

Pet Life - Magazine Issue 10.
WINTER 2019
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Letter from the Editor



As we head into winter, be sure to keep an eye on your older pets as cold weather can worsen some medical conditions like arthritis. One of our old dogs used to suffer from arthritis and he was always worse in the winter months. This meant extra trips to his physio and vet, more padding for his bed and a warm coat.

Once the warmer weather arrived he was like a pup again; his transformation was amazing. Take the time now to get your pet a pre-winter vet check so they can make it through winter healthy and happy.

Responsible pet ownership is important not only for our pets but for wildlife also. In the past couple of months there have been dog attacks on native birdlife here in Kaikoura. So Sabrina, from Kaikoura Wildlife Rescue, has provided us with some information on how you can help your pet have less impact on our native wildlife.

We have some special dogs showcased in this issue. On our front cover is Duffy, who won a Facebook competition we did with VetCare Grey Lynn and who earned a year's supply of free healthcare and a feature in *Pet Life*. We also have the winners of the 2019 Pet Connect Next Top Dog Model Competition which had over 700 entries. The winners won a sitting with a pet photographer and, wow, the photos are stunning. Wait till you see them.

We got to trial the PetSafe® Automatic Ball Launcher. Biddy had so much fun chasing the ball as it was shot from the launcher and would have happily spent the entire afternoon playing fetch. PetSafe® have kindly given us a ball launcher to give away, so if you think your dog would love to have a go with the launcher then head to our website to enter.

The Secret Life of Pets movie was a must see for my family

when it came out and we loved it so much we can't wait to see the second installment. To celebrate the release of the second movie, we have three goodie packs to give away which include movie passes and some awesome gear for your pet. *The Secret Life of Pets 2* hits theatres 20 June so be sure to go check it out.

There are some awesome pet events coming up over the next few months. If you head along to any of them we would love to see some photos. You can tag us #petlifenz on Instagram or email them through to us at info@petlife.co.nz so we can include them in our spring issue.

Well that's enough from me, hope you enjoy your read and we look forward to bringing you your next issue of *Pet Life* in September.

EDITOR

amy

THE TEAM

MANAGING DIRECTOR
& EDITOR
Amy Scott-Thomas
info@petlife.co.nz
020 455 9111

SUB EDITOR
Inger Vos
editingfox@gmail.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER
advertise@petlife.co.nz

PRINT & DISTRIBUTION
Format Print

CONTACT DETAILS
Red Swamp Road, RD1,
Kaikoura
www.petlife.co.nz

SOCIAL
facebook.com/PetLifeNZ
instagram.com/petlifenz

CONTRIBUTORS
Jo Clough - Dog Safe Work Place
jo@dogsafeworkplace.com

Liza Schneider - Dr Liza Holistic Vet
hello@drliza.co.nz

Nicki Lewis - Forage NZ
forageforbuns@gmail.com

Lucy Anderson - Confident Canines
confidentcanines@behaviourvet.nz

David Cooper - Aquatics Specialist
david@pcti.co.nz

Kathleen Crisley - Balanced Dog
kathleen@balanceddog.co.nz

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DUFFY

VetCare Grey Lynn ran a Facebook competition for one lucky pet to win a year's worth of healthcare and feature in *Pet Life*. Duffy was the lucky pup who won this competition and a spot on our cover. The beautiful photo was taken by Kirsty Antunovich from Dog and Co. You can check out more of Kirsty's work at dogandco.nz. You can follow Duffy's daily antics on Instagram @duffy_the_fluffy.



BREED PROFILE - GOLDEN RETRIEVER

Golden retrievers are one of the most popular breeds of dogs today. You've probably seen them in the park joyfully fetching a tennis ball. But what do you really know about this dog?

The golden retriever was developed during the 1800s in Britain, so is a relatively young breed. The breeder, Lord Tweedmouth, wanted a dog that was loyal, kind, spirited and energetic. He also wanted a dog with a love for water and the ability to retrieve. Golden retrievers are the embodiment of beauty and brains and make a great family pet.

General care

The golden retriever is an energetic breed, sturdy and well proportioned. They are perceptive, agile and train quickly. The golden retriever requires daily exercise and they enjoy play sessions with their family, retrieving balls and other toys. Golden retrievers are moderately active indoors and do best with a medium to large sized securely fenced yard. They are best for active families as they daily need time to run and roam outdoors.

Coat care

The golden retriever has a water repellent and weather resistant double coat that is designed to protect them in any season. During winter the undercoat grows to keep them warm and as the weather begins to warm up this undercoat is shed. The firm, resilient outer coat can be wavy or straight. The tail and legs are feathered with longer hair while the undercoat is dense and soft in texture. The coat requires daily and thorough brushing with a firm bristle brush. Golden retrievers can be dry shampooed occasionally, and bathed only when necessary with a mild shampoo to keep from drying out their skin.

Personality

Golden retrievers are loveable, polite and highly intelligent. They are sweet and eager to please, devoted family companions who are gentle and patient with children. They exude charm and confidence, however, they do not do well if left alone for extended periods of time and may become mischievous and destructive. They

are friendly with other pets, however, early socialisation with birds and small non-canine pets is recommended because of their hunting history. In fact, they are friendly with everyone. They tend to bark as a form of greeting. The golden retriever is not well suited for a two career family as they require an inordinate amount of human interaction and companionship.

The golden retriever is one of the easiest breeds to train. They excel in obedience and are popular therapy and service dogs. They have many talents including competitive obedience, narcotic detection, agility and performing tricks.

Health problems

Golden retrievers are prone to weight gain so it is important to not overfeed and ensure they are fed a suitable high quality diet. They can also be affected by other health issues such as:

- hip dysplasia – refers to the abnormal growth or development of the ball and socket joint of a golden's hips,
- skin allergies such as ichthyosis – excessive scale or dandruff flakes,
- cataracts – cloudiness in the crystalline lens of the eye.

If you are in search of a large dog that is sweet, calm and affectionate and will be good with families (children and other dogs), it is hard to find a more pleasing, gentle, large family dog. Exercise and play are important in their daily activities, but they will be just as happy relaxing inside with you at night.



THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER AT A GLANCE

Weight range: males 29-32kg; females 25-29kg.

Life expectancy: 10-13 years.

Eye colour: dark brown with dark rims.

Coat length: medium – flat to wavy with feathering; dense water-resistant undercoat.

Coat colour: any shade of cream or gold.

Grooming: moderate.

Shedding: moderate.

Affection level: high.

Friendly: high.

Social needs: high.

When looking for a breeder, take your time and visit a few. Ask around to find reputable breeders, and ask whether they do genetic testing for hereditary illnesses.

TOP 10 TIPS FOR HORSE & PONY CARE

1. SUITABLE Paddock

Make sure the paddock provides shelter from the elements. Ensure there are dry areas for them to lie down, especially in winter. Muck out paddocks regularly to help prevent worm load.

2. Paddock FREE FROM HAZARDS

Make sure your paddock is free from hazards and secure so your horse or pony cannot escape. Remove any toxic plants or weeds; keep an eye out for regrowth and remove immediately.

3. FRESH WATER

Fresh water is essential. Make sure your horse or pony has access to clean fresh water at all times.

4. GRAZING

If you stable your horse or pony, make sure they have a suitable length of time grazing, and that the pasture is suitable. Not all pasture is created equal.

5. DIET CHANGE

If you decide to change your horse's diet, gradually introduce the new feed over a period of one to two weeks. Gradual change is important to stop gut issues.

6. WEIGHT

Do not let your horse become overweight; ponies are prone to weight issues. Overweight equine can develop laminitis, which is a painful disorder of the foot.

7. BEHAVIOUR

Understanding your horse or pony's normal behaviour is important. It means that when they are unwell or something is wrong with them, you will notice and be able to get veterinary care quickly.

8. COMPANY

Horses are very social and as such are best suited to have a paddock mate. Try not to paddock or stable your horse alone.

9. CHECK DAILY

It is important to check your horse or pony daily for any signs of injury and/or lameness. Also take a look at their teeth, occasionally, to make sure there are no sharp edges. Annual dental checks are recommended.

10. HEALTH

Regular vet checks, worming and vaccinations are important. Source a good farrier, someone you trust and who is dependable.



RUN WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND

Dogs have been known to accidentally take part in running events.

A few years ago, a bloodhound ran a half marathon in Canada and came seventh, despite taking detours to sniff a dead rabbit and investigate cows, and this year a dog ran the Marathon des Sables, the “toughest footrace in the world” held over seven days in the Sahara Desert.

There’s clearly a love for running – for both dogs and people. So, here in New Zealand, Dr John Molloy, lover of dogs and keen runner, has come up with a brand new concept – the 4 Paws Marathon, where dogs are actually invited to participate.

A sport and exercise doctor, John is promoting the event as “medicine”.

“We are living in an increasingly sedentary world where comfort reigns. We are less active in our work, leisure and transport. Low fitness kills more people in the USA than smoking, diabetes, and obesity combined. One third of our children are either overweight or obese.

“People with dogs are known to be generally more active than people with cats. Therefore, the 4 Paws Marathon is a salute and tribute to our best friend and loyal exercise ally, the humble dog.”

The 4 Paws Marathon, on 22 September, is a completely offroad event held in Bottle Lake Forest and along the beaches of Christchurch.

While you don’t need a dog to enter, it’ll be more fun if you have one by your side, and the event caters for all fitness levels. There are races from a 5km fun run to the full 42.2km marathon, and participants can run or walk – the focus is on taking

part rather than winning.

John stresses that training with your dog for the event is very important.

“Please don’t confuse enthusiasm with ability. Training is essential if you are taking part in the half and full marathon.”

The 4 Paws Marathon website has training plans for all event distances, and sponsors Further Faster and The Balanced Dog will be holding Walk N Talk events from June to August where people can ask training-related questions.

Dog safety is the number one priority, says John. Everything regarding their health and wellbeing has been considered, including the time of year (not too hot), course layout (aid/water stations) and terrain (pine forest and sand trails to minimise paw burn).

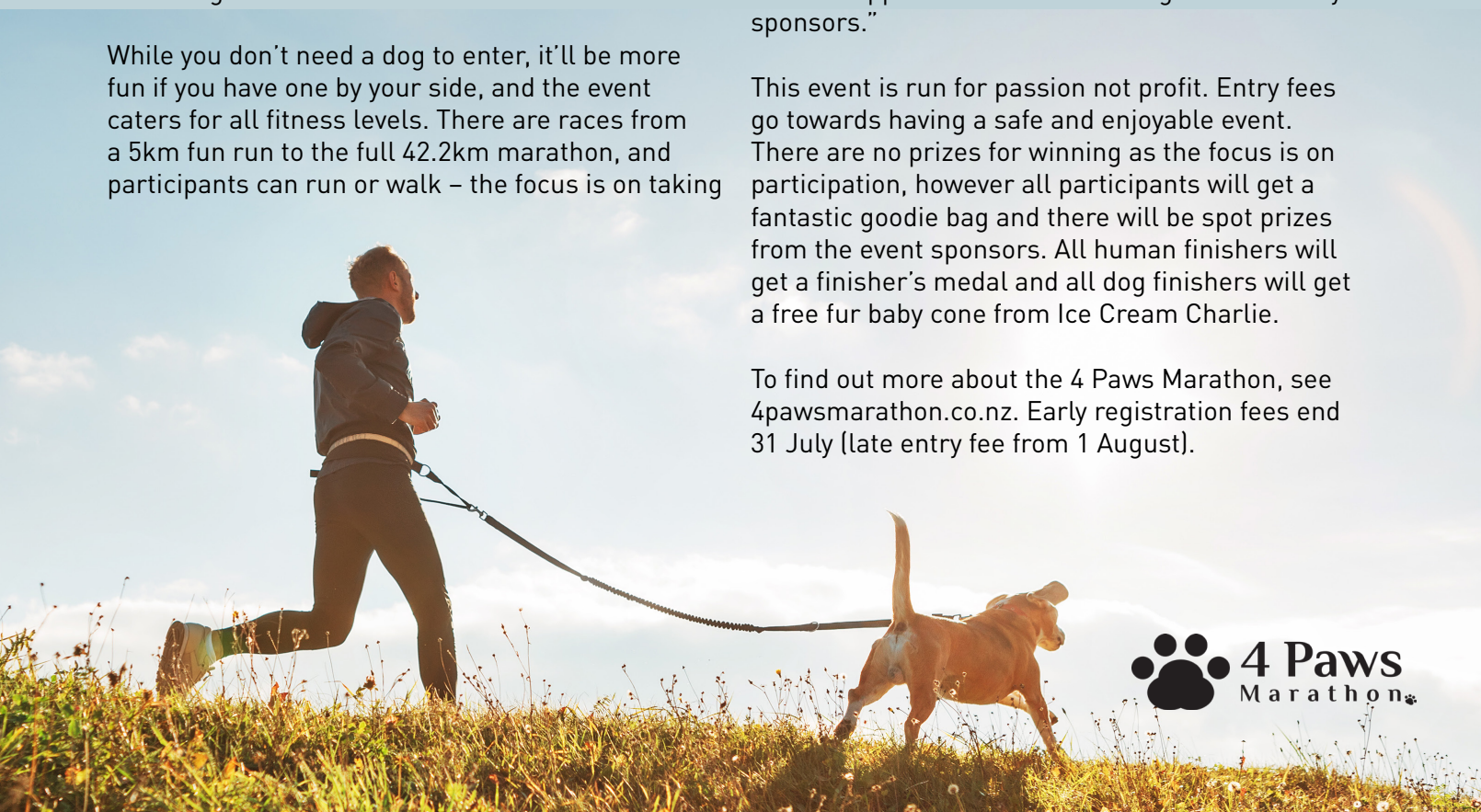
Animal Management (Christchurch City Council) will be on site, supported by OurVets. There will be compulsory vet checks for dogs competing in the half and full marathon, and even dog massage services available.

John says organising the event has been very challenging.

“There’s never been anything like this before so naturally people will question. Thankfully, my family have been very supportive, or tolerant, and I’ve had a lot of support from Animal Management and my sponsors.”

This event is run for passion not profit. Entry fees go towards having a safe and enjoyable event. There are no prizes for winning as the focus is on participation, however all participants will get a fantastic goodie bag and there will be spot prizes from the event sponsors. All human finishers will get a finisher’s medal and all dog finishers will get a free fur baby cone from Ice Cream Charlie.

To find out more about the 4 Paws Marathon, see 4pawsmarathon.co.nz. Early registration fees end 31 July (late entry fee from 1 August).



Grapes, raisins and sultanas — oh no!

Grapes, raisins and sultanas are among the most dangerous fruits for canines. It is unknown why grapes are so dangerous for dogs; the compound has yet to be identified but it causes damage to your pet's kidneys.

Weirdly, grapes do not affect every dog. Some will be able to eat them with no consequence while others will not be so lucky. For some dogs, ingesting as few as seven grapes can be poisonous and result in kidney failure. Signs of kidney failure can start to show in your pet three to five days after they eat grapes, raisins or sultanas.

If you suspect your dog has consumed grapes, raisins or sultanas, look out for the following symptoms:

- diarrhoea
- vomiting
- lack of appetite
- lethargy
- weakness
- little to no urination.

The best thing to do is make sure your dog doesn't have the opportunity to eat grapes, raisins or sultanas. If you have a grape vine growing in the garden, make sure your dog can't access this area. Also keep the fruit bowl in an area where they can't help themselves. Be aware that cakes and muffins often contain raisins so make sure they aren't given to your dog or that your dog doesn't manage to eat some dropped by children.

If you suspect your dog has eaten grapes, raisins or sultanas then speak to your vet immediately.



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mobility. Formulated with turmeric, chondroitin and glucosamine and active plant-based nutraceuticals for a natural anti-inflammatory treat.

Aged (Older Dog) – Formulated with milk thistle to improve your dog's liver function, antioxidants to meet the demands of your ageing dog, and natural anti-inflammatories to improve joint mobility.

Puppy – Packed with prebiotics and probiotics to improve gut health and digestion as your puppy moves from a milk based diet to food.

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Nutraceuticals for animal health

Nutraceuticals are non-drug substances derived from food and have therapeutic benefits. They are generally safe to use and may be used as a primary therapy or as an adjunct to conventional medicines.

Certain nutraceuticals can help to reduce the amount of drug necessary to manage disease conditions such as atopy, degenerative joint disease and congestive heart failure, and can be of great assistance in supporting recovery and boosting vitality.

Unfortunately many supplements made for humans and animals are made according to food grade quality as opposed to pharmaceutical standard and do not actually contain what their label claims. Additionally, many products have limited bioavailability which has a substantial impact on their efficacy. Thankfully, there are some superb products available in the veterinary market today, many of which have undergone scientific trials and proven their value in case studies.

Vitamins, minerals and fatty acids often have a synergistic effect and by supplementing an animal's diet with a good quality broad spectrum supplement, providing optimal amounts of important micronutrients, helps to ensure optimum health, vitality, immune status, growth, fertility, muscle and tendon strength and recovery. For

convalescing animals, adding such a supplement usually assists with improved healing, increased strength and vitality, promotion of weight gain and increased appetite.

Glucosamine

Glucosamine is an important building block for cartilage production and plays a role in lubricating and cushioning joints. It can be an invaluable aid in treating osteoarthritis, both to decrease the dose of anti-inflammatories needed in some cases as well as to slow the progression of the disease.

A special form, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine has been shown to help protect the internal lining of the bladder wall and can be a useful supplement to use with feline idiopathic cystitis.

MSM (methylsulphonylmethane)

A derivative of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), MSM has anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties and improves joint flexibility as well as elasticity of connective tissue, making it a useful supplement for muscle and tendon repair.

Antioxidants

As part of normal metabolism, free radicals are produced by oxidative stress. If these free radicals are not neutralised by antioxidants they can cause cellular damage which ultimately leads to disease. In debilitated, sick, malnourished and older animals, the free radical load

may be excessive as they have lower amounts of antioxidants available to help combat free radical damage. In conditions such as sepsis and inflammatory conditions, free radicals are produced at a greater rate which may be overwhelming and delay healing.

There are a number of well known and relatively commonly used antioxidants, such as vitamin C, vitamin E, carotenoids, S-adenosylmethionine (SAmE) and those that are less well known in the veterinary field, such as coenzyme Q10 and proanthocyanidins.

Antioxidants work in synergy and have shown to provide immune support, aid in the management of dogs suffering from cognitive dysfunction, assist animals with cardiac disease and can help to improve anaemia associated with kidney disease.

Provided as supplementation in optimal amounts, antioxidants help to provide powerful general support for debilitated animals and assist with the restoration and maintenance of health.

SAmE (S-adenosylmethionine)

An antioxidant with therapeutic properties assisting liver disorders, osteoarthritis and cognitive dysfunction.

Proanthocyanidins

Proanthocyanidins are a subclass of bioflavonoids found in blue and purple berries,

purple grapes and extracts of grape seed and pine bark (enzogenol).

They are useful in veterinary practice for many disease conditions, including osteoarthritis, infections, heart disease and saddle thrombus in cats, and I have found them invaluable as a safe and reliable adjunct therapy for neurological problems, auto-immune conditions, allergies, neoplasia and simply to support vitality and general energy levels in compromised animals.

Coenzyme Q10

A naturally occurring antioxidant which assists with energy production in the cells. Coenzyme Q10 supplementation has shown improved cardiac function in animals with cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. It has also shown improved survival times in acute

renal failure, improved exercise tolerance and, in some cases, been of benefit to some cats with inflammatory mouth disease.

Omega-3 fatty acids

These important nutrients have specific anti-inflammatory properties and are a very versatile therapeutic aid for a number of health conditions. Omega-3s can help to reduce fatty plaques within blood vessels, and dogs displaying symptoms of heart failure have enhanced longevity and quality of life following omega-3 fatty acid therapy.

Supplementation helps to maintain normal kidney function and can help to slow the progression of renal failure. They can be a useful supplement for animals with osteoarthritis and very important for the development of the brain before birth and during early

development.

B vitamin complex

Vitamin Bs are fundamental to energy production, metabolism, growth and maintenance of healthy tissues. They are a useful aid in helping to reduce nervousness and general stress, treating muscle fatigue and supporting appetite as well as treating debility, anorexia and anaemia.

Milk thistle

Has been used as a natural remedy to support liver health for more than 2000 years. As an antioxidant, milk thistle helps in the detoxification process and helps to assist and promote liver health.

Dr. Liza Schneider
Veterinarian
www.holisticvets.co.nz

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FOR YOUR LITTLE LION

Do you have a little lion in your life that deserves only the best? Little Lions makes high quality items for both cats and cat lovers, with the aim of enriching your relationship with your feline through play.

Helen Moore, from Little Lions, started making toys when her cat, Millie Moo, joined her family. At that time, Helen was unable to find nice New Zealand made, high quality, organic cat toys so she started making them for herself and friends. Helen handmakes each toy using potent organic catnip which has some cats opening deliveries in the letterbox before their owners get home. Helen has a team of "dedicated testers" who try their hardest to destroy samples, so you can be assured that your Little Lion catnip toy will stand up to lots of kitty love.

Little Lions have a variety of catnip toys from fish to fortune cookies. These toys offer hours of fun, and are great to distract kittens from attacking their human's arms with bunny kicks.

Check out Little Lions' full range of products at littlionsnz.co.nz.



Facts about catnip

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) is part of the mint family. The plant contains an oil called nepetalactone, which acts as a cat attractant.

Catnip is non-addictive and has no side effects so is safe for cats to use. The effects will only last 10 to 20 minutes before odour fatigue sets and the cat returns to their normal behaviour.

Sensitivity to catnip is genetic and it's estimated that between 50-80 per cent of cats are sensitive to it.

Young and old cats don't tend to react to catnip. Cats won't show sensitivity until between 3 and 6 months.

When eaten, catnip has a mild sedative effect on cats. Some herbalists recommend it as a relaxing tea for people for this reason, too.



UP COMING EVENTS

JUNE

Saturday 9th, 9am - 3pm
PET First Aid Course
Waiohiki Creative Arts Village, **Napier**

Saturday 15th, 12pm - 2.30pm
Dog and Grog
Pocket Bar & Kitchen, **Grey Lynn**

Sunday 16th, 9.30am
GAP Walk
Marine Parade, **Petone**

Friday 21st, 12pm
Monteith's Dog Derby
Cardrona Alpine Resort, Cardrona Valley Rd, **Wanaka**

Saturday 22, 10am - 4pm
PET First Aid Course
Energy Vets, **North Taranaki**

Sunday 30th, 1.30pm
GAP Walk
Cambridge Avenue Lookout Car Park, **Manawatu**

JULY

Saturday 20th, 12pm - 2.30pm
Dog and Grog
Pocket Bar & Kitchen, **Grey Lynn**

AUGUST

Wednesday 7th, 9am - 2pm
Human Behaviour Change for Animals Workshop
Peppers Clearwater Resort, **Christchurch**

Saturday 17th, 12pm - 2.30pm
Dog and Grog
Pocket Bar & Kitchen, **Grey Lynn**

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 22nd, 7.30am - 3pm
4 Paws Marathon
Bottle Lake Forest Park, Waitikiri drive, **Christchurch**

Saturday 14th - Monday 16th
28th Companion Animal Conference
Rotorua

Pet Life Ltd takes care collating upcoming pet events listed within. Pet Life Ltd is not associated with the running of the events listed and as such recommend you check directly with the organisers regarding each event. Times and dates may vary to those listed here. If you would like to see your event listed here, email us with the details info@petlife.co.nz.

WILDLIFE AND YOUR PET

We're privileged in New Zealand to have such abundant wildlife, but many of our native species are declining and are at more risk than ever. If you're a cat or dog lover, but also want to help our declining wildlife, you can make a major difference by being a responsible pet owner.

FOR CATS



Containing cats, especially at night, is a critical step towards reducing wildlife deaths. A New Zealand study* published in April this year surveyed cat owners and vets to determine how to reduce wildlife predation by cats. The research found that 30 per cent of cat owners already keep their cats inside at night time but, there are other ways that you can help reduce the likelihood of your cat successfully hunting wildlife.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Ensure your cat wears a bright collar with multiple bells (a single bell does not emit enough noise). Some cats adapt and learn to make minimal bell noise when stalking prey, but the noise created upon pouncing still provides wildlife a split second chance to escape.
- Trim your cat's nails regularly with a trimmer (\$15) from your local vet clinic. Cat claws grow fast and shed frequently. Duller claws mean less tree climbing to catch prey, and less severe puncture wounds when prey is caught.
- Microchip your cat to ensure it can be identified as a pet (not a stray) if it goes missing.
- Ensure your cat is desexed to avoid unplanned litters of kittens. There are already many roaming homeless cats as it is.
- Rescue stray kittens for handover to the SPCA or cat rescues. Stray kittens have difficult lives ahead of them and deserve caring homes. Rescuing homeless kittens from the environment also ensures no future breeding.
- If you have bird feeding stations in your garden, please ensure that these are inaccessible to cats.
- You can make roosting and nesting trees on your property safe by attaching wide tin collars around tree trunks using sheet metal. The metal collars need to be well off the ground (so that cats and other predators cannot jump above the collared section) and be greater than 50 centimetres in width. This works best on lone trees which do not make contact with branches of nearby unprotected trees, or when protecting a cluster of trees (each fitted with a

metal collar).

- Rescue any native bird that is captured by a cat and transfer to your nearest bird rehabilitation centre, wildlife hospital, vet clinic or DOC office immediately.

FOR DOGS



While many of us may think "my dog wouldn't hurt a kiwi/weka/penguin" etc, the reality is that most dogs would given a chance. Uncontrolled dogs are a primary threat to wildlife. Some breeds have greater prey drives than others, but ultimately all dogs are predators with natural instincts.

For example, on any given coastal stroll you could encounter penguins, shags, gulls, terns, shorebirds, seals, or sea lions. Wildlife could be in your vicinity, even if you do not see it. Many shorebirds utilise dry, sandy, driftwood areas, while penguins often rest in dunes, under bushes, or among rocks. Many seabirds are irresistible to dogs because of their pungent scent, which means they are easy to track.

A dog stumbling across wildlife might:

- chase wildlife, causing excessive disturbance and stress,
- mouth wildlife in excitement or intention to kill, causing injury or death.

To ensure wildlife is safe, please be a responsible dog owner by keeping your dog under control. When walking in coastal areas, stick to the tideline or designated tracks to avoid areas where wildlife is most vulnerable. If wanting to explore forests or intending to go hiking with your dog, check DOC guidelines to see whether dogs are prohibited in an area or whether you need a permit. Walk dogs on leads (extendable leads are useful) and always maintain a minimum distance of 20 metres from wildlife. Basic obedience training, like excellent recall and response to commands, such as "leave it", is also vital. Meanwhile, squeaky toys can prove to be a great decoy to distract your dog when he's focused on nearby wildlife.

* Prioritising cat-owner behaviours for a campaign to reduce wildlife depredation. 2019. Linklater, W., Farnworth, M., van Heezik, Y., Stafford, K. and MacDonald, E. Conservation Science and Practise, Vol 1, issue 5.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Dogs freely give their love and companionship, so it's hard to imagine why some people are bad dog owners. Being a responsible dog owner means your pet won't become another statistic at a pound or rescue/welfare group.

Taking on a dog is a big responsibility. It's a commitment for the life of your dog. Many new dog owners love their cute puppy but a few weeks or months down the track they start to realise there's quite a bit of work involved. Before getting a dog, make sure you have thought about – and are prepared to put in – the time and commitment involved in caring for one long term.

In New Zealand, dog owners must comply with minimum standards for animal care and management which is set out in the New Zealand Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010 (National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, 2010). Dog owners must also comply with local council requirements such as yearly registration. Being a responsible dog owner means caring for all your dog's needs.



Choosing your dog

Deciding on what kind of dog to get is the first step to responsible dog ownership. Consider size, breed and whether you could welcome a rescue dog in your family. If you live on a small property, don't get a large breed which requires a lot of space; consider getting a smaller dog. Also, think about your lifestyle – while all dogs need exercise, some need it more than others. If you are not an overly active person then don't get a dog that needs to be run twice a day. If you are an active walker/hiker/runner, then perhaps an outgoing dog who wants lots of exercise is the one for you.

The essentials

Bed, kennel, quality dog food, toys, water bowl, food bowl ... and the list goes on. Owning a dog is not cheap. In 2015, the NZ Companion Animal Council estimated that caring for a dog costed (on average) about \$1686 per year. So before you bring home your new addition, make sure you can afford to cover the essentials plus surprise veterinary trips. If you are worried about your ability to pay an unexpected vet bill, consider pet insurance.

Food and water

It is important for your dog to be fed quality dog food and have access to clean, fresh drinking water. Don't forget to clean bowls regularly as bacterial biofilms can build up on the surface of the bowl.

Housing

Outside dogs will need a well insulated kennel that will keep them warm and dry. If your dog will be an inside dog then choose an area where you can set up a bed for them. Be sure to wash or change bedding regularly.

Exercise

All dogs need exercise, whether its once or twice a day, a short stroll down the road, a massive run at the beach or a visit to the dog park. Exercise is important for their physical and mental health.

Toys

Dogs enjoy toys. They offer mental and physical stimulation. There are many dog toys on the market that can help keep your dog entertained while you are away.

Collar and lead

There are lots of different types of collars on the market so chat to your vet about what would be a good fit for your dog. You may need to buy a number of collars for your dog as he grows but hopefully only one good sturdy lead!

Registration

All dogs must be registered every year with your local council. The cost of registering your dog will depend on a number of things, such as whether it is entire or desexed, and its classification (e.g. working, dangerous, disability assist, responsible dog owner). If you live in an urban area or if you're a responsible dog owner and decide to get multiple dogs you will likely need a permit.

Health checkups

Most often our dogs are fit and healthy, however, it is important to maintain regular health checks with your vet. During these your dog will be weighed, get an all over physical, and you have the opportunity ask your vet any questions you may have.

Desexing

It is recommended to desex your dog as this helps reduce the number of unwanted puppies in rescue and welfare groups. It can also stop dogs wandering and has been shown to have some health benefits. It is best to speak to your vet directly about the pros and cons of desexing your dog.

Vaccinations

Diseases such as parvovirus can be fatal, especially for puppies. Vaccinations give your dog immunity to potentially life threatening diseases. Your puppy will need its first vaccination between six and eight weeks followed by booster shots over a period of weeks. Older dogs will need booster vaccinations.

Microchipping

It is a legal requirement to microchip your dog. Since 1 July 2006, all dogs registered in New Zealand for the first time (except farm dogs used for stock control) must be microchipped.

Microchipping is a permanent identification method that can help ensure your dog is returned to you in the event it:

- gets picked up by dog control for wandering,
- is stolen and recovered,
- becomes lost during a natural disaster.

Owning a dog is so rewarding. Their love and affection makes it worthwhile. However, it is also a huge responsibility. Bringing a dog into the family should not be done on a whim but only after considered thought. Research continues to show us that dogs, and other pets, bring real health benefits to owners. The way we can repay them is to be responsible dog owners.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can be fined \$300 if you don't:

- register your dog,
- get your dog microchipped,
- look after your dog properly – including making sure your dog gets food, water, shelter and exercise.

You can be fined \$200 if you don't:

- keep your dog under control and on a leash in a public place,
- keep a barking dog quiet after a noise complaint.

For more information on "dog owners: fines and infringement", head to www.govt.nz.



FISH KEEPING

WHY BOTHR?

Why would you bother keeping fish? Just think about it for a minute. They need constant care and attention, they need looking after when you are away on holiday, they need to be fed every day, they wet your floors, their assorted paraphernalia take up all your cupboard space, they cost a fortune (eventually, for sure) and they put marriages under severe strain. On top of all that, the damn things are addictive!

Well there must be something that makes us do this to ourselves. I, for one, have been doing it for more than 40 years. And, judging by the number of aquarium stores, wholesalers and magazines that exist and seem to flourish, there are a lot of other aqua-masochists out there as well.

So why do we do it? Well, I got my first aquarium when I was 12. It seemed like a good idea at the time. My mate was moving back to Rhodesia (as it was in those days) and offered me a good deal on his 50 litre tank with everything included. I think it cost me \$10, a princely amount of saved pocket money and stolen milk money. The tank was metal framed, it leaked regularly, the water went a particular shade of deep green very quickly (it was in a window), the fish died with regularity and it had a rather peculiar odour surrounding it. But my stepmother hated it, so I loved it with a passion. And that love grew stronger with passing years.

Everybody I know who keeps fish likes them simply for the pleasure of looking. That seems to be a significant motivation; a bit like owning a nice painting, I guess, although my first aquarium was somewhat abstract! But there's more to it than that.

There are hours of fun to be had with filters, pumps, UVs, lights, timers, CO₂ bottles, bottom heat cables and lots of other lovely toys. For "techno nerds" like me, the fish and other livestock are simply an afterthought and a reason for having the best system in town. We're a bit like the guys that build and lavish attention on vintage cars or hot rods but only ever drive them occasionally.

Others like creating a stunning aquatic display, be it a reef or an aqua-scaped plant tank, or even a

collection of bright ornaments and "day glo" gravel (shudder, shudder). There is surely a smidgeon of a frustrated artist in all aquarists. For pure art in aquariums, go no further than famous Japanese aquarist Takashe Amano – if his work isn't art then then Picasso was a house painter and your oscars won't eat your neon tetras.

The urge to garden is another driver to keep aquariums. Planted aquaria, especially advanced ones with CO₂, heating cables, intense lighting, etc, are most certainly gardens. More and more people are living in small houses and apartments so the opportunity to express our gardening gene is becoming limited. The aquarium is a perfect place to keep one's thumbs green when the only outside space you have is a balcony.

Keeping aquarium fish is a way to satisfy the hidden adventuring biologist in us. Indeed, some even take this one step further and actually collect their own fish, regaling friends and family with the tales of the trips "up the Orinoco" to get fish to create "biotope aquaria". Sometimes Orinoco is the creek down the road and sometimes it is actually in South America. I am often found bum up in various streams, rivers, lakes and mud puddles throughout New Zealand.

Many an aquarium has been set up to teach a class about ecology, fish biology and sometimes even physics. This usually leads to someone, maybe the teacher, falling in love with the aquarium so it's moved home for "future projects" (yeah right).

To be brutally honest, aquaristic urges may even stem from the opportunity to play God. An aquarium is our own private little cosmos and we have total control over it. We create it and set the life support systems in place. We decide what will live in it, we decide what they eat and when, we control the light, heat and even oxygen and, yes, we have ultimate power over life and death.

Seriously, though, this is one reason why aquaria are so good for kids. They teach responsibility. I believe that there is something in keeping an aquarium that brings out the best in us. I have known some unsavoury characters in my chequered past and many of them kept aquaria. Those aquaria were always well looked after and cherished.

So what is my motivation for aquarium keeping? I must confess that I am a mixture of all of the above, and probably a bit more besides.

David Cooper
Aquatics consultant
NZ Certificate in Animal Care L3
Pacific Coast Technical Institute

TYSON - A rescued superstar

Tyson is a rescued superstar, who is giving back and bringing joy to the sick and elderly.

Tyson has lived with Sally Curtis in Motueka for the past five years. Originally from Karikari Peninsula, Tyson had a very tough beginning in life. He was broken in rough, roped and hit.

"He has come such a long way putting his trust back into humans, which just shows what a very courageous and special horse he is," says Sally.

Tyson's first visit to a rest home was to Jack Inglis Friendship Hospital. A family member of a very sick patient requested Tyson to visit their bedside. Sally was nervous as she was unsure how Tyson would react being around strangers and in a hospital. But she didn't need to worry, Tyson was well behaved and took it all in his stride.

"He was amazing, he showed an immediate empathy for the patient."

Sally had never done this with a horse before, but had experienced dark moments in

her life and it was always horses, family and a few special elderly friends that had got her through. Sally wanted to give something back to the community and help others, and Tyson has made this possible.

Sally and Tyson have now taken many trips to hospitals and rest homes, and they will be making a visit to their first hospice soon as well. Patients love Tyson and he is happy to meet and greet everyone, but he does choose particular patients to be around longer and spend more time with.

"He will bow his head right down and allow them to touch and hold his head and talk to him. He breathes life into their faces and sometimes it's very hard to fight back the tears. It can be very emotional watching him transform someone who has given up and waiting to die transform into a kid again, smiling and breathing in his magic."

Tyson has not been trained to be a therapy horse, it is simply something that he has the ability to do. Sally has, however, worked

hard with Tyson to build trust and a solid partnership.

"We have done lots of cattle and working equitation clinics which require us to work together as a team and trust each other. The hard work has paid off. I've never had such a partnership with a horse as I do with Tyson. I'm blessed to have Tyson in my life and he came to me for a reason. And I have the best four legged workmate I could have ever wished for."

When not on duty, Tyson is your average horse. He's very chatty and vocal at breakfast and tea time, and once his head is in the bucket it doesn't come up until his meal is finished. He has a cheeky but cautious personality and once you've earned his trust you're his friend for life.

If you would like to learn more about Tyson, check out his Facebook page, A Day in the Life of Tyson, or email Sally on wazandsally1@xtra.co.nz.



MOBILE PET CARE

For the busy pet parent, there is a range of service providers who will help care for your friend without the need for you to even leave home. Mobile pet services in New Zealand are a growing demand. Kathleen Crisley speaks to three providers about the convenience and benefits of their mobile pet services.

Convenience with less stress

"Initially, our focus was on elderly clients who struggled to visit their vet," says Chrissy MacPherson, who founded The Mobile Vet Nurse in Christchurch 8½ years ago.

Today, Chrissy's services help a range of pet owners, including busy parents who also have to care for human children, time poor working people and households with multiple pets.

Your Mobile Vet, based in Auckland, also has a mix of clientele. "They range from busy families, people with demanding work schedules, people with disabilities, older people, and many who have pets that find travel or a vet clinic stressful," says Dr Jonathan Pollard.

In Chrissy's view, what sets mobile services apart from the rest is the stress factor. It's low stress. "The majority of our clients find having travel and

time taken out of their day is the biggest reason for calling us."

The many benefits of in-home care

In-home and mobile services offer a range of benefits in addition to convenience.

Seeing a pet in the home environment provides the chance to see the animal in their living situation, where they display normal patterns of behaviour. This provides valuable insight to a practitioner.

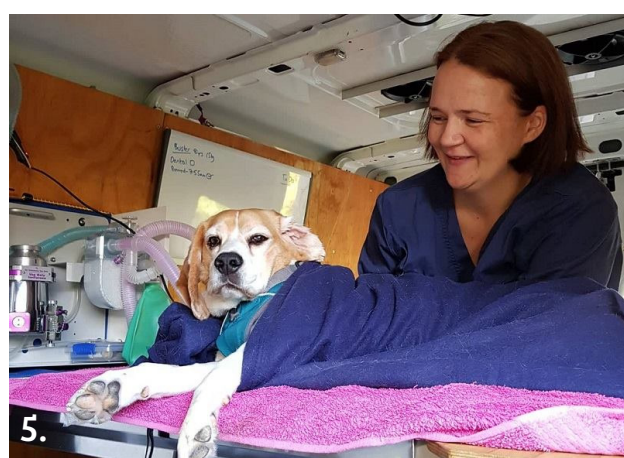
Sarah Lovatt, vet nurse and manager at Your Mobile Vet, says: "We often receive more information than we would in a consulting room, and can come up

1 & 2. The Mobile Vet Nurse's Chrissy MacPherson in action trimming clients' nails.

3. Anna from Jim's Dog Wash giving a Kaos a wash.

4. Your Mobile Vet Dr Jonathan Pollard and his mobile clinic.

5. Your Mobile Vet vet nurse Sarah Lovatt taking care of a sick patient.



with a treatment plan that considers the whole family.

“It’s also great to work with animals that aren’t stressed, or at least less stressed than they would be in a clinic situation, making things easier for everyone involved. Keeping things relaxed can help with procedures such as collecting samples or preparing a pet for a surgical procedure.”

In-home care also provides a great setting for building relationships with clients and their animals, adds Jill Smolenski, regional franchisor for Jim’s Dog Wash in the South Island. Inviting a pet professional to work at your home is an honour and a position of great trust.

“Not only do we form strong relationships with the dogs but we get to know the owners on a more personal level since we are working at their home.”

For clients who may suffer health issues, there is added value, says Chrissy. “There are many clients whose pet is the centre of their world and they may be in social housing or living a more reclusive life because of poor physical and/or mental health. Our visits become a big event in their diary and they will spend most of the consultation talking with us. A level of maturity and professionalism is needed to work with clients in these situations.”

Providers of mobile services manage traffic better than most owners do

Clients expect mobile pet service providers to arrive at the agreed time. This can be particularly difficult when working in the busy city of Auckland, as Your Mobile Vet does. Familiarity with your service area and good communication with your customers are key considerations, says Sarah.

“We understand traffic and patterns in Auckland and we schedule our day accordingly to keep our day running on time. When we do get caught in traffic, we aim to contact clients to let them know if we are running late and by how much. We’ll also advise clients of our estimated time of arrival for emergencies so they can make a decision about whether or not to take their pet to a physical clinic close to home.”

The Mobile Vet Nurse, which offers a health check service for dogs and cats as well as weight loss clinics, cat grooming, microchipping and palliative care, has clients with regular needs. The service structures its bookings so a quarter of Christchurch is served each week. “We try to keep travel between

clients to a minimum so we uphold our goal of being early for each visit,” says Chrissy.

Jim’s Dog Wash also tends to have a regular schedule for its services, such as six-weekly clips for dogs. Its bookings for any one day will be in the same part of a town to minimise impact from traffic.

Professional and mobile

It’s important for pet parents to ask any mobile business about its scope of service, limitations and qualifications. Answering these questions is the least any good business will do before working with your pet at home.

Chrissy, of The Mobile Vet Nurse, says she only employs vet nurses with a certificate qualification in vet nursing, and all her staff have a minimum of 20 years of experience.

Dr Pollard, who set up Your Mobile Vet business only two years ago, has worked in veterinary clinics in New Zealand the United Kingdom, and has all the professional development requirements that vets must meet. Vet nurse Sarah has a diploma in veterinary nursing, so she’s fully qualified to work alongside Jonathan in surgical procedures.

Jim’s Dog Wash franchisees are trained by a master groomer and must also complete in-house business training as part of their franchise agreement. All three businesses have expansion plans, and recruiting the right team members with the right qualifications and experience are part of those plans.

What’s available?

There are a range of mobile pet services available across New Zealand: vet care, dog washing and grooming, dog training, rehabilitation work, dog walking and more.

The services available to you will depend upon where you live in New Zealand. Some of the veterinarians advertising mobile services will not be able to provide surgery requiring general anaesthesia because they don’t have the setup; often, complex surgery such as orthopaedic operations will also need to be done at a clinic. X-ray facilities may also be limited. Some mobile vets will refer clients to another vet practice with a surgical theatre, while others may have their own surgical room at another location where they will transport your pet to for the operation then return them home after initial recovery.

Kathleen Crisley
Principal Therapist
www.balanceddog.co.nz



Pixie - Overall & Auckland winner
Photographer: Kirsty at Dog & Co. Photography



PetConnect Next Top Dog Model

The 2019 Pet Connect Next Top Dog Model Competition had over 700 entries and more than 80,000 votes from across the country. It was one of New Zealand's biggest model competitions for dogs and was run alongside the Omega Plus Big Dog Walk.

Who and what is Pet Connect?

Pet Connect is New Zealand's coolest local online pet market. We know our customers' names, as well as their dogs, and specialise in showcasing New Zealand (lovingly) made products which are as unique as your pets. Based on beautiful Waiheke Island, we stock and ship, nationwide, everything including food, bedding and clothing, and almost everything in between.

What is the model search all about?

Our model search coincides with The Omega Plus Dog Walk hosted in three major cities, Auckland,

Wellington and Christchurch. The Big Dog Walk is such an amazing event that brings all the fur mommas, pooch daddies and dog gawkers together for a fun day of celebrating ... well, dogs. We jumped right in and what better way to do so than by scouting for New Zealand's Next Top Dog Model. We ran the Next Top Dog Model competition to find the most charming, spunky and talented pooches in New Zealand.

Each city held its own regional competition with the three winners put forward to be Next Top Dog Model. The New Zealand public voted to determine both the regional winners and the overall winner.



1.



2.

1. Hunter: Christchurch winner / Photographer - Craig Bullock at Furtography
2. Nala: Wellington winner / Photographer - Jo Moore

Get to the good stuff, who won?

New Zealand's Next Top Dog Model 2019 is Pixie, a boxer from Auckland. She was chosen by Jasmine, the pack leader at Pet Connect, who looked for things like camera readiness, crowd support and X factor.

Jasmine loved Pixie's phenomenal stage presence, her winning style overall, and a trick she performed where she walked on owner Tania's feet – an uncommon and quirky trick for a dog.

Tania, who has set up a Facebook and Instagram account for Pixie, reckons the trick played the biggest part in her overall success and number of votes. Tania says it was tough choosing photos of Pixie for the competition because she is so photogenic. In the end, she chose photos that reflected Pixie's playful side.

Who were the runner-up models?

Pixie was definitely up against some solid competition this year.

Our Wellington winner, Nala, a gorgeous pomeranian, performed the old faithful stand-up-and-shake-hands trick, earning claps from an appreciative crowd. Nala had just been spayed a few days before yet still managed to strut her stuff – she rocked that shaved belly like no one's business.

The Christchurch winner, Hunter, a striking Siberian husky, is a brother to last year's Next Top Dog Model, Aayla. Fur-mum Georgia knows what it takes to be a top dog and Hunter made for some pretty stiff competition for Pixie.

MEET OUR READERS



Abby is a 13½-year-old westie. She is a sweet wee girl who is very loyal and loving. She has great compassion for other animals and people. As a pup, she was a little terror or just a typical terrier. Now in her senior years, she is a very good girl. She loves rides in the car, short walks and long naps.

Annette Petrowski (Abby's mum)



This is Ralph (the orange dog). He's approximately 10 years old now and loves treats. He goes to hydrotherapy every week for his achy back legs, and loves it. Ralph also loves hanging out with his best friend, (Willow the cat)! If you want to see more of Ralph, he's on Instagram, @ralph_the_old_pup.

Cerise



Rudi is 10 years old and came to me a year ago when his owners couldn't look after him any more. He's a very friendly, smoochy dog and loves all people. He does hospital and homes visits; residents and staff love him.

Lee



This is Lydia the Australian kelpie. She's just over a year old. Lydia absolutely loves going on 10km runs, doing zoomies across the beach, helping with fundraising and fetching her frisbee. She's absolutely loaded with energy and we spoil her to bits. Best trail bud we could ever ask for!

Christina



This is my 9-year-old papillon chant with the South Island Papillon Club trophy he won at the last ribbon parade. An import from Australia but now a Kiwi by choice, he's always been a bit of a monkey and always hungry. But beautiful and interesting, too.

Lee



We want to hear from you. Send us a photo and tell us about your pets. Email info@petlife.co.nz.



BALL LAUNCHER

We got to review the PetSafe® Automatic Ball Launcher, which is an automated throw/fetch game that your dog can enjoy without you! Bidy the curly coat retriever adores tennis balls so was more than happy to help us test it.

The launcher can be run off mains with the power cord or by using 6 D alkaline batteries. It's easy to use with an on/off switch and two knobs: a tennis ball knob and a paw knob. The tennis ball knob increases the distance which the tennis ball is launched and the paw knob changes the angle. So if you have a very athletic dog you can programme the ball to be launched high and far and if you have a smaller dog then you can reduce the angle and distance. For some reason I had expected the ball to be launched further, however, this would have literally sent it into the neighbour's yard. So the eight or so metres the ball was launched on the highest settings was perfect for our backyard and Bidy.

The launcher has a motion sensor which means your dog can't accidentally get hit by the ball. The sensor detects movement from up to two metres away; if the motion sensor detects movement it will pause for five seconds and then scan again before launching the tennis ball. It is to be used with standard tennis balls (comes with two) and while other softer balls may fit, this is not recommended as they could become jammed in the moving mechanism. Also, the distance and projection is based on launching a standard tennis ball so trying to use anything else may alter how the ball is launched. The launcher does make a noise as it prepares to launch a tennis ball and again when it flicks it out, but it is not overly loud.

To ensure the safety of your dog, the PetSafe® Automatic Ball Launcher will only allow your dog to play for 15 minutes at a time, then rest for 15 minutes. This way they cannot over exert themselves.



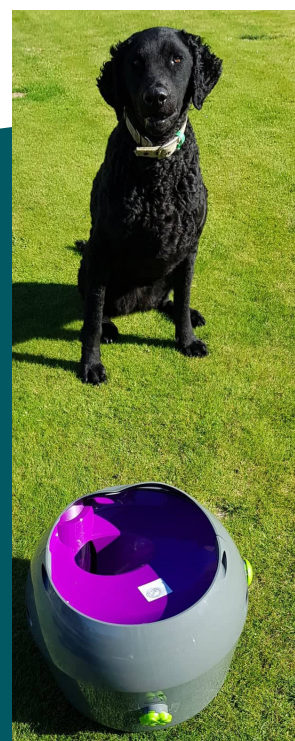
The premise of the launcher is that the dog learns to fetch the tennis ball and drop it into the top of the machine, where it rolls down into the launching mechanism. Bidy eagerly awaited the launch of the tennis ball and would then run off after it. She was encouraged to bring the ball back to the launcher, which she did, however, training her to drop the ball into the top to relaunch would take more time. So it isn't something that you can buy and walk away from, you will need to take the time to train your dog. Some dogs will pick it up quicker than others.

Bidy had so much fun chasing the tennis ball, and it wouldn't take as long to train her to drop the ball into the launcher than it did to train her to give it to us. Overall, the PetSafe® Automatic Ball Launcher offers lots of fun for you and your dog and is great for households with tennis ball obsessed dogs.

The PetSafe® Automatic Ball Launcher is RRP NZD \$249.99 and is available at Animates Stores NZ (not available online) and online at pet.co.nz.

WIN!

PetSafe has kindly given us **one** PetSafe® Automatic Ball Launcher to give away to one lucky reader. To enter, head to petlife.co.nz/competitions and enter your details. Competition closes 31 August 2019.



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GREYMOUTH SPCA

Phone: 03 768 5223
Email: greyspca@xtra.co.nz

CANTERBURY

CAT RESCUE CHRISTCHURCH CHARITABLE TRUST

Email: catrescue.chch@gmail.com
Website: www.catrescue.org.nz

CHRISTCHURCH BULL BREED RESCUE

Phone: 021 296 7389
Email: chchbullbreedrescue@hotmail.co.nz
Website: www.chchbullbreedrescue.org.nz

TURTLE RESCUE AND REHOMING

Phone: 021 202 0185
Email: turtleinfo@paradise.net.nz
Website: www.turtlerescue.co.nz

CAT CARE INC

Phone: 021 202 0185
 Phone: 03 313 3851
 Email: info@catcare.org.nz
 Website: www.catcare.org.nz

OXFORD BIRD RESCUE & CANTERBURY RAPTOR RESCUE

Phone: 021 292 7861
 Email: obr@xtra.co.nz
 Website: www.oxfordbirdrescue.org.nz & www.canterburyraptorrescue.org.nz

CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE CANTERBURY

Phone: 03 376 6094
 Email: cplcats@xtra.co.nz
 Website: www.cats.org.nz

DOG WATCH SANCTUARY TRUST

Phone: 027 319 2411
 Email: info@dogwatch.co.nz

THE NEW ZEALAND RAPTOR TRUST

Phone: 027 448 9044

Email: admin@nzraptor.co.nz

ŌTAUHI RABBIT REHOMING

Email: rabbitreomingotautahi@gmail.com

OTAGO**ANIMAL RESCUE NETWORK NEW ZEALAND**

Email: arnnz.enquiries@gmail.com
 Website: www.arnnz.org.nz

ONE BY ONE RESCUE NZ

Email: onebyonenz@gmail.com
 Phone: 03 926 9325 (Trina)
 Phone: 027 857 9379 (Jaimee)

SOUTHLAND**SOUTHERN CROSS GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS**

Phone: 027 201 6812
 Email: debbie.branks@sit.ac.nz

SOUTHLAND GREYHOUND ADOPTION

Phone: 027 511 8894
 Email: southlandgreyhoundadoption@gmail.com

FUREVER HOME

Email: info.fureverhomes@gmail.com
 Website: www.fureverhomes.org.nz

Pet Life is not associated with any group listed within. This list has been put together to assist our readers with finding suitable rescue and welfare groups within their area.

If you would like to see your rescue/welfare group listed here, email info@petlife.co.nz.

WIN!

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is the highly anticipated sequel to the 2016 comedic blockbuster.

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IN CINEMAS
JUNE 20

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03

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