

Mott and the Monster at the Bottom of the Garden



Tony Mott is a rock photographer who currently lives in Redfern with his three cats, Pooh, Tiger and Monster. He never thought of himself as a cat person as he grew up with a mix of dogs in Sheffield, England.

Piccadilly was his first cat in Sydney, which Mott describes as what he was left with from a very short marriage. "Later I acquired Monster. My girlfriend at the time gave him to me for my birthday after rescuing him off Oxford Street in a very bad condition. Best birthday present I've ever got. Pooh and Tiger are brothers and I rescued them from the local vet to keep Monster company.

I travel a great deal with work and have a team of carers who live in the house to take care of the cats. Kristina, a friend will come and stay and she loves the cats. It's also good having Foxtel because I have a never ending array of friends happy to live in my house while I'm away. Funny, I don't think they're all tuned to 'Animal Planet'.

The best thing about having cats is hard to say really. They all have their own character and I know I'd miss them if they were not around. Pooh is an outside cat only coming inside at night, Tiger is a scaredy-cat who is very shy. Monster is totally unaware that he is a cat, he's really social-the bigger and louder the crowd, the better. I'm certain he thinks of himself as Human.

"I think the old saying 'dogs have owners but cats have servants' is right on the button."

One morning I wake up and come downstairs to find my leather jacket, with my wallet and keys inside, has gone missing. I'm scheduled for a photo shoot with Spiderbait but because all my keys are missing I'm dead-locked inside the house. I've been robbed and I can't get out so I've panicked. I'm pretty certain that whoever robbed me has the keys to my car and that's gone as well. Anyway I call a friend who has a spare set of keys to my house. When he comes around to liberate me I'm relieved to see that they haven't taken the car. But I've got no keys to drive to the shoot. I'm stuffed!

I ring the band's publicist, Viv Fantin, and cancel the shoot. I make a cup of coffee and settle in the garden trying to calm myself down. I do all those things like make a list that includes changing the locks, get new keys to the car and cancelling credit cards. While I'm doing this I notice the leather jacket at the bottom of the garden and I'm thinking the robber has dropped it on the way out.

Then I see all these bank notes scattered around the garden, all rustling in the breeze. On closer inspection I notice cat claw marks all over the jacket. It's then I figure it out-there was no robber. You see Monster has this weird thing about bank notes, loves to play with them. He'd clawed the jacket trying to get to the bank notes out. He dragged the jacket outside and once he had the bank notes had played with them, probably for hours. Bloody cat!

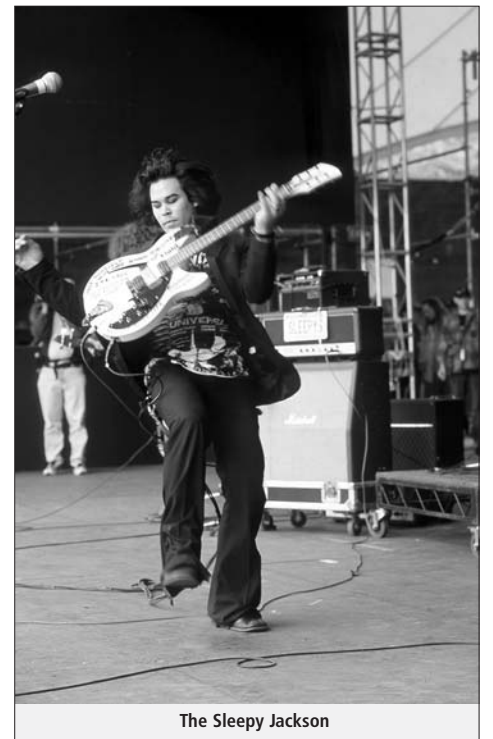
So finally I'm able to make the photo shoot but once told about my morning and Monster's hi-jinks, Viv and the members of Spiderbait couldn't stop laughing."

Tony Mott has photographed and toured with many music artists over the years-from U2, Madonna, Silverchair, Paul McCartney, INXS, Sonic Youth, The Rolling Stones, Fleetwood Mac and Kasey Chambers.

He moved to Australia 23 years ago after travelling around the world visiting over 80 countries. It was through travelling that he discovered his love for photography. He settled in Sydney in 1981 and combined his other passion-music-with his photographic skills. He's regarded as one of the most talented, likable and prolific rock photographers within Australia.



Magic Dirt



The Sleepy Jackson

See! Hear!!

Continued from page 18.

Dogsitter-The Video Made For Dogs
http://www.petsittervideos.com/html/dog_sitter.html

Though produced in the US and sold through the site above, I've seen this in a couple of pet shops locally along with its counterpart CATSITTER so there is local supply for our region's DVD compatibility.

Its first claim is that it has eight layers of sounds since dogs can hear ten times better than humans and that it includes subliminal messages that say "Good Dog!, Good Dog!". It's filled with creatures and sounds that delight and excite dogs. Bonus features include the world famous Cowboy Monkeys riding dogs (now that may be scary!).

Shot from a 'Doggie Cam View' there are segments that feature a bird, duck, chipmunk, squirrel, hamster and racoon-all the things your mutt can't manage to chase in the house. It's also programmable as a continuous loop for constant replay.



Catsitter-Now Your Cat Will Never Have to be Home Alone
http://www.petsittervideos.com/html/cat_sitter.html

It's from the same producers of the DOGSITTER video (who also have a BIRDSITTER version). They claim over 400,000 copies have been sold in VHS and DVD formats and with the media coverage they've had in the US, it's no wonder. It naturally features the animals that cats see as prey-birds at feeders, a butterfly, fish, gerbil, chipmunk and of course a large blue macaw parrot.

There's a cat music video, the inevitable behind the scenes 'Making Of' segment and the continuous loop option. Neither this one nor the dog equivalent have language options though. It can be ordered over the Net from the US but check your local upmarket pet store for local availability.



"Every Picture Tells A Story" is Tony's most recent book - published by ABC through fine bookstores - rrp\$39.95

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