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Ventura/Oxnard
Digital Edition



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JANUARY
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Did you know . . . ?

The Catahoula Cur is an American dog breed named after Catahoula Parish, in the state of Louisiana, in the United States. After becoming the state dog of Louisiana in 1979, its name was officially changed to Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog.

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Did you know

French poodles did not originate in France. Poodles were originally used as hunting dogs in Europe. The dogs' thick coats were a hindrance in water and thick brush, so the hunters sheared the hindquarters, with cuffs left around the ankles and hips to protect against rheumatism. Each hunter marked his dogs' heads with a ribbon of his own color, allowing groups of hunters to tell their dogs apart.

Barks & Meow's Express!

VEN/OXN - JAN 2026



NOT EVERYONE LOVES CATS

Difficult as it is to believe, not everyone loves cats. Genghis Kahn was a famous cat-hater and so were Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar. It may be that men with dreams to dominate the world can't get used to the idea that cats won't submit to them. The same streak of ailurophobia affected the personalities of Napoleon Bonaparte, Benito Mussolini, and Adolph Hitler. Ailurophobia is an intense and irrational fear of cats that can trigger physical and psychological symptoms.

FUN TRIVIA

*Known for its waterproof coat and ability to swim all day, the Portuguese Water Dog has gained popularity in the past decade, moving up the list from #55 to #49 in 2013.

*A cat's ear has 30 muscles that control the outer ear (by comparison, human ears only have six muscles). These muscles rotate 180 degrees, so the cat can hear in all directions without moving its head.

*The eyespots of a giant panda cub are initially in the shape of a circle. As the cub grows, the circles become shaped like a teardrop.

*Horses produce approximately 10 gallons of saliva a day.

*Besides smelling with their nose, cats can smell with an additional organ called the Jacobson's organ, located in the upper surface of the mouth.

*When Mary Queen of Scots was executed in 1587 her small Skye Terrier was found to have been hiding in the folds of her long gown. The little dog had to be taken away because he wouldn't leave his mistresses' body.

*The reason many dogs turn in circles comes from the days when they were wild. By turning they could get long grasses to lay flat.

*A dog can suffer from tonsillitis, but not appendicitis. They don't have an appendix.

*The first dog chapel was established in 2001. It was built in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, by Stephan Huneck, a children's book author whose five dogs helped him recuperate from a serious illness.

"The K9 Patrol"

The police department, famous for its superior canine (K-9) unit, was somewhat taken back by a recent incident.

Returning home from work a blonde was shocked to find her house ransacked and burgled. She telephoned the police at once and reported the crime.

The dispatcher broadcast the call on all the police channels and a K9 unit patrolling nearby was the first on the scene. As the K-9 officer approached the house with his dog on a leash the blonde ran out onto the porch, clapped a hand to her head and moaned, 'I come home from work to find all my possessions stolen, I call the police for help, and what do they do? They send a blind policeman!'

QUIZ

1. Ophidiophobia is the fear of what?
2. The Angora goat produces what coveted substance?
3. What animal was Thomas O'Malley in the Aristocats?
4. What rather large birds have been trained to tend & move sheep?
5. How long can a whale go without eating?
6. What do fish get from water as it passes through their gills?

Answers:

1. Snakes . 2. Mohair. 3. Cat.
4. Geese. 5. 3 months. 6. Oxygen.

PAW-SCOPES

DOGS:

Holidays over with, it's time to get back on track with normal walks and feeding times! This month your dog will demonstrate the occasional stubborn and strong-willed attitude, but it won't last long. They'll be back on your lap again with lots of hugs & kisses.

CATS:

Peace and quiet has returned and life as CAT knows it is back to relevant normalcy. If there's more than one cat in the family, the oldest feline will not be happy if not given the position as top cat and never forget to say hello when you get home or good bye when you leave.

Animal Kingdom Facts

*Octopuses die after giving birth. While human parents sacrifice much for their offspring, few routinely give up their lives. But such is the destiny of a female octopus: tending her eggs is the last thing she'll do.

*Snails have teeth, lots of them - around 14,000 to be precise. The teeth are set in a jaw called a radula.

*Hippos can't swim and instead they sink in water and run along the river bottom. However, as mammals, hippos have lungs just like we do, and therefore can't breathe underwater - they can only last about five minutes between breaths.

*The hairiest animal in the world is the sea otter, whose luxurious fur, according to a 2010 study, comprises a phenomenal 100- 160,000 hairs per square centimetre (an adult probably sports more than a billion hairs in total).

*The best sniffer of the animal kingdom is a mole - a weird mole. The freakish, tentacled snout of the star-nosed mole *Condylura cristata* may look funny - and earn it a place on our weirdest animals list - but it's nothing to laugh at. It could be the most skilled sniffer under the sun - even when underwater.

*There are animals that can live forever - well, sort-of. Immortal jellyfish, along with at least five other jellyfish species, dodge death by hitting rewind. Even after a dead medusa has collapsed into a pile of mush, its cells can grow into polyps. It's like a fragment of butterfly wing turning into a caterpillar. Immortal jellyfish can still die, from predation and disease, but their regenerating abilities make them tough and successful.

Bird Facts

*Birds don't pee. Birds are creatures of the air and therefore need to stay as light as possible. So, instead of excreting waste matter as both urine and faeces, birds (with the exception of the ostrich) ditch their waste in one go through an opening called the cloaca. They don't have bladders, nor urethral openings.

*The world's loudest bird, the male white bellbird, produces an ear-splitting sound that is something like the two-tone horn of a fast train approaching a station.

*It typically takes 20-60 minutes for birds to lay an egg, though there are exceptions says Mike Toms. Geese and turkeys take significantly longer, while many nest parasites are able to lay incredibly quickly. Cuckoos for example average just 10 seconds.

Did you know !

The oldest archaeological evidence of the domestication of the cat dates back 9,500 years. The bones of a cat were discovered in the Neolithic village of Shillourokambos on the island of Cyprus. The position of the cat in the ground was next to the bones of a human, whose similar state of preservation strongly suggests they were buried together. The discovery was made by French scientists, led by Professor Jean Guilaine of the CNRS Centre d'Anthropologie in Toulouse, France, and announced in the journal *Science* in April 2004.

L**V**
starts with a wet nose
and ends with a tail.

Did you know !

*Emerging 60 million years ago, the first horse was called *Eohippus* (The Dawn Horse) and was tiny, weighing only 12 pounds and standing just 14 inches high. In contrast to the modern one-toed horse, the *Eohippus* had four toes on its front feet and three on its hind feet.

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MORRIS

Back in the '60's, the most famous cat in America was a 14lb orange tabby charmer who was rescued from a Chicago animal shelter, by Bob Martwick, a professional animal trainer. Morris became spokes-cat for Purina's 9 Lives cat food in 1969, and eventually became honorary director of Star-Kist Foods, with veto power over any cat food flavor he didn't like. Up until the time he died in 1978, Morris lived with Bob in a Chicago dog kennel where there was never any question as to who was top cat!

Longest Dog Ears on a Living Dog

According to the Guinness World Records, the longest ears on a living dog are 68 cm (26.77 in), with both the left and right ears measuring 34 cm (13.38), and was achieved by Lou, a black and tan Coonhound and his owner Paige Olsen (both USA) in Milwaukie, Oregon, USA, as verified on 30 July 2020.

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Larsen's Grill	Oxnard	805-983-6600
Lazy Dog Restaurant	Oxnard	805-351-4888
Andria's Seafood & Restaurant	Ventura	805-654-0546
Boatyard Pub	Ventura	805-850-0202
Busy Bee Café	Ventura	805-643-4864
Café Ficelle	Ventura	805-941-3444
Crowne Plaza Hotel	Ventura	805-648-2100
Dukes Griddle n' Grill	Ventura	805-667-8411
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SOME GOOD NEWS

As of late 2025, the global giant panda population is around 2,700, with about 1,900 in the wild (mostly in China's new national park system) and over 800 in captivity, a significant increase from past decades due to intensive conservation efforts, habitat protection, and breeding programs, though threats like habitat loss still persists. China's captive population alone grew to 808 by November 2025, a near doubling in ten years, while the wild population is stable or growing thanks to improved management.

One Liners

- *Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything.
- *I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.
- *I put a dollar in a change machine. Nothing changed.
- *My wallet is like an onion. Opening it makes me cry.
- *You'll always stay young if you live honestly, eat slowly, sleep sufficiently, work industriously, worship faithfully and lie about your age.

Who knew !

*The biggest pig in recorded history was Big Boy of Black Mountain, North Carolina, who was weighed at 1,904 pounds in 1939.

*The color of the points in Siamese cats is heat related. Cool areas are darker. In fact, Siamese kittens are born white because of the heat inside the mother's uterus before birth. This heat keeps the kittens hair from darkening on the points.

*Goats and sheep don't have teeth on their upper jaw. They have a hard palate that helps them grind their food.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

As the editor & publisher of Petzgazette.com, I would like to thank everyone who follows us and for your wonderful and continued support year in and year out! You are very much appreciated by us!

THANK YOU!

Also, to our amazing and faithful Advertisers/Sponsors who help to make the Petzgazette possible, along with you our readers, for helping to support them too!

THANK YOU!

In 2026, we will be celebrating our 16th year of bringing you our fun and entertaining monthly publication - and considering all that has gone before us in recent years, that's quite an achievement!

I would also like to thank my wonderful and amazing team in helping to keep us going through thick and thin!

THANK YOU!

And so, a very Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

Eleanor Dixie
Editor/Publisher
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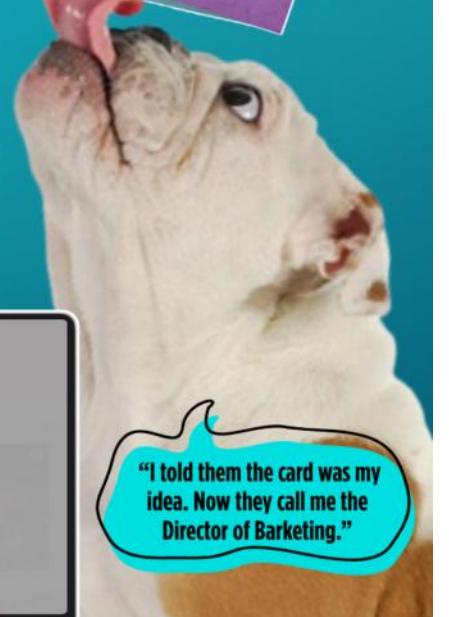
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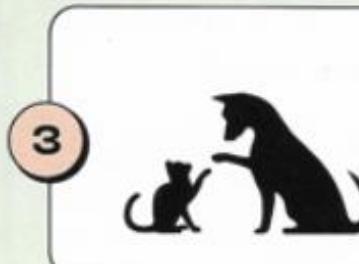
In California, some species begin nesting as early as January. Trim trees and shrubs between November and January. If you must trim outside that time, find a wildlife trained arborist at: www.treecareforbirds.com



2

Nests are protected by law.

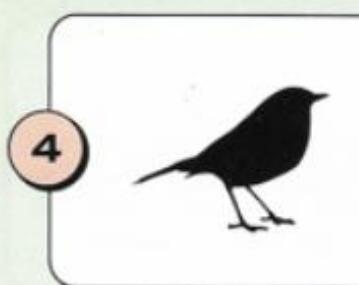
Both the federal Migratory Bird Act and state laws in California protect native birds, their eggs and their nests. If you believe nests are being harassed or removed, call state officials via the CalTIP line: (888) 334-2258



3

Keep away from nest sites.

Excessive presence of humans or pets around the nest may cause birds to abandon their eggs. You can also draw wild predators to the nest this way. Keep your distance and keep pets indoors or on leash around nests.



4

Not all babies need help.

Baby birds grow rapidly and their parents' care for them will change suddenly. A parent you haven't seen may be hanging around. A baby bird on the ground may just be learning to fly. When in doubt, ask a professional.



5

Know your nearest rehabilitator.

In the LA area you can call California Wildlife Center at (310) 458-9453 for help with wildlife. Most baby birds do not eat at night: if you find a baby bird overnight, place them in a warm, quiet place away from people and pets until the morning.

So you see a fallen baby...



Injuries

Are there obvious wounds, visible blood, or has the animal been touched by a dog or cat?

If the answer is yes, the animal needs help. Baby skin is very thin and does not easily show bite marks.

Feathers

Is the animal feathered/furred, or naked in some places? Are feathers/fur fluffy or smooth?

Keeping track of this information or, even better, taking a picture can help a rehabilitator direct you.

Mobility

Can the baby stand and hop?

Many baby birds go through a stage of life where they jump from the nest and spend time on the ground. If they can stand, move around, and cry they may be completely healthy and normal.

Nest

Can you see the nest?

Fallen baby birds can sometimes be returned to their nest. If you can see the nest and the baby is alert, take a picture then return the baby to the nest. Contact a rehabilitator for further assessment of the baby and monitor the nest from a distance.

Next Steps

What if the baby needs help?

If the baby cannot return to the nest, keep in a small cardboard box in a warm, quiet place away from people and pets. Do not feed as the wrong food at the wrong time can be deadly. In the LA area, you can call (310) 458-9453 for assistance from California Wildlife Center.

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Ungated. All dogs must be on a leash.
8.30am - 6pm/ closed Sat & Sun
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Where do Manx cats originate from?

The Manx cat is an ancient breed that originated on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. The Manx taillessness is caused by a mutation that probably originated among the island's native shorthair cat population and because it is a dominant gene, spread to the other cats on the island. No-one knows when they were first introduced to the Island, but the Vikings probably played a large part in increasing the island's feline population.



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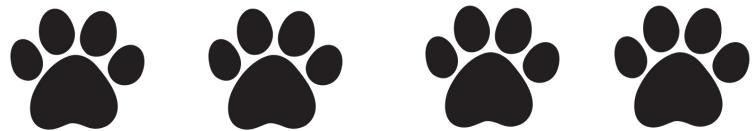
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Did you know...!

*Dog urine contains a variety of chemicals, including ammonia and salts, which can be highly corrosive to materials commonly used in streetlights and lampposts, such as metal and concrete.

ORIGINS OF THE WORD "DOG"

For many of us, dog is one of the most wonderful words in the English language! But – what does it mean, and where does it come from? After all, most words in the modern language are derivatives of much older words.

“Dog” is one of the terms that have unclear origins. For a long time during the 14th - 15th centuries, our canine friends were called simply “hounds”, while the word “dog” was used to refer to a specific type of hound, a large group including the mastiff. By the 16th century the word dog had become accepted as a generic term.

But where did it come from? Perhaps from the Old Germanic language, which has spawned so many modern English words? However, in Germany the general term for dog is “hund”, and “hound” is a cognate of this word.

Etymology shows the relationship between Old English hund, Old High German hund, Old Norse hund and Gothic hunds. Canis is a generic term meaning “dog” is Latin. The term “canine” comes from the adjective form, caninus (“of the dog”). In many other languages, the word for “dog” is based on the old root “kutt”, which was common in older Indo-European languages.

Today, the term “dog” means our furry four legged friends that are loveable, cute and more often treated as a member of our family.

So what's in a name by any other definition!

DID YOU KNOW . . . !



Cats are one of the few mammals that can drink sea water, as their super-efficient kidneys can filter out salt.



Dogs can actually feel a natural high when their ears are rubbed. The touch stimulates delicate nerve endings, flooding their body with endorphins. For a few seconds, the world slows down, and all they feel is calm, blissful contentment.



Wolves mourn their dead. When one falls, the pack gathers close, licking its fur and howling into the silence. Some refuse to leave for hours. It's a raw, haunting reminder that grief, loyalty, and love aren't just human but echo through the wild too.

DID YOU KNOW? Chickadees use the first "dee-dee-dee" call as a safety signal to alert other chickadees that your yard is a safe place to visit! When one brave chickadee discovers your setup and starts calling, it's like ringing a dinner bell that brings the whole neighborhood flock rushing over to join the feast.





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Did you know !

Animals can experience time differently from humans. To smaller animals, the world around them moves more slowly compared to humans. Salamanders and lizards, for example, experience time more slowly than cats and dogs. This is because the perception of time depends on how quickly the brain can process incoming information.

One Liners

Q: What breed of dog loves to take a bath?
A: A shampoodle.

Q: What kind of dog wears contact lenses?
A: A cock-eyed spaniel.

Q: Why are dogs like phones?
A: Because they have collar IDs!

Q: What do you get when you cross a sheepdog with a rose?
A: A collie-flower!

Q: Which dog breed absolutely LOVES living in the city?
A: A New Yorkie!

Q: What did the waiter say to the dog when he brought out her food?
A: Bone appetit!

Q: What's a dog's favorite dessert?
A: Pupcakes & pupsicles

Q: What kinds of stores do cat's love the most?
A: Re-tail stores!

Q: What's a dog's favorite kind of pizza?
A: Pepperoni pizza!

Q: What do you call it when a cat wins a dog show?
A: A CAT-tastrophe!

Q:What did the hungry Dalmatian say after his meal?
A: "That hit the spots!"

SAVE A LIFE!



ADOPT A PET!

*I gave you my house
When you were alone*

*When I walk thru the door
It now feels like a home*

*Tail wagging and waiting
Our bond quickly grew*

*Such unconditional love
Who rescued who?*

FUN FACTS

Butterflies taste with their feet as their taste sensors are located there. They can taste it by just standing on their food. They don't have mouths that allow them to bite or chew, instead they have a long straw-like structure called a proboscis which they use to drink nectar and juices.

*Each cat has its own fingerprint, which is like an identity card for them. These impressions are formed by unique lines and patterns on the pads of the front and hind legs. Even between siblings, no two prints are the same.

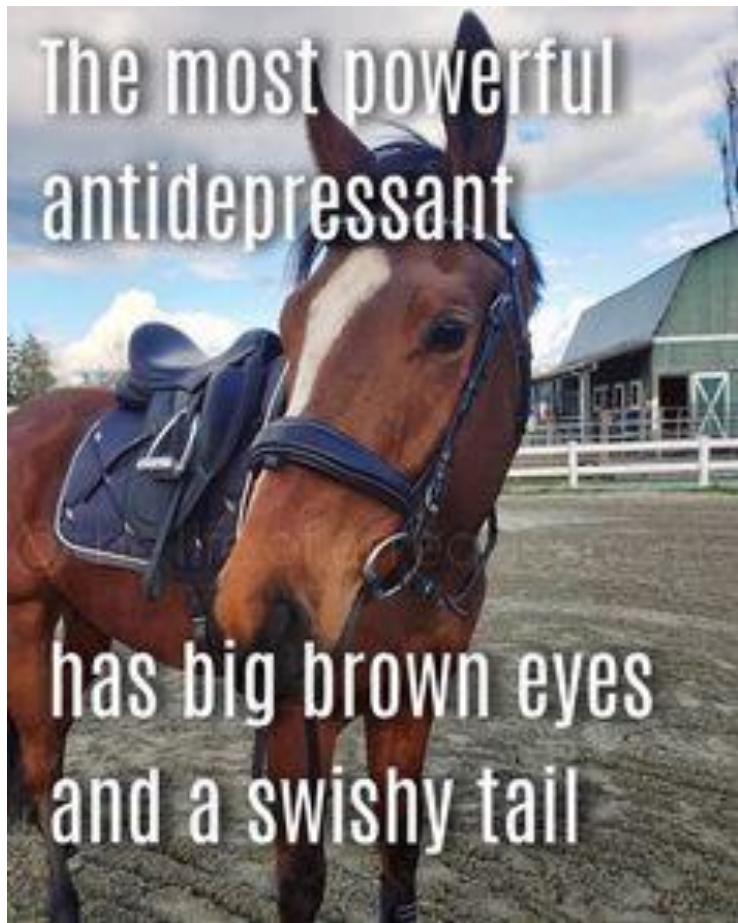
*Way back when, Burmese cats were reputed to have had their own servants. Once owned by Burmese aristocracy and priests, the Burmese cats were so highly valued that it was illegal to sell them.

Tortoises are part of the Testudinidae family and are among the oldest living animal groups on Earth, having been around for over 230 million years. Their ancestors were marine fish, and later evolved to live on land. Some of their ancestors eventually returned to the water and became sea turtles, while others returned to land and became tortoises.

Cockatiels are small cockatoos endemic to Australia. The ones sold in the United States and around the world are raised from captive breeding stock, as Australia stopped exporting these birds back in 1894. They are located in most of Australia, except for the island of Tasmania, and are rarely found in the coastal regions of the country.



HORSE TRIVIA



**The most powerful antidepressant
has big brown eyes
and a swishy tail**

HORSE JOKES

Q: Where do horses go when they're sick?

A: To the horse-pital!

Q: Why did the man name his horse Flattery?

A: Because it got him nowhere!

Q: What kind of horse walks around at midnight?

A: nightmare.

Q: How does a horse from Kentucky greet another horse?

A: With Southern Horspitality.

Q: What disease was the horse scared of getting?

A: Hay fever!

Q: What did the horse say when it fell?

A: "I've fallen and I can't giddy-up!"

HORSE FACTS

***Stabling and other forms of isolation** – Putting horses in stables might seem benign, and many horses will also voluntarily enter stables due to the association with it being where they are fed. But stabling prevents horses from engaging in most of their grazing and social behaviours. Horses rarely voluntarily isolate themselves from other horses, and prolonged social isolation can lead to behavioural problems such as separation distress, rug-chewing and stereotyped behaviours such as weaving and stall-walking.

***Horses can suffer from depression.** Some of the known reasons for horses to suffer from depression is isolation from conspecifics, lack of movement, boredom and excessive and violent training.

***Patting them** – Many horse people routinely pat their horses as a reward for a job well done. But horses have not evolved to find this rewarding. They don't pat each other – instead, they scratch or gently nibble each other as a form of bonding. A recent study showed patting increased horses' heart rates, whereas scratching lowered them and was associated with behavioural signs of relaxation and enjoyment.

***Horses graze up to 17 hours a day!** – horses are grazing animals and spend most of their time searching for food – due to their physiology they have to take in food constantly in small amounts, thus it is vital that horses are given ad libitum roughage (such as hay) or possibility to graze so that they do not develop any painful gastrointestinal dysfunction like gastritis or colics!

***Horses can consume approx. 5 l / 100 kg of body weight of water a day** – not only feed is important but also sufficient water intake. A 500 kg horse for example would drink around 25 l a day. This of course also depends on various factors like outside temperature, humidity, age and how the horse is worked.

***There are fewer bones in a horse than in humans.** It's only one bone less, but in total, there are 205 bones in the skeleton of a horse.

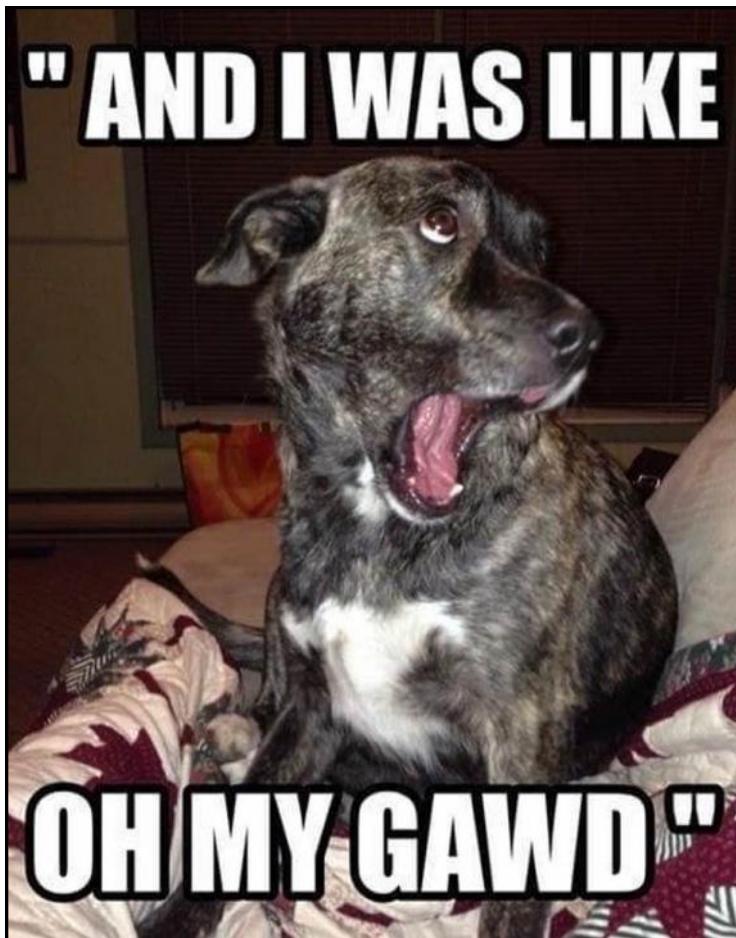
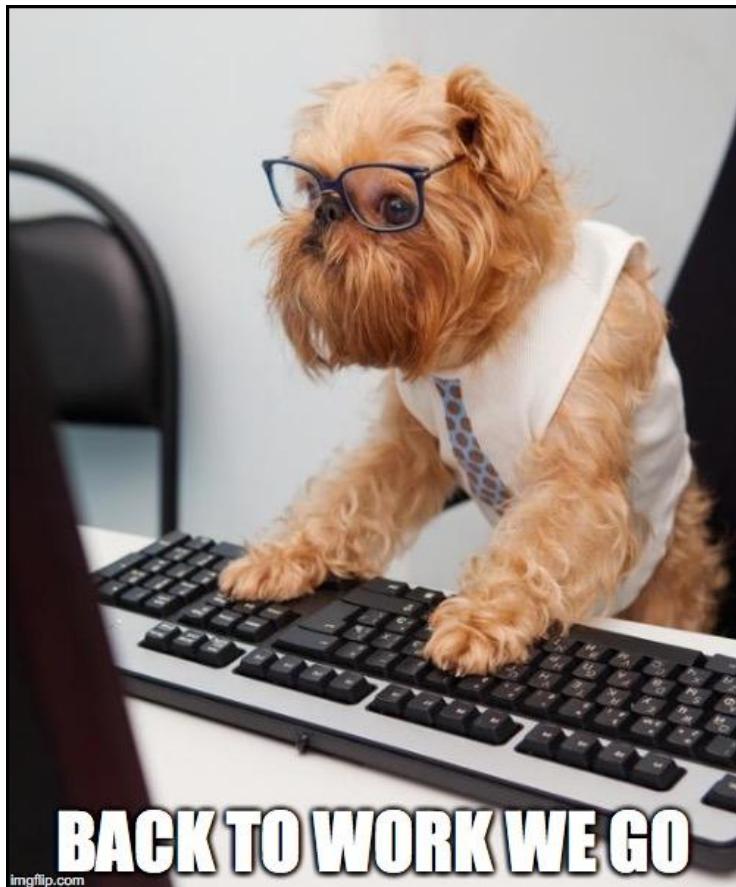


VENTURA CO. RESCUE GROUPS



Local Pet Rescues

Clickable Links	Phone #	Location
Agoura Animal Shelter	818-991-0071	Agoura Hills
All for Love Animal Rescue	805-445-3535	Call for Details
Animal Foundation of America	805-905-9951	Thousand Oaks
Animal Rescue Volunteers	805-579-8047	Simi Valley
Bubbles Dog Rescue		Los Angeles
C.A.R.L.	805-644-7387	Call for Details
Cassie's Cat Cafe	805-232-4228	Ventura
Cats at the Studios	818-341-8936	Call for Details
Cat's Cradle Rescue	805-485-8811	Ventura
DaisyLu Ranch		Camarillo
Dobies & Little Paws	805-524-5102	Fillmore
Dog Days Search & Rescue	805-551-9706	Simi Valley
Eastwood Ranch Rescue/Adoption Ctr	818-338-1551	Agoura Hills
Friends of Milo Foundation		Simi Valley/LA
Furry Funding	855-777-7007	Westlake Village
Healthcare for Homeless Anim.	818-483-4228	Ventura County
Herman Bennett Foundation	805-445-7171	Ventura County
Humane Society of Ven. Co	805-646-6505	Ojai
Karma Rescue	310-512-7833	Los Angeles
LIFE Rescue	818-707-2007	Westlake Village
Lucy Pet Foundation	805-499-5829	Thousand Oaks
Mad Love Animal Rescue	213-364-2353	Los Angeles
Military Animal Project	805-551-1168	Ventura County
Paw Works	805-852-1744	Ventura/Oxnard
Petcare Foundation	213-403-0129	Los Angeles
Pink Paws	805-492-1885	Thousand Oaks
Pivot Educational Outreach	805-889-4800	Ventura County
Purrmaid Café & Adoption Center	805-419-6116	Camarillo
Purrrlandia Cat Lounge & Cafe	818-230-2724	Thousand Oaks
Save A Rescue	888-440-6467	Nationwide
Shelter Hope Pet Shop	805-379-3538	Thousand Oaks
Serenity Place Rescue	818-999-4022	Call for Details
Simi Valley Missing Pets	805-522-7867	Simi Valley
SPARC	805-525-8609	Santa Paula
Surfcat Café & Adoptions	805-500-7125	Ventura
The Little Angels Project	818-515-5461	Agoura Hills
Valley Cats, Inc	818-883-5252	Westlake Village
Ventura Co. Animal Services	805-388-4341	Camarillo/SV



LOCAL PET STORES

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[Healthy Pet](#)
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[Pacific Coast Pets](#)
[Pet Food Express](#)
[Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

SIMI VALLEY/ MOORPARK

[Kahoots Feed & Pet](#)
[R&R Pet Lifestyle and Supply](#)
[Theresa's Country Feed & Pet](#)

CAMARILLO

[Healthy Pet](#)
[Petropolis](#)
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VENTURA/OXNARD

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[Sailor & Friends](#)
[The Wharf](#)
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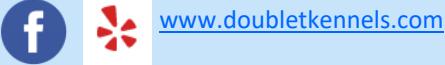
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Petzgazette's list of Pet Boarding/Day Care locations
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All of these facilities are compliant with the Coronavirus
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www.dioji.com



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FAMOUS CATS

Famous cat stories range from heroic wartime felines like **Simon the Able Seacat** and the fire-defying **Scarlett**, to literary icons such as **Puss in Boots**, the mischievous **Cat in the Hat**, and the enigmatic **Cheshire Cat**, plus maritime adventurer **Trim**, the first cat to circumnavigate Australia.

Real-Life Heroes & Adventurers

Simon the Able Seacat: A Royal Navy cat who bravely caught rats on HMS Amethyst during the Yangtze Incident and was posthumously awarded the Dickin Medal for bravery.

Scarlett the Cat: A mother cat in Brooklyn who rescued all her kittens from a fire, suffering severe burns in the process, inspiring books and an animal heroism award.

Unsinkable Sam: A cat who survived the sinking of three different British warships during WWII, earning a legendary reputation for survival.

Trim the Seafaring Cat: Captain Matthew Flinders' seafaring cat, famous for being the first cat to circumnavigate Australia, immortalized by his owner.

Beloved Literary & Fictional Felines

The Cat in the Hat: Dr. Seuss's iconic, mischievous character who brings chaos and fun to a rainy day.

Cheshire Cat: Lewis Carroll's grinning, enigmatic guide in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Puss in Boots: The clever, anthropomorphic cat from European fairy tales who uses wit to help his master gain fortune.

Bagheera: The wise black panther who protects Mowgli in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*.

Crookshanks: Hermione Granger's intelligent companion in the *Harry Potter* series. Hermione Granger's beloved cat, Crookshanks was notably half-Kneazle - and seemed to share Hermione's impressive intelligence. With his lion-like features, ginger coat and talent for spotting those who are less than trustworthy, Crookshanks was a useful companion to Hermione and her friends, although his obsession with Ron's pet rat Scabbers did cause friction for a while.

Macavity: The "Mystery Cat" from T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*.

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