



Tid Bits

Press Paws on the Pulse
Edited by Jess Goldstein

Global Eye on the little guy

For anyone who has to deal with a pet escape artist—this new device will come as welcome relief. The world's first patented pet GPS tracking device has been released in the US. GlobalPetFinder can automatically locate your pet, sends you a text message or email detailing their exact position, followed by ongoing updates of their movements.

Weighing in at just over 140 grams this new device simply clips onto your pet's existing collar. It creates a virtual fence and alerts you if your pet strays outside the programmed boundaries. It can also monitor the environment and lets you know if the temperature becomes dangerously hot or cold—for example if your pet has been left in a car that is getting too hot.

But don't get too excited just yet. While the GlobalPetFinder has been released and is currently working in the United States and Canada, Australia probably won't be privileged to this peace of mind until later in the year. According to Susan Fortel, Office Manager for GlobalPetFinder, tests are currently taking place to ensure the device will be properly certified to work on international wireless networks. Australia is on their roadmap for this year—for updates keep an eye on their website www.globalpetfinder.com.

Wanted: Volunteers – human and hound – for Pet Partners Program

The Delta Purina Pet Partners Program is constantly on the lookout for suitable owners and their dogs to join their volunteer dog therapy service. More than four hundred Pet Partners (trained volunteers and their dogs) already visit sick children, frail aged or disabled residents in supported care—children's and adult hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centres and other facilities every week.

If you have a dog with a good temperament and think you may be able to help this program meet its increasing demand within the community, then contact Delta Society Australia for more information www.deltasocietyaustralia.com.au or phone: 02 9231 3218

Get a life. Get a dog

We all know that socialising your dog is a vital part of their upbringing. It not only helps develop good social skills and public behaviour, but also provides a great stimulation for them on their daily walk.

New research recently published in international journal *Social Science & Medicine* now proves that this socialisation not only helps dogs but also the dog owners.

Based on phone interviews with 339 adults—of which 60% owned a pet—the study suggests that having a pet, particularly a dog, increases the owners' levels of social interaction within the community. More than 80% of the dog owners said they talked to other people when dog walking. The study also found that significantly more pet owners gave and received favours from neighbours—from borrowing a cup of sugar to minding of pets and even children.

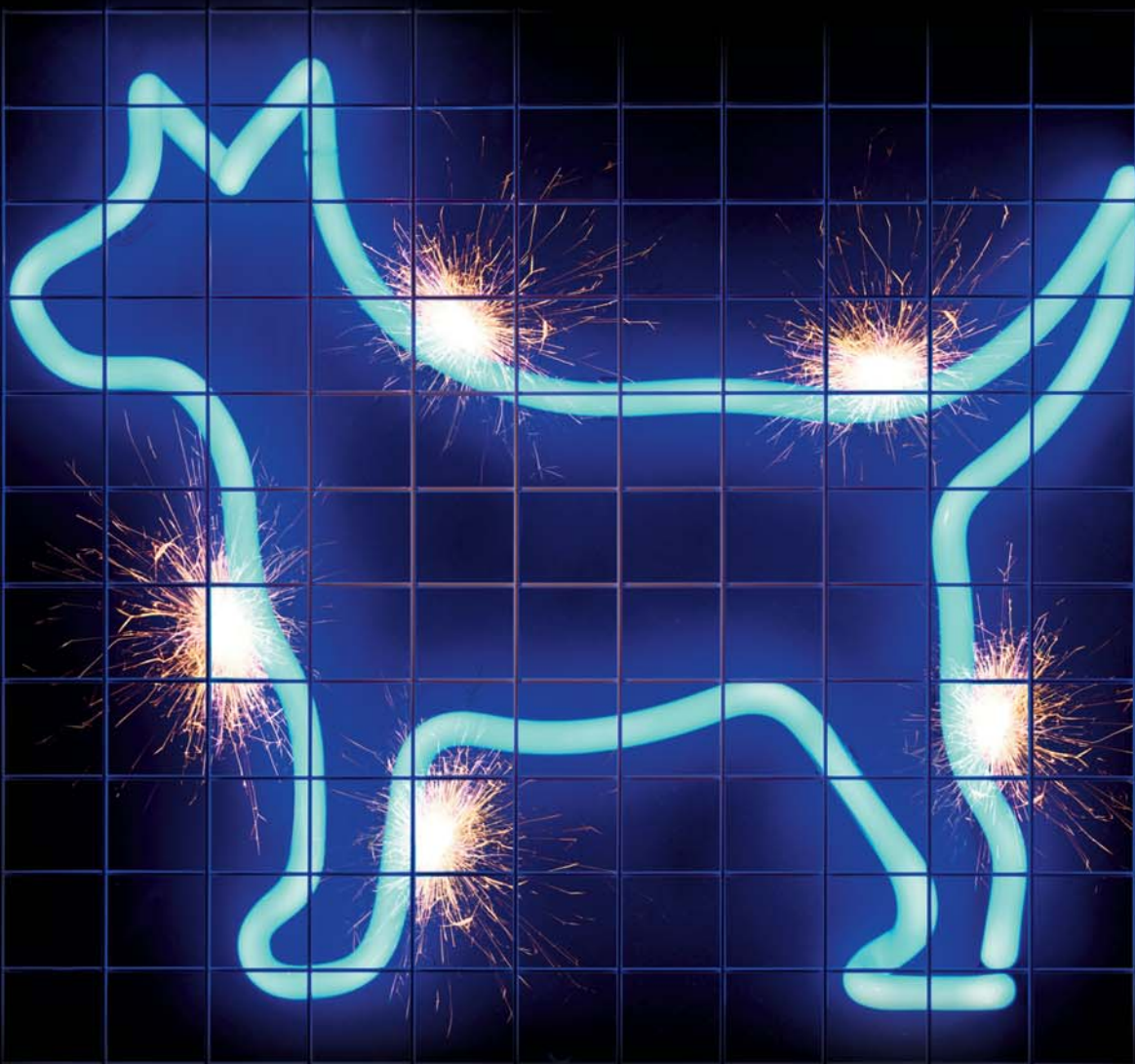
Place to poo-ch

The Readers' Digest recently carried out a survey in 17 European countries to find out what the Europeans top pet hates were. Coming in at number two – with an average of 82 per cent of the vote—was doggy-doo mess in parks. It seems Europeans should have a closer look at Beijing's new excrement remedies...

A company in Beijing has just released a new public pet toilet to help curb the environmental problem of pet waste in public places. Luring dogs with a special scent these toilets are water efficient and automatically package the waste in degradable plastic once your pet has finished its business. Apparently there's no odour leakage, they don't pollute the environment and they are easy to handle and utilise.

Aussie Flyball flying high

The Books 'N' Balls comp in Canberra earlier this year proved to be a monumental moment for the fast paced doggie sport of Flyball. The Norwest Thunderdogs broke the Australian Record and in doing so achieved a Guinness World Record, running a time of 18.16 seconds to complete the doggie relay race. This is the first time that Flyball has ever been entered into the Guinness World Records. Go Thunderdogs!



NEW ADVANTIX FOR DOGS. ZAPS TICKS AND FLEAS.

Protecting your dog from killers like paralysis ticks and parasites like fleas isn't easy. For years there have been no major advances in treatment. Leaving you with little choice.

New Advantix changes all that. Applied to your dog's skin, its unique formulation repels and kills ticks, and kills fleas. It also repels and kills mosquitoes and sand flies.

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Every dog has its day (care)

In Sydney there are now a few options to combat boredom for home-alone dogs. They're designed to provide a stimulating and social environment for your dog and will give them a fun-filled day out from their regular routine. All require the dogs to be vaccinated (up to C5), de-sexed and in good health. They also require your dog to have an initial assessment before they're accepted into the centre. So, here's a rundown of what you might expect for your cash:



For Dogs Sake

KENNEL CABLE – The Animal Lovers TV Guide

ANIMAL PLANET

'Super Mums'

Set along California's spectacular Pacific coast, this film explores different forms of motherhood amongst wild species. Some mums are patient and loving, some are radical home-wreckers, while others leave their babies the moment they're physically free.

The Californian mouse uses her urine to brainwash her partner into doing all the chores for her. The female elephant seal is a little more giving, losing 40% of her body weight to feed her pups the richest milk she is capable of producing. This is by no means the ultimate sacrifice—the Amaurobius spider gives up everything to feed her babies, their first meal being herself.

Saturday August 13 at 6.30pm (AEST)

'Be an Animal'

Using computer-enhanced wildlife footage, *Be an Animal* allows you to enter into the competition between predator and prey in this simulated game of survival. It's something wild animals must play each day—now it's your turn.

Enter into the world of the zebra. What is your strategy to escape a lion that has crept up to you at the water hole? Do you run onto hard ground, head for the swamp or kick sharply and hope for the best?

Set in the African plains, each game requires split-second decisions with no second chance. Morphing from live footage to computer simulations, the action is fast forwarded, rewind and rotated in 3D to create a unique interactive experience.

Saturday August 27 at 6.30pm (AEST)

'Steve Leonard's Extreme Animals'

Trail presenter Steve Leonard as he braves the elements, and the animals, to uncover the most incredible examples of endurance in the natural world. Steve soars to vertigo-inducing heights, down to bone-crushing depths and into blood-freezing polar regions to find out which animals can actually survive in these alien environments.

Packed with action and intimate wildlife encounters, this is the ultimate armchair experience of life on the edge. Voyage to the most inhospitable places on earth.

Mondays at 6.30pm (AEST) from August 1

CLUB DOG

Location: Brookvale (near Waringah Mall)
Opening hours: 6:45am to 6:00pm Tue, Wed & Thu only

Cost: \$30 initial assessment fee (non-refundable) then \$35 per day if successful. They also offer a pick-up and drop-off service (starting at \$5) limited to certain areas and not offered north of Brookvale. Grooming services available on request.

What a day en-tails: Club Dog is located in a big warehouse that has been fitted out especially for dog play and rest. All dogs are kept together and are never left in cages. The maximum number of dogs allowed in the centre is 35, however generally you would only find 10-20 on any given day.

If your dog arrives by 9am they will receive a morning walk (you supply their leash and harness). After the walk they have game time: playing ball; tug of war and 'dog-sports'. Mid-day, each dog is given a mat for rest time.

Visit www.clubdog.com.au for more information

DOGS @ PLAY

Location: Foveaux Street, Surry Hills
Opening hours: 7:00am to 7:00pm Mon-Fri

Cost: \$25 initial assessment fee (non re-fundable) then \$44 per day for the permanent program (this is for one or more days per week on an on-going basis) or \$55 for a casual visit. They also offer Puppy School and grooming services.

What a day en-tails: Dogs @ Play is also located indoors and can cater for up to 30 small dogs (less if larger dogs attend). On any given day there will be between 6-12 dogs in the centre and they increase staff depending on the amount of bookings—if they have over 4 dogs they bring in a second carer, over 12, a third carer and so on.

The day starts with some free playtime for all dogs (a good way for the group to get acquainted) followed by a walk in the park for 40 minutes to an hour (depending on the weather). Mid-day, dogs can have a sleep and then in the afternoon the staff involve the dogs in games such as fetch, tunnel games and soccer. The day ends with a final walk in the park, a good brush and a clip of your dog's nails (if required) before you pick them up. Visit www.dogsplay.com.au for more information.

FOR DOGS SAKE!

Location: Cleveland Street, Chippendale
Opening hours: 7:30am to 6:30pm Mon-Fri & 9:00am to 4:30pm Sat

Cost: \$25 initial assessment fee (redeemable at your first visit) then \$39 per day or \$28 per half day. For Dogs Sake! offer session rates (for 2 hours), 10 day, 20 day and monthly passes and have grooming packages available on request. A pick up service is limited to inner-city suburbs. See website for full pricing and details.

What a day en-tails: For Dogs Sake! is Sydney's newest Doggie Day Care facility. Set over 400sqm of space overlooking Cleveland Street and Prince Alfred Park (through floor to ceiling windows), the centre is divided into three separate areas. The 'Active Dog Area' is a large open space predominantly for larger, more active dogs; the 'Small Dogs' Area' is for the little ones and puppies; and the 'Time Out Area' for older dogs and doggie rft.

A typical day at For Dogs Sake! includes three 20 minute walks throughout the day. Dogs are welcomed to the centre in the morning with some group play including agility games and ball play. Mid-day is quiet time for those needing a nap and then there's more group play-time in the afternoon up until bedtime.

Visit: www.fordogsake.com.au

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