm a cat to offer them a little stress relief at home.



# 1 Pheromone



Pexels | Cottonbro

Cats rub their cheeks on objects around your home or maybe even on you as an affectionate behaviour and a way for them to mark their territory by releasing pheromones from the scent glands in their cheek. This scent creates a familiar environment for your cat where they feel safe and secure.

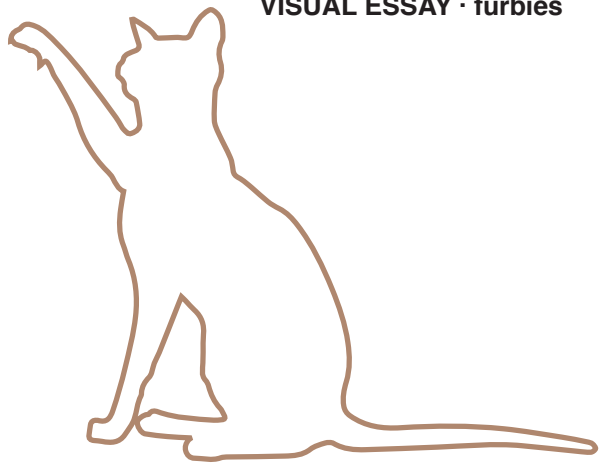
A synthetic copy of this natural pheromone, available at pet stores, is highly effective in calming anxious cats and reducing urine spraying and scratching.

2  
Adjust To Suit  
Their Needs



Pexels | Pixabay



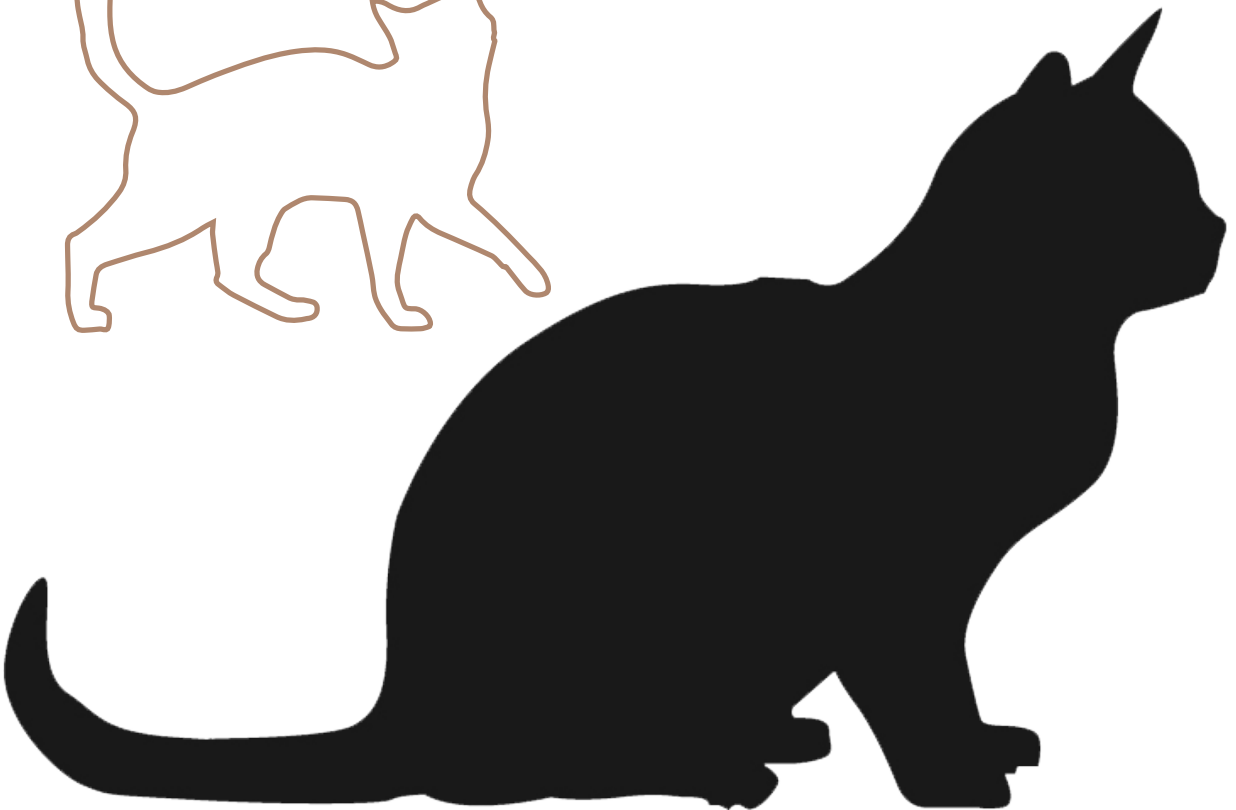
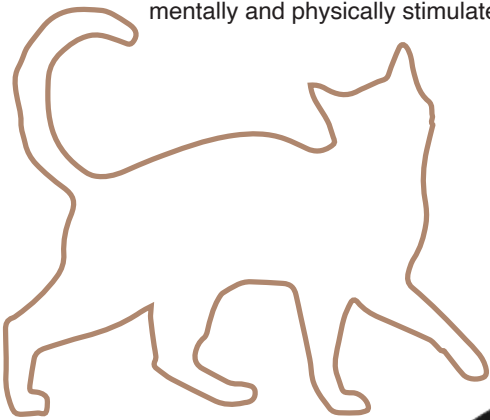


To help your cat stay calm, adjust your home environment to meet their needs. In their natural environment, cats need to hunt and eat 10 times or more per day. Keeping brief and frequent interactions during playtime, followed by a small meal multiple times a day will help reduce aggressive behaviour.

It's also important to keep your cat mentally and physically stimulated.

Try filling up a toy with treats and letting your cat manipulate the toy to dispense food, or hiding small amounts of food around the house so your cat has to forage for it.

These treat-dispensing puzzles are especially useful for indoor cats as it enriches their environment, keep them busy and happily engaged.





# 3

Privacy

Cats are solitary animals that prefer brief, but frequent interaction with members of their social group. Eating, sleeping and toileting are private actions, and cats can easily become stressed when they have to do so with others around. Keep their litter tray, and bedding in private, low traffic areas.

Pexels | Arina Krasnikova





## 4 Cat Towers And Playground

Running away or escaping to somewhere high is how cats cope with challenging situations. Cats love vertical space where they can overlook their environment and if they can't, it's likely to cause them some stress. Provide your cat with a scratcher with hidey holes and platforms to keep them reassured.



Pexels | Arina Krasnikova



# SUPERFOODS FOR DOGS

GIVE YOUR POOCH A HEALTHY START WITH THESE  
NUTRIENT-PACKED SUPERFOODS FOR DOGS

**S**uperfoods are something that is nutrient-dense and has a range of great health benefits. Adding in some superfoods to their daily diet can be a great way to ensure they are getting a well-rounded diet.

Do introduce them slowly. Overhauling your dog's diet isn't something that should happen

overnight, and they need a few weeks to adjust. Remember to introduce each superfood one by one to monitor for any allergies or adverse reactions.

Here are the top six superfoods you should feed your dog below to improve their diet.

Pexels | Nikolaeva Nastia

# 1

**APPLES**  
Best for Teeth

Apples are not only a delicious sweet treat for your pups, but they're great for their teeth too. Allowing dogs to chomp on this fruit will protect their dental health and freshen their breath. Additionally, apples are packed full of vitamins that will protect your dog's immune system and ward off disease. Be sure to give them chopped up apples without the seeds to avoid choking hazards.



# 2

EGGS  
Best for Protein



If you want a quick way to get some protein in their diet, whipping up some eggs is an easy way to do so. Eggs are one of the best sources of protein, and dogs will lap them up! Eggs contain amino acids and essential fatty acids too that have a wealth of benefits to your dog's health both inside and out. Whip up some scrambled eggs for your pooch, especially during the winter and if they've not been well, as they're easy to digest and will warm them up too.

Pexels | Olga Burmistrova



# 3

## PUMPKIN Best for Digestion



Pexels | Nataliya Vaitkevich

Pumpkin can assist with your dog's digestive system and ensure their stomach is healthy. Just like other root vegetables, pumpkin can assist with immune health, eye health, and their skin and coat too. You can either add cooked pumpkin into their food or serve it as a side dish. When buying canned pumpkin, be sure to check the label to ensure it's 100% pumpkin with no added sugars or preservatives.



# 4

## FISH Best for Vitamins

Even though cats are the stereotypical fish lovers, it doesn't mean our doggos should miss out. In fact, oily fish such as salmon, anchovies, and sardines can be nutritional goldmines. These fish are packed with Omega-3 fatty acids, which can improve your dog's heart, brain and bone health, along with the condition of their coat and skin. Oily fish also contain tons of protein, along with a decent amount of calcium, zinc, vitamins B12, D, E, and K.



Pexels | Enzo Muñoz



# 5

## CARROT Best for Eyes



Carrot contains the immune and vision-boosting beta-carotene, along with fibre to aid in your dog's digestion. It's also a lot lower in calories than sweet potato, so carrot makes for a tasty, healthy snack. To prepare some carrot for your pup, simply cut it into bite-sized chunks and serve on its own or with other food. Many dogs will be happy with raw carrot, but it can also be boiled or pureed if they're not keen on the crunch.

Pexels | Sam Lion



## 6

CHIA SEEDS  
Best for Immunity

Pexels | Engin Akyurt

Chia seeds rose to prominence as a popular superfood for humans several years ago now and are also one of the best superfoods for dogs. These nutrient-dense seeds contain protein, antioxidants, fibre, calcium, iron, magnesium, Omega-3 fatty acids, and B vitamins. That's pretty impressive given their tiny size! Incorporated into your pooch's brekkie or dinner, chia seeds can boost immunity, improve joint health, and even regulate blood sugar.

# BIG FISH

DIET, CARE AND WHY A FISH BOWL IS AN UNSUITABLE HOUSING FOR PET GOLDFISH



PIXELS | Rheyann Glenn Dela Cruz

Fantails are the foundation breed for nearly all of the fancy goldfish and are routinely bred back into these lines to keep them genetically healthy.

**D**espite their popularity, goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) are not "maintenance-free" or "trial" pets. They require and deserve just as much care as any other pet. Goldfish are hardy species, but some effort is required to ensure their health and survival. They should not be kept in a fish bowl, but require an aquarium with proper water aeration and filtration.

The kind of goldfish you get can make a huge difference in the size of tank you will need in order to let it grow to its full potential.

There are many different varieties of goldfish. They are commonly divided into standard (long-body) and fancy (round

body) varieties. The common Comet Goldfish is the most common pet fish species. Although they are often sold in the pets stores very small, these fish can grow up to 14 to 16 inches long and may require up to 100 gallons at their full size. Other slim-bodied goldfish such as Commons and Shubunkins can grow to be around a foot long. This is why they are usually kept in ponds.

So if you're tight on space, a fancy goldfish is probably a better fit for you. Fancy goldfish are the kinds with two tails and a shorter body, and they don't get nearly as big so they don't require quite as much room. Oranda, Fantails and Black moors are some of the hardier fancies and are great beginner fish.





PIXELS | Rheyann Glenn Dela Cruz

Comet goldfish are another common standard goldfish type. The only difference between comets and common goldfish is in the tail.

## Water Conditions

No matter what variety of goldfish you keep, maintaining a proper aquatic environment is critical. A goldfish will need at least 20 gallons of water and expect your long-body goldfish to outgrow this within the first 5 to 10 years. Comet goldfish can easily live into their 20s and some have lived over 40 years, with the fancy varieties usually surviving into their mid-teens.

Most goldfish are very tolerant of beginner water quality mistakes. They are very hardy species and can tolerate moderate levels of ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate in circulating tanks. Once your aquarium nitrogen cycle has been established, it is recommended to keep your nitrate less than 20 mg/L, and the ammonia and nitrite at zero.

Goldfish are notorious for constantly eating and creating a lot of waste—hence the spatial needs. They can also tolerate a wide range of pH, provided your KH (Carbonate Hardness = alkalinity) is high enough to stabilize the pH levels.

## Diet and Nutrition

Goldfish love to eat and, depending on the temperature of their water, may seem almost insatiable. No matter what fish species you keep, since they are ectotherms, the warmer the water, the hungrier your fish will be. With water temperatures below 70F (21C), feed your goldfish at least once a day. Above this, you will need to feed your goldfish twice a day. Give the fish as much food as they will eat in 3-5 minutes.

Look for a goldfish diet around 30-35% protein and 5-7% fat. There are many commercial diets available within this range for goldfish. Weekly protein-rich treats, such as bloodworms or brine shrimp, are appropriate only in warmer water.

Fancy goldfish and their buoyancy disorders can be related to diet. Being voracious surface eaters, a goldfish may suck in too much air during feeding and become temporarily positively buoyant.



PIXELS | Nothing Ahead

The Lionhead is the most popular fancy goldfish. They often have a prominent hood that can cover their entire head and face.

## TOP 3 MYTHS DEBUNKED

There are many myths revolving around goldfish, including the complete unsuitability of that ubiquitous bowl and misconceptions about how big goldfish get. Here are the top three myths explained.

**1** **Goldfish can be kept in bowls**  
People have long kept goldfish in small bowl-like containers. A bowl is really an ill-suited home for them. It lacks proper filtration, aeration, water volume for the dilution of waste, space to grow, and a home for ammonia and nitrite-converting bacteria. Large aquariums are essential for their long-term care and survival, as goldfish can grow quite large, depending on the breed.

**2** **Goldfish only grow to the size of their enclosure**  
There is an element of truth to this, but it is related more to water quality than tank size. Unlike humans, goldfish grow until they die. What really stunts

a fish's growth is poor water quality and improper care. In bowls, water quality is typically very poor. Little or no filtration and infrequent water changes can reduce how big goldfish get. The stunting that results is a sign of ill health, and, frequently, stunted fish take on a deformed appearance and die at a young age.

**3** **Goldfish have a three-second memory**  
It has long been said that a goldfish can be kept in a bowl because their three-second memory never allows them to get bored. Goldfish are capable of remembering things for very long periods of time - at least three months. Goldfish also have a sense of time and will learn a routine and are also quite trainable. They can learn to swim through hoops, ring bells, and pull levers for food. In a lever experiment involving goldfish, they were even able to realize within an hour that if the lever stopped producing, it wasn't worth pulling anymore.



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# DO FISH PEE?

THE SCIENCE OF WASTE  
EXCRETION IN FISH

**D**o fish pee? Yes they do! Since they live in water, seeing a fish pee is not a common occurrence. Depending on if they live in freshwater or saltwater, your fish may pee a lot or just a little. Thankfully, their hardworking kidneys are ready to help them no matter where they live.

PIXELS | Gabriel

Fish produce some waste in their bodies due to their metabolic processes. Peeing is one way for them to get rid of waste, which is commonly known as excretion.

Freshwater fish and marine fish have some differences in their peeing behavior. Freshwater fish tend to pee more than saltwater fish.

## How Do Fish Pee?

Fish pee the same just as you and me. Fish kidneys, usually tucked above their swim bladder, are responsible for filtering out all the bad things in their blood and peeing them out into the water. Most fish use their gills for peeing, some pee through their urinary pores at their rear end. The fish whose kidneys are not very active or functional tend to urinate through gills.

In fish, some products are actually pushed out through a similar fashion in the gills. Fish kidneys are also the site for the manufacturing of blood cells, since they do not have bone marrow like humans, cats and dogs. Half of the kidney is focused on filtering blood and the other half makes blood cells.

Since they live in water, most fish will pee a little bit almost constantly. Most fish do not have urinary bladders that store pee until it's safe to let it leave the body. They just go whenever they feel like it!

## How Much Do Freshwater Fish Pee?

Freshwater fish pee a lot! Since freshwater fish are denser than their surroundings, water is constantly moving into their bodies through passive diffusion. If that water stays in your fish, they will puff up like a pinecone. This is a common clinical sign of kidney and/or gill disease known as "dropsy." Thankfully, healthy kidneys and gills work hard to remove the excess water, which results in a lot of pee.

## How Much Do Saltwater Fish Pee?

The exact opposite of freshwater, saltwater fish are in an environment denser than their bodies, so they are constantly trying to hold onto water. This causes them to pee very little and super filter their urine to try and keep water within their bodies. Marine fish are very particular about their salinities, so be sure to keep a close eye on your salt levels.





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# SMOOTH TALKER

## CARING FOR COCKATOOS

**L**ively and affectionate, cockatoos make delightful pets as they can mimic your words if you're around them long enough.

This beautiful bird has a loud, harsh, penetrating voice that may indicate joy or outrage. When alarmed or frightened, cockatoos often give off a peculiar hissing noise as a warning. These birds may scream often and are not recommended for a quiet household.

### Singapore's Cockatoos

Depending on the type of cockatoo, these birds are often white and are originally native to northern and eastern Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania.

Singapore has its share of Cockatoo species flying around our parks, gardens and estates. They are either introduced, released or escaped pet birds according to the Singapore Bird Group. Some common species spotted around our neighborhood include the Tanimbar Corrella, with its salmon coloured cheeks and the Yellow-crested cockatoo, recognised for its larger yellow crest and dark bill.

### Temperament

These large-bodied parrots are high maintenance both physically and emotionally, as they demand a lot



Cockatoos are often white and can be trained to talk.

of attention and a great deal of time outside their cages. Without adequate attention, cockatoos sometimes become excessively boisterous and are potentially destructive, chewing on furniture, walls, and other household items.

Cockatoos also naturally produce a lot of feather powder down from their feathers, so they are not recommended for people with airborne allergies. Misting them daily with water or bathing them once a week can help minimize powder down from shedding off feathers. To keep the dust level in check, do invest in an air filter.

Cockatoos need to chew; therefore, providing a continuous supply of non-toxic wood or cardboard bird-safe toys will afford it many hours of entertainment and likely save household items from being destroyed.



## Species overview

<b>PHYSICAL FEATURES</b>	Cockatoos are generally black, gray, or white. Many species have smaller splotches of yellow, pink, and red on their crest or tail.
<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	Cacatuidae, Cacatua (white), Calyptorhynchus (dark), Nymphicus (cockatiels)
<b>WEIGHT</b>	Average 300 to 900 grams, depending on the species.
<b>SIZE</b>	Average 12 to 27 inches (31 to 70 cm) in length.
<b>LIFE SPAN</b>	25 to 45 years (upwards of 70-80 years is possible).

### Diet

Commercially formulated, nutritionally balanced pellets should make up the base diet, supplemented with smaller amounts of vegetables and fruit and seed as an occasional treat. Pellets can make up 75 percent of the menu, while fresh vegetables, fruits, and grains should make up the rest (25%). Seeds and seed mixes should only be used as a limited treat item

since they are high in fat. Nuts are another healthy special treat on occasion.

### Common Health Issues

When not given enough attention, cockatoos are prone to plucking their feathers and sometimes even mutilating the skin. Other conditions found in cockatoos include psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD), fatty liver disease and obesity if fed a diet too high in fat.

	PROS	CONS
<b>OWNING A COCKATOO</b>	Friendly and affectionate	Screams when bored or excited
	Can be trained to talk	Requires a lot of attention for bonding and exercise
		Chews and swallows everything that fits in its mouth



PEXELS | Caio

Birds use their strong beaks for a variety of reasons from chewing to climbing cages.

## Why Birds “Beak” You

A bird biting you doesn't always mean that they are trying to hurt us. Beaking feels more like the bird is using you as a stabilizing anchor point as it moves and collects new information about its surroundings.

### EXPLORING

Birds routinely use their beaks to test the strength of perches to generally explore all climbing structures, including its owner's hand before they step up. New bird owners often confuse this exploratory beak usage with being bitten.

### COLLECT INFORMATION

Also, a bird's tongue contains myriad nerve endings, and it is used to sense taste and texture. If you are wearing new clothing or are holding new apparatus in hand, that beak may be aiding the tongue in evaluating those items that are new to the bird's world.

# YOU'RE BEAKED!

UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN BITING AND BEAKING

**A** bird's beak is a powerful tool, and while not all pet birds bite, there is a significant difference between a playful nibble and an aggressive chomp.

As oral creatures, birds use their beaks to chew food, climb cages, and crack open hard objects. When a bird uses its mouth on your hands, you may have just been “beaked” rather than bitten. It's important to discriminate between a playful nibble and a bite so you can understand why they're doing it and learn how to handle it.

## A True Bite

Birds will use a true bite only if they are frightened, startled, or if they feel vulnerable. When birds bite, it's more of an act of self-defense rather than being aggressive.

The true bite is often lightning-quick and quite hard. If your bird bites, they will likely leave you with a cut or dent in your skin, which is another way to distinguish biting from beaking.

## How to Correct Biting

To correct bird biting, your body language signals to them that biting is bad behavior. Start by frowning, and then speak quietly with low tones and tell them that they did something wrong. Be sure to put them right back into their cage like a “time out” where you don't make any eye contact.

For a time out to be effective, continue interacting with your pet again positively within 10 to 15 minutes allowing them to show you that they have learned to temper themselves better.



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# CHOMP TIME!

## DIET AND NUTRITION FOR PET GERBILS

PIXELS Gerbil | When feeding gerbils, be sure to remove stale food as gerbils hoard food in large stores.

**A** social animal and adorable, these small rodents make popular pocket pets. As omnivores, gerbils feed on insects, fruits, seeds, nuts and require a high-quality and balanced diet so they can live long and healthy lives. When in doubt, a specially formulated and gerbil-specific food mix works best.

This balanced diet should be fed consistently and without major changes which will likely land them upset stomachs. Fortunately, you can feed a gerbil the same thing throughout its life.

### The Best Food

A specially formulated gerbil mix works best because these mixes don't just contain seeds, but seeds, beans, grains, dried vegetables, and general fiber. This is more similar to their natural diet, which contains all these things (substituting dried vegetables for fresh). Healthy gerbil foods also include fruit and vegetables, but only as a treat which is useful in taming and training pet gerbils.

Food	Seed Mixes	Pellet and Lab Blocks
What	Seed mixes are loose and contain lots of different seeds, as well as sometimes having dried fruits and vegetables added.	Pellets are the small pellets and lab blocks are the larger chunks of food that resemble small biscuits.
Benefits	Nutritionally balanced and allows gerbils to forage for food	All the nutrition is enclosed within the block or the pellet



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## Food that Make Perfect Treats

Fruit and vegetables make the perfect treat for gerbils. As treats, these foods should only be fed occasionally because they are largely sugar (i.e., carbohydrate) and water. While they do contain some nutrients, they don't contain enough to be the basis of your gerbil's diet. The following are other treats to consider for your pet gerbil.

**1 NUTS**  
Do offer them sparingly since they are high in fat.

**2 SUNFLOWER SEEDS AND PUMPKIN SEEDS**  
Can be offered sparingly since they are high in fat.

**3 WHOLE GRAIN BREAD**  
Can be offered either plain or toasted.

**4 CEREAL**  
Feed only unsweetened breakfast cereal and often becomes a favorite treat for gerbils.

**5 RAISINS AND CURRANTS**  
When dried, the tougher texture makes it fun and chewy.

**6 MEALWORMS**  
Look for freeze dried worms, since the live ones can carry E.coli.

## Fresh Water

Gerbils need constant access to clean fresh water provided from an upright bottle with a metal sipping tube. To keep the water clean, change it daily and regularly clean the drinking tube.

## Feeding Routine

Like any other pet, your gerbil should have a feeding routine. Always refer to serving instructions and proper portion sizes on store-bought food for gerbils. Do expect to feed your gerbil about once a day. However, they'll let you know when they're hungry by digging into their substrate to search for food.

As gerbils are natural foragers and enjoy hunting for their food, you can sprinkle the food onto the floor of their cage and let them hunt for it. They'll be more engaged and will be more likely to eat a larger variety of food, letting them get all the nutrients they need to stay healthy.

## Foods to Avoid

Like many animals, gerbils cannot process certain types of food. Avoid feeding these foods to your gerbil, as they are dangerous or toxic:

✗ Rhubarb

✗ Chocolate

✗ Beans

✗ Citrus fruits

✗ Onions



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# WET TAIL

SPOTTING EARLY SYMPTOMS, CAUSES AND PREVENTION CAN SAVE A HAMSTER

**W**et tail disease in hamsters is a serious condition that unfortunately, even when caught early and treated, most hamsters will die within 24 to 48 hours.

The most common illness in hamsters, wet tail is contagious and fatal. Even

if your hamster isn't currently showing symptoms of wet tail, do learn the symptoms and find out how you can reduce the chances of your hamster being affected.

If your hamster is showing symptoms, you should urgently consult a vet.

## What is Wet Tail in Hamsters?

“Wet Tail”, named from the obvious sign of wetness around the rear end and tail of the hamster.

Wet tail affects hamsters kept in cages and is caused by bacteria from faeces or diarrhea. Minimising your hamster's stress levels can also prevent wet tail. Stress can be caused by:

- Picking your hamster up too often or handling them in a rough manner
- Changing your hamster's living environment
- Keeping your hamster in a dirty cage
- Making sudden changes to your hamster's diet
- Keeping your hamster away from its family members
- The death of a mate

## Symptoms of Wet Tail in Hamsters

Wet tail is extremely contagious. If you have more than one hamster and one comes down with wet tail, separate them immediately and be sure you wash your hands after handling the sick one and before handling the healthy one.

## 8 Signs that a Hamster has Wet Tail

-  A tail covered in faeces
-  A bad smell
-  Diarrhea
-  A lack of appetite
-  A lack of energy and enthusiasm
-  Walking with a hunched back
-  Sleeping a lot
-  Folded ears





## Treating Wet Tail

For the best chance of recovery, it is important to identify wet tail and begin treatment within 24 hours of symptoms appearing.

As soon as you see symptoms of wet tail in your hamster, do:

- Quarantine the hamster away from other hamsters so that the disease cannot spread.
- Seek the advice of a vet
- Clean its cage and all objects inside. Wet tail is very contagious!
- Make sure to wash your hands thoroughly and regularly to avoid passing the disease from one cage to another.
- Only feed dry foods. Avoid foods that contain a lot of water as they could make the diarrhea worse.

## Can I Prevent Wet Tail?

Unfortunately, wet tail is one of those diseases that can occur regardless of how well a pet hamster is cared for. However, there are steps to reduce the likelihood of a wet tail occurrence:

- 🐹 Keep hamsters apart, including new arrivals, until a vet has given them a thorough health check
- 🐹 Disinfect your hamster's cage weekly and spot clean daily
- 🐹 Make sure new hamsters are kept calm and stress-free when they arrive home
- 🐹 Limit handling with new hamsters
- 🐹 When you are purchasing a hamster examine the cleanliness of their cage and whether any of the hamsters have wet tail



# FURRY BALLS OF CHARACTER

## 6 FUN FACTS ABOUT GUINEA PIGS

**G**uinea pigs are small, sociable and 'chatty' rodents and make great first pets for children. There are a few things you should know before making that big commitment. Here are fun facts on these furry balls of joy before choosing one as a pet.

**1 Social Animal**  
As social creatures, guinea pigs thrive more with other guinea pigs around. They enjoy playing and interacting with each other. If you have a single guinea pig, it's more important that you spend time with her. Socializing and playtime are important parts of a guinea pig's life, and if neglected, it could lead to stress or depression.

**2 More Room to Move**  
Unlike hamsters, guinea pigs need a lot of floor space, especially for a pair. Since guinea pigs are a good size and not escape artists, a homemade cage is a great option.

**3 Sound Expressions**  
Though pet guinea pigs seem like quiet creatures, they use noises quite often to express themselves. Guinea pigs make a distinctive whistling type sound, often in anticipation of getting a favorite treat or when in need of some attention.

**4 Easy to Tame**  
While guinea pigs may be nervous or skittish at first, with consistent gentle handling, they usually become tame very easily. Fortunately, they are unlikely to bite even when stressed.

**5 Vitamin C**  
Guinea pigs cannot manufacture their own vitamin C, so they need to get it from their diet. Choosing a good quality diet and providing a variety of fresh foods and roughage is important. Alternatively, most owners choose to also give their animals a vitamin C supplement by adding it to their water.

**6 Purr-fectly Happy**  
If your guinea pig is purring like a cat, it means she is happy! Good job, pet parent!



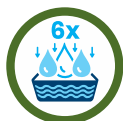


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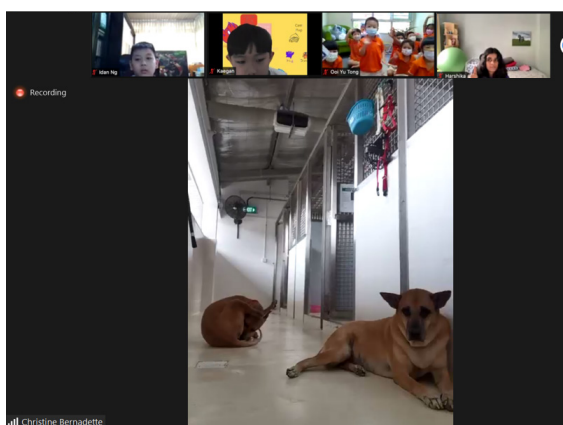
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**FROM TOP** | Sheri a student at SOTA, Liu Peng, co-host and an exco member of SCTU with Karen Koh the Events and PR Manager at Pet Lovers Centre. | Fey (right), pictured with her adopted dog, Cocoa. | A view of the resident dogs at CAS.

## Getting Acquainted with Mandarin and Dogs

We all know that learning is easier when it is enjoyable. During the March school holidays, learning Mandarin was made more fun and less daunting when the topic of the day was all about dogs.

In an event organised by NTUC Club's SG Furkids, Pet Lovers Centre and Pet Lovers Junior Club, the highlight was a virtual tour at a dog shelter, Causes for Animals Singapore (CAS). Over 62 participants comprising of children and adults got up close with the canine residents via zoom at the comfort of their homes.

An exco member from the Singapore Chinese Teachers' Union (SCTU), was present as co-host to ensure that everyone had fun while sharing in Mandarin interesting facts about dogs, animal welfare, rescue work, responsible pet ownership, adoption and volunteering.

Inspiring sharing sessions include journeys on pet adoption and volunteering which made the event a lively affair. Fey, who adopted her dog Cocoa, at CAS shared her rewarding journey when she successfully transformed Cocoa from a timid puppy to an affectionate and intelligent dog she is today.

Avid volunteer and student at School of the Arts (SOTA), Sheri shared her love for caring for animals in need. In her recent project, she rallied a few students to raise funds and help out at the animal shelter.

A pop quiz about dogs allows the participants to discover fun facts on man's best friend from how powerful his nose is to understanding when he's upset or happy when he wags his tail.

The event is supported by partners – Causes for Animals Singapore (CAS), Singapore Chinese Teachers' Union, eXplorerKid and a CAS volunteer and dog parent, Fey. A portion of the ticket sales was donated to CAS.



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“Of all God's creatures, there is only one that cannot be made slave of the leash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve the man, but it would deteriorate the cat.”

MARK TWAIN

Pexels | Sunset Stoned

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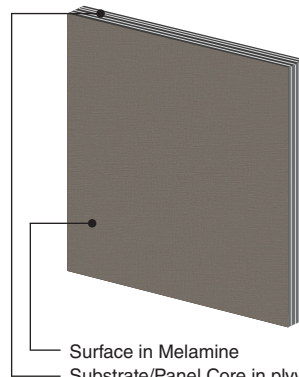
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