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In a series of experiments carried out on two dozen dog breeds, from poodles to pit bulls, researchers found that when a dog watched its owner yawn, the dog was far more likely to yawn in response to its owner. This is called "contagious yawning."

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SV-MPK - JUNE 2026



Famous Cats in Literature

The **Cheshire Cat** from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is generally considered the most famous cat in literature. Other highly renowned literary cats include:

The Cat in the Hat (Dr. Seuss): A mischievous, iconic figure in children's literature.

Puss in Boots The clever, trickster protagonist of the fairy tale.

Behemoth (*The Master and Margarita*): A huge, vodka-drinking, chess-playing black cat.

Crookshanks (*Harry Potter*): Hermione Granger's intelligent, half-Kneazle pet.

Macavity (T.S. Eliot): The "hidden paw" criminal mastermind from *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*.

Bagheera (*The Jungle Book*): Mowgli's protective black panther companion.

Jeffrey (*Jubilate Agno*): Christopher Smart's cat, often cited in English literature studies.



FUN TRIVIA



*The tallest horse on record was a Shire named Samson. He was 21.2 hands (7 feet, 2 inches) tall. He was born in 1846 in Todington Mills, England.

*Cats cannot break a sweat because they have no sweat glands.

*A German Shepherd guide dog led her blind companion along the entire 2100 mile Appalachian Trail.

*All pet hamsters are descended from a single female wild golden hamster found with a litter of 12 young in Syria in 1930.

*If never spayed or neutered, a female dog, her mate, and their puppies could produce over 66,000 dogs in 6 years! (so let's spay & neuter).

*The National dog of the Czech Republic is the Cesky Terrier and there are approximately only 350 Cesky Terriers in the world - perhaps the rarest breed.

*An albatross can sleep while it flies. It apparently dozes while cruising at 25 mph.

*While the Chow Chow dogs are well known for their distinctive blue-black tongues, they're actually born with pink tongues. They turn blue-black at 8-10 weeks of age.

*Catnip can affect lions and tigers as well as house cats. It excites them because it contains a chemical that resembles an excretion of the dominant female's urine.

*The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was formed in 1866.

*The U.S has the highest dog population in the world. France has the 2nd highest.

Silly Jokes

A Good Excuse

A police officer attempts to stop a car for speeding and the guy gradually increases his speed until he's topping 100 mph. The man eventually realizes he can't escape and finally pulls over. The cop approaches the car and says, "It's been a long day and my shift is almost over, so if you can give me a good excuse for your behavior, I'll let you go." The guy thinks for a few seconds and then says, "My wife ran off with a cop about a week ago and I thought you might be that officer trying to give her back!" "Have a good day, Sir," replied the policeman!



QUIZ



1. Which country does the Shar Pei dog breed originate?
2. What animal can live up to 200 years old?
3. What is the world's most poisonous spider?
4. How long is the gestation period of a female dog?
5. What bird can fly higher than any other, up to 7 miles in the air?
6. At what age is a cat no longer considered a kitten?

Answers

1. China.
2. Tortoise.
3. Brazilian Wandering Spider.
4. Approx 60 days.
5. Vulture (Griffon).
6. One Year.

PAW-SCOPES

DOGS

As your dog gets older, it may find it difficult to be apart from loved ones. You can depend on them to be included in everything you do. Not an outdoor dog, unless that activity includes swimming. He or she would prefer nestling right on your lap or snuggled by your side instead.

CATS

Your cats love their toys and the corner toy box you provide for them, but the minute you try to change something, expect retaliation with some bad results. And don't even think of throwing that old beat up mouse away because they will be very disappointed when it suddenly disappears from the spot they call their own. Be warned!

Check out our on-line editions where there's even more fun content to enjoy!



www.petzgazette.com

One Liners!

- Q: What's the difference between a businessman and a hot dog?**
A: The businessman always wears a suit but the dog just pants.
- Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest?**
A: An investigator.
- Q: How fast can a duck go?**
A. At a quacking pace.
- Q. What did the farmer call the cow with no milk?**
A. An udder failure
- Q: Did you hear about the dog that was floating in the ocean?**
A: He was a good bouy.
- Q: What do you call a pig whose lost his voice?**
A: Disgruntled.
- Q: Why did the cat sit on the computer?**
A: To keep an eye on the mouse.

DOG TRIVIA

The Barkless Wonder: Basenji dogs don't bark, but they can yodel or make a "barroo" noise when excited.

Magnetic Poopers: A study found that dogs prefer to poop aligned with the North-South magnetic axis.

Super Sniffers: A dog's sense of smell is roughly 100,000 times more sensitive than a human's.

Smartest Learner: A Border Collie named Chaser is known for having the largest vocabulary of any dog, recognizing over 1,000 words.

Presidential Pets: George Washington had a foxhound named "Sweetlips" and a dalmatian named "Madame Moose".

Hairless Dog: A Xoloitzcuintli (also known as a Xolo) is a hairless, medium-sized dog from Mexico. This breed need lots of shade. Vets recommend that hairless dogs need specialized dog sunscreen if they want to go outside.

Abraham Lincoln's cats

Tabby and Dixie were the first famous cats to grace the White House residence. It is said that the 16th president fed his beloved Tabby with a gold fork at White House dinners, and claimed his other cat Dixie was smarter than his whole cabinet. First Lady Mary Todd reportedly said cats were her husband's only hobby.



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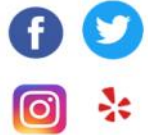
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Did you know.....

Mockingbirds are a group of New World passerine birds from the Mimidae family. They are best known for the habit of some species mimicking the songs of other birds and the sounds of insects and amphibians, often loudly and in rapid succession.

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Where in the World

LOS ANGELES ZOO

Griffith Park Zoo was a city-owned zoo in Los Angeles, California that opened in 1912 and closed in 1966 with the opening of the Los Angeles Zoo. The abandoned site of the Griffith Park Zoo, complete with the ruins of animal enclosures, is now a picnic area and hiking trail in Griffith Park.

The first zoo in Los Angeles was the Eastlake Zoo in East Los Angeles, which opened in 1885. The Griffith Park Zoo opened in 1912 with a grand total of 15 animals. The new zoo was built on the site of Griffith J. Griffith's defunct ostrich farm. In the mid 1920s, film producer William Nicholas Selig donated many of the animals from his studios, which he had attempted to convert into an animal theme park, to the new zoo.

It was expanded in the 1930s by work crews from the Works Progress Administration. Most of the enclosures were built in the caves-with-iron-bars style which was then standard for zoos.

As Los Angeles grew, the small Griffith Park Zoo was increasingly criticized as an "inadequate, ugly, poorly designed and under-financed collection of beat-up cages", despite drawing more than 2 million visitors a year. In 1958 the city passed an \$8 million bond measure to create a brand new zoo. Griffith Park Zoo closed in August 1966 and its animals were transferred to the new Los Angeles Zoo two miles away, which opened in November 1966.

The Los Angeles Zoo was also the first to breed the tarrctic hornbill. Comprising a main zoo and a children's zoo, it occupies 46 hectares (113 acres) of Griffith Park, a large city-owned park. The main zoo has about 2,000 specimens of 500 species, which are grouped according to the continents to which they are native. Today, LA Zoo is a magical place to visit with all that it offers.

Egyptian Remains

The oldest known pet cemetery was discovered by a team of Polish archaeologists on the outskirts of Berenike in 2011, a ruined ancient seaport on the Egyptian Red Sea Coast. The cemetery, thought to date from the 1st or 2nd century CE, contained the remains of 536 cats, 32 dogs and some other animals including several small monkeys and a juvenile baboon. There were no contemporaneous human burials on the site, and the animals showed signs of human care and affection both in how they lived and how they were buried.



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HELPING NATURE WHERE WE CAN

Here's a little tip we found on Facebook recently which we can all do our bit to help these amazing little, but vitally important creatures in our environment.



Plant a Bee-Friendly Garden

- **Prioritize Native Plants:** Use plants native to your region as they provide the best nectar and pollen.
- **Choose Varied Colors/Shapes:** Bees are attracted to purple, yellow, blue, and white, especially in clustered, varied shapes.
- **Succession Planting:** Ensure blooms last from early spring through late fall to provide continuous food sources.

Plant in Clumps: Group plants of the same type together in patches (1 square meter or larger) to make it easier for bees to find them.

You put out water for the bees - You might be drowning them instead !

Most people do it with good intentions. A bowl of water in the garden on a hot day sounds like the right thing to do. But a smooth plastic or ceramic bowl with no landing surface is basically a trap. Bees can't swim, and once their wings are wet, that's it.

It's worth remembering that about one third of everything we eat exists because a bee showed up at the right flower at the right time. Apples, almonds, strawberries, cucumbers. Beyond food, bees hold entire ecosystems together by pollinating the wild plants that feed birds and other animals. Losing them doesn't just mean no honey. It means losing a quiet but essential support system for a lot of what keeps nature functioning.

The fix is simple. Take a shallow dish, fill it with river pebbles or flat stones so they sit above the waterline, then add just enough water to reach below the tops of the stones. Refresh it every couple of days and keep it somewhere shaded. Bees land on the stones, drink safely, and go back to doing what they do best. Five minutes of effort, and you actually help instead of harm.

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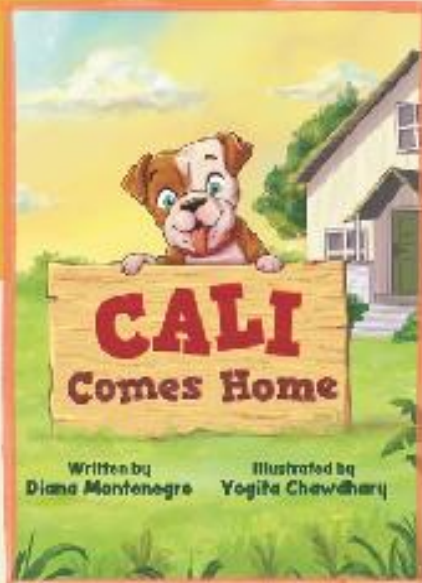
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- 🐾 The joy of pet adoption
- 🐾 The special bond between humans and their soul dogs
- 🐾 Kindness, compassion, and the importance of dog rescue



First-time author and educator Diana Montenegro spent years helping students find their voice and love of reading. But her most meaningful story began with a dog named Cali. Cali was more than a pet; she was Diana's "soul dog." Their bond was immediate, deep, and life-changing. Tragically, Cali passed away before her third birthday, and in the midst of that heartbreak, Diana began The Soul Dog Series, writing *Cali Comes Home* as the first book in the series to honor and continue Cali's legacy.

She **donates a portion of the proceeds** from her books to animal rescue organizations—the same kind of organizations that gave Cali and her mother a chance at life. Through her writing, she hopes not only to inspire children to read but also to teach them the importance of adoption, empathy, and giving back. Her goal is to spark joy, build literacy, and help others discover their own "soul dog" while keeping Cali's memory alive.

Now joined by her dog Chloe, who is also featured in the book, Diana visits schools, bookstores, and community events, creating meaningful, interactive experiences where children can connect stories to real-life relationships with animals. Please follow along on Instagram to see the series grow.



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Fun Facts for the month of June

June is a month of high summer, featuring the longest day of the year (summer solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest in the Southern Hemisphere. Named after the Roman goddess Juno, it is a popular month for weddings, honors roses and honeysuckle as birth flowers, and boasts three birthstones: pearl, alexandrite, and moonstone.

NATURE & ASTRONOMY

- **Summer Solstice:** Occurring around June 20-22, this is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- **Full Strawberry Moon:** June's full moon is traditionally called the Strawberry Moon, signaling the time to gather ripening fruit.
- **Firefly Season:** In the Great Smoky Mountains, rare synchronous fireflies light up the nights in late May to mid-June.

Birth Flowers: June is represented by the Rose (love/passion) and Honeysuckle (bonds of love).

HISTORY & HOLIDAYS

- **Name Origin:** June is named after **Juno**, the Roman goddess of marriage and child-birth.
- **Juneteenth:** Celebrated on June 19th, this federal holiday commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, dating back to 1865.
- **Flag Day:** The United States celebrates Flag Day on June 14th to honor the adoption of the flag in 1777.

International Events: Wimbledon, the famous tennis tournament, traditionally takes place in June.

FUN TRIVIA

- **Three Birthstones:** June is unique, with three distinct birthstones: Pearl, Alexandrite, and Moonstone.
- **Famous June Birthdays:** Notable figures born in June include Marilyn Monroe, Anne Frank, Prince, and George Orwell.
- **Zodiac Signs:** June babies are either Gemini (until June 20) or Cancer (June 21 onwards).
- **Long Days:** In Juneau, Alaska, the solstice brings over 18 hours of daylight.
- **Name Origin Part 2:** It is believed by some that June is named after the Latin word *iuniores* ("younger ones"), as opposed to May (*maiores*, "elders").

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CELEBRITIES & THEIR PETS

Taylor Swift
with two of
her many cats!



Chris Evans
with
Dodger



Demi Moore
with Pilaf.



Rosé and her
adorable
Hank.



Russell Wilson
& Ciara with
Bronco.



Dwayne Johnson
with
Brutus & Hobbes





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FOUND KITTENS OUTSIDE?

 **WAIT 24 HOURS!**

Don't pick them up immediately! Give their mother time to return.



- **Mom cat is usually nearby.**

She might be out getting food or hiding from people, and if you are near, she might NOT return.

- **Acting too quickly separates kittens from their mom.** They need her milk and care. Kittens are most likely to survive if left alone until their mom returns.

- **Kittens taken too soon will need round-the-clock care.** Caring for newborn kittens is intensive. Shelters often have trouble finding immediate der or fosters.

- **Mom taking care of her kittens is the best thing:** Cats are excellent mothers. Mom will return within a few hours to take care of them if they are truly alone.

- **Mom will teach the kittens important social and survival skills.** Plus, she will protect them and keep them fed, warm, and safe.



WHAT TO DO INSTEAD:

- Watch from a distance and wait.
- **Keep the area safe** and keep others away.
- Check back after **24 hours** to see if mom has returned.

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Owner, Founder, Veterinarian (DVM)

Hi, I'm Michael A. Duff, owner of Pets First Veterinary Hospital. I started this hospital to give pets high-quality urgent & emergency care without the stress of excessive pricing—because doing right by pets & their people should always come first.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

Welcome to Pets First Veterinary Hospital, your locally owned and operated urgent care facility dedicated to providing accessible and affordable high-quality medicine for pets. We specialize in addressing urgent and emergent needs with a collaborative approach partnering with veterinary specialists including internists, criticalists, cardiologists, and surgeons.

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June 22-26, 2026



Friday, June 26, 2026



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field!



A pet owner's guide to help answer some questions, dispel common misconceptions, and pull back the curtain on what happens "in the back" at veterinary hospitals.



Want updates?

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Questions? E-mail me at:
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Watch Out For **FOXTAILS!**

These tall, spiky grasses thrive all over the US in fields and along trails roadsides in warm weather.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

Spiky seeds that burrow into skin easily



EARS

EYES

NOSE & MOUTH

ABDOMEN

CHECK YOUR DOG AFTER OUTSIDE TIME IN THESE AREAS:

TOES

If you find a foxtail on your pet or notice them limping, licking one area excessively or sneezing, coughing or gagging, seek urgent care ASAP.



The **Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage** closed its front entrance after a **hummingbird** built a **nest** directly on the **door handle**, redirecting guests to an **alternate** entry.

IN APRIL
2026



A hummingbird built her nest on a door handle at The Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage. Not on a branch, not on a ledge — on the spa entrance handle of a luxury hotel, one of the busiest spots on the property.

Staff blocked off the door and redirected guests to another entrance.

A simple sign asked people to give the bird space. No drama, no announcement. Just a quiet decision to work around something small.

For a place built on precision and seamless service, where every detail is planned and every inconvenience is typically resolved immediately, choosing to let this one stay says something.

There's a legal dimension too. In the United States, disturbing an active hummingbird nest can violate federal wildlife protection laws. So the decision wasn't purely sentimental. But legal obligation and genuine care aren't mutually exclusive. Both were present here. Apparently the hummingbird laid her eggs successfully. All have now flown the nest.

FUN FACTS

Beavers are large semi-aquatic rodents. They are around 70-100cm long with a tail of 30-40cm. They have stocky bodies, short legs with webbed toes and flat hairless tails. Their coat is thick and brown with a short, waterproof under coat. Eurasian beavers weigh between 18-30kg. Beavers feed entirely on plants, including tree bark and other vegetation on land and in the water. They stash away food in the autumn to see them through the winter.

Snails have a crazy sleep schedule. They are all over the map when it comes to sleep. We'll define them as manic. They may nap for several hours, then stay awake for sessions of 30 hours or more.

On the flip side, they have crazy hibernation periods. They can snooze for periods of up to three years, a survival instinct for when they feel the need to self-preserve.

Cows Have Best Friends: Cows form deep, emotional bonds with specific members of their herd. They graze together and actually experience stress and anxiety when they are separated from their "BFFs".

Butterflies Taste With Their Feet: Butterflies have taste sensors on the bottom of their feet so that when they land on a plant, they can immediately tell if it is safe to eat or a good place to lay eggs.



Nonprofit Loans for Pet Care with 0% Interest and \$0 Fees

JFLA is a local nonprofit that provides personal loans with **zero interest and zero fees** for a wide variety of purposes, now including pet care! Our four-legged fund offers loans up to **\$5,000** to help cover the cost of:

- Routine care such as checkups, vaccinations, and dental cleanings
- Preventative treatments including flea, tick, and heartworm medication
- Unexpected emergencies like injuries, illnesses, hospitalization, or surgery
- Loans from the Four-Legged Fund may not be used for cat declawing or dog de-barking procedures.

To be eligible for a loan with JFLA, applicants must live in LA, Ventura, or Santa Barbara county, be 18 years or older, submit all required supporting documentation, and have at least 1 guarantor to sign on to the loan. **Please see JFLA.org for more information.**



Go to jfla.org or email:
contact@jfla.org.

Spring Pet Safety



Plants

Lilies and other seasonal plants can be toxic to pets. Be mindful when choosing your garden or house plants.



Identification

Collar ID tags should be worn at during outdoor time. Make sure microchip information is up to date.



Cleaning Products

Cleaning products are potential poison threats to pets. Keep cleaners out of reach and secured at all times.



Wash & Disinfect

Clothing, toys, and hands should be cleaned if you think you or your pet have been exposed to a contaminant or show signs of allergies or illness.



Preventatives

Talk to your veterinarian about parasite protection and prevention against fleas, ticks and mosquitoes.



Grooming

Keeping your pet clean and groomed prevents skin irritations from allergies, fleas and ticks. It also keeps their temperature regulated.



HORSE TRIVIA



HORSE QUIZ

The horse has served man well in various roles -- in war, hunting and sport. They also figure prominently in mythology and literature.

Take this quiz and learn more about these magnificent creatures.

Q: What is a centaur?

A: In Greek mythology the centaur was a creature with the upper torso of a man and the body and legs of a horse.

Q: What is the best known horse in literature?

A: Black Beauty by Anna Sewell.

Q: What is a species of Wild Horse?

A: Nicolai Przewalski found the only species of wild horse in Central Asia in 1881 and so it was named Przewalski's horse. The Mustang of Wild West fame is descended from domesticated horses that escaped.

Q: What was Pegasus?

A: Pegasus is one of the best known creatures in Greek mythology. He is a winged divine stallion usually depicted as pure white in color. He was sired by Poseidon, in his role as horse-god, and foaled by the Gorgon Medusa.

Q: To what use is horse hair put?

A: The hair from the mane and tail is or was used for stuffing furniture.

Horse Trivia

Pie, The Hollywood Horse

One of James Stewart's favorite stories of his film career concerned his horse, Pie, a sorrel stallion whom Stewart called, "One of the best co-stars I ever had." Pie appeared as Stewart's horse in 17 Westerns, and the actor developed a strong personal bond with the horse. Pie was very intelligent, Stewart recalled, and would often "act for the cameras when they were rolling. He was a ham of a horse." When shooting the climax of "The Far Country," the script called for Stewart's horse to walk down a dark street alone, with no rider in the saddle, to fool the bad guys who were waiting to ambush Stewart. Assistant Director John Sherwood asked Stewart if Pie would be able to do the scene. Stewart replied, "I'll talk to him." Just before the cameras rolled, Stewart took Pie aside and whispered to the horse for several minutes, giving him instructions for the scene. When Stewart let the horse go, Pie walked perfectly down the middle of the street, to his trainer who was waiting with a sugar cube just out of camera range. He did the scene in one take. When Pie died in 1970, Stewart arranged to have the horse buried at his California ranch.

Did you know . . . !

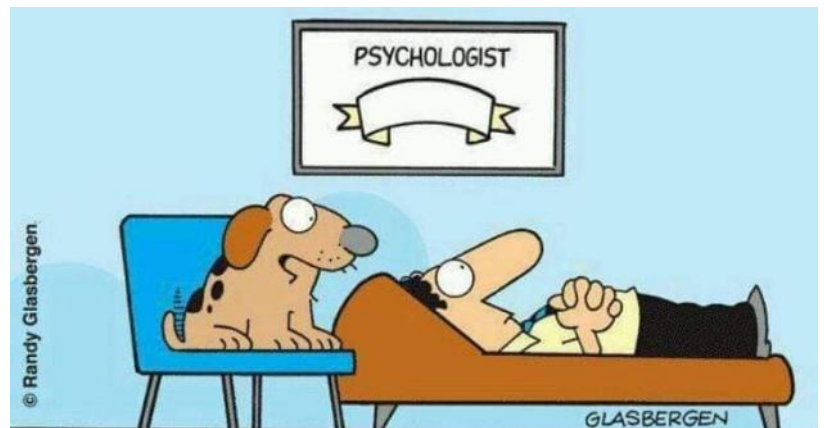
There are many crazy horse laws, including one in Bluff, Utah, where an unmarried woman could be jailed for riding a horse on Sundays. And in several cities throughout the United States, newly married men were not allowed to ride alone, unless he had been married longer than 12 months.



FUNNY MEMES



Behind every strong independent woman are her dogs following her to the bathroom.



"My therapy is quite simple: I wag my tail and lick your face until you feel good about yourself again."



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
Purrlandia 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
Surfcats Café & Adoptions	805-500-7125	Ventura
The Little Angels Project	818-515-5461	Agoura Hills
Valley Cats, Inc	818-883-5252	Westlake Village
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OSCAR - THE BIONIC CAT

(12 July 2007 – 20 July 2025)

Science meets determination to create miracles. Oscar stands as a pioneer of state-of-the-art prosthetics among prominent cats that changed veterinary medicine forever. He became the first feline in history to receive two bionic leg implants.



Oscar's Remarkable Story

A peaceful nap in a Jersey maize field turned tragic in October 2009. A combine harvester severed both of Oscar's hind paws. Veterinarian Peter Haworth stabilized the injured cat within minutes of the accident and set in motion a chain of events that would revolutionize veterinary medicine.

Oscar's Technological Breakthrough

The groundbreaking operation used intraosseous transcutaneous amputation prosthetics (ITAPs), developed by Professor Gordon Blunn and Dr. Catherine Pendegrass. The procedure achieved several remarkable milestones:

- First animal with two bionic leg implants
- First successful implants into moving joints

Recovery to full mobility in under four months

Oscar's Inspiration

The £2,000 procedure proved more than just a medical miracle and opened new possibilities for human prosthetics. Human patients now test the ITAP technology used in Oscar's surgery, including a survivor of the 2005 London bombings. His success story extended beyond the original surgery with a successful prosthesis upgrade in 2013 after one of his original implants needed replacement. Oscar's trip showed that extraordinary medical breakthroughs can emerge from the most challenging setbacks. Oscar died at the grand old age of 18!

Read this amazing full story: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_\(bionic_cat\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_(bionic_cat))

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