

PetZ Gazette.com

JULY 2026



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PetZ Gazette.com

Conejo Valley
Edition



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Did you know ...!

The oldest evidence of the dog collar comes from rock art panels in the Shuwaymis region of modern-day Saudi Arabia, dated to 8,000 years ago. The question of where the dog collar was invented is still debated, but it most likely originated in ancient Mesopotamia, probably in Sumer.

Did you know !

Mark Twain loved dogs for their loyalty and viewed them as morally superior to humans. He famously quipped, "The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog," and once wrote in a letter, "The dog is a gentleman; I hope to go to his heaven, not man's."

Twain often used dogs to highlight human flaws, noting they are more grateful than people and deserving of heaven over men.



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CV - JULY 2026

Wall Street's Charging Bull

The Charging Bull bronze sculpture was created by Sicilian artist Arturo Di Modica. On December 14, 1989 Di Modica arrived on Wall Street with Charging Bull on the back of a truck and illegally dropped the sculpture outside of the New York Stock Exchange. The sculpture was conceived in the wake of the 1987 Black Monday stock market crash. Having arrived penniless in the USA in 1970, Di Modica felt indebted to America for welcoming him and enabling his career as a successful sculptor. Charging Bull was his gift back to America and intended to inspire each person who came into contact with it to carry on fighting through the hard times after the market crash for a brighter future.

FUN TRIVIA

*When Lord Byron began his studies at Trinity College in 1805, he was told he couldn't bring his dog, so Byron retaliated by bringing a bear instead!

*'Seizure Alert' dogs can alert their guardians up to an hour before the onset of an epileptic seizure.

*Hamsters were named from the German word "Hamstern" which means to hoard. This is because they store food in their cheeks and then hide it in their burrow for a rainy day.

*China has more donkeys than any other country in the world.

*The first house rats recorded in America appeared in Boston in 1775. Though the exact date is anecdotal, 1775 is the accepted year of their first reliably recorded appearance in the American colonies, which quickly spread to bustling, industrial ports like Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.

*A chimpanzee can learn to recognize itself in a mirror, but monkeys can't.

*Kublai Khan kept a kennel of 5,000 Mastiffs used for hunting and as dogs of war, thus making him an historical figure who owned the most dogs.

*There is no single cat called the panther. The name is commonly applied to the leopard, but it is also used to refer to the puma and the jaguar. A black panther is really a black leopard.

*A dog's brain releases oxytocin, the love hormone when he interacts with humans and other dogs.

FUN JOKES

Mixed Breed Dogs

In a dog park in a very chic Manhattan neighborhood, three dogs get together to chat, and the subject of what breed they are comes up.

The first dog says, "well, my mother was a cocker spaniel and my father was a poodle, so I'm a Cockapoo. We're very trendy."

The second dog puts his nose in the air and says, "Well, that's nice. Personally, my father was a purebred pug and my mother was an award-winning beagle, making me a Puggle. We're the latest thing in L.A."

The third dog looks very uncomfortable and starts trying to change the subject. "Come on, just tell us," the other dogs keep saying. Finally, he gives in.

"Well, my father was a Bull Terrier and my mother was a Shi Tzu..."

QUIZ

1. What is the technical medical term for a hairball?
2. What historical figure owned the most dogs?
3. What style of swimming stroke is named after an insect?
4. Which mammal will not drink from running water?
5. What is the name of the cartoon cat who loves lasagna?
6. What is the name of the movie with cat villains called Si and Am?

Answers

1. A Trichobezoar.
2. Kublai Khan.
3. Butterfly Stroke.
4. Sheep.
5. Garfield.
6. Lady & The Tramp.

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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.

PAW-SCOPES

DOGS

Beautiful without lifting a paw, they make quite a display sprawled across your couch! But when awake you can't get them out of the kitchen. If they could help you cook they would. For now, they can assist with any of the tasting duties required for a meal. Remember to keep "feel good" toys or pieces of your clothing handy when leaving the home.

CATS

Your cat is a chatterbox and is popular with other animals. He or she will talk to the family dog as well as another feline, but is easily bored so keep another animal in the household just to accompany it - hopefully one young enough to enjoy its youthful antics.

4TH OF JULY FUNNIES

Q: Why did Paul Revere ride his horse from Boston to Lexington?

A: Because the horse was too heavy to carry.

Q: What do you call a duck that likes to celebrate 4th July?

A: Fire quacker.

Q: What do you get when you cross a dinosaur and fireworks?

A: Dino-mite.

Q: What protest by a group of dogs occurred in 1772?

A: The Boston Flea Party.

Q: What's the difference between a duck and George Washington?

A: One has a bill on his face, and the other has his face on a bill.

Did you know.....,

The average American pet owner spends between \$1,000 and \$4,200 annually per pet for routine care, food, and basic veterinary visits, with total lifetime costs often reaching between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Overall, Americans spent a record-breaking \$158 billion on pets, with Gen Z owners leading the spending.

JULY 4TH TRIVIA

*The Liberty Bell: Each Independence Day, descendants of the Declaration signers tap the Liberty Bell exactly 13 times at 2:00 PM (EDT) to honor the original 13 states.

*Only two men actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776: Continental Congress Secretary Charles Thomson and John Hancock, who famously wrote his name large enough for the King to read. The other 54 delegates signed it later, mostly on August 2, 1776.

*The Declaration of Independence was stored during World War II at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

*Three U.S. presidents died on the Fourth of July. Remarkably, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both passed away on July 4, 1826—exactly 50 years to the day after the Declaration was adopted.

*Over time, there have been 27 different official versions of the flag. The last addition was Hawaii's star after it was added in 1959.

Did you know . . . !

The Dobermann or Dobermann Pinscher was originated in Germany around 1890 by Louis Dobermann, a tax collector who needed a guard dog for protection. Hoping to develop a breed of dog with maximum strength, loyalty, intelligence, and fierceness, Dobermann is believed to have mixed a number of breeds including the German Shepherd, the Great Dane, the Greyhound, the Pinscher, and the Rottweiler. Today, Dobermanns are commonly used as guard dogs and police dogs.

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Whale protects scientist from shark

Marine biologist Nan Hauser experienced this phenomenon in 2017 off Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. While she was in the water, a massive humpback whale unexpectedly nuzzled her, tucked her under its pectoral fin, and lifted her out of the water, shielding her from a 15-foot tiger shark.

The Incredible Encounter

In September 2017, whale researcher Nan Hauser was filming underwater when a large humpback whale suddenly approached her and pushed her through the water. For over 10 minutes, the whale nudged her, lifted her on its flipper, and kept her tucked beneath its pectoral fin - a protective behavior these whales typically use to shield their calves. Unbeknownst to Hauser at first, a massive 15-foot tiger shark was swimming nearby. She later realized the whale had been actively shielding her from the shark and guiding her back to the safety of her boat.

The Scientific Perspective

While this event is a remarkable example of inter-species altruism, it sparked some scientific debate. Some researchers suggest that whales may be inherently programmed to protect other species, while others note it's difficult to know a whale's exact motivation without more data. Regardless of the specific scientific reasons, Hauser believes the whale intentionally saved her life and has since become a vocal advocate for the intelligence and empathy of these massive marine mammals.

**CV - Local Pet-Friendly Outdoor Restaurants,
 Café's, Deli's & Coffee Shops**

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East Coast Bagels	Wlk Vlg	805-494-9099
Finney's Crafthouse	Wlk Vlg	805-230-9950
Naughty Pine Brewing Co	Wlk Vlg	805-906-2140
Tifa Chocolate & Gelato	Wlk Vlg	805-796-1893
Crown & Anchor	Wlk Vlg	805-497-0070
Little Calf Creamery & Café	T.O/WLV	805-497-2000
Thousand Oaks Fish & Chips	T.O.	805-495-1614
Café Ficelle	T.O.	805-908-0200
The Tippy Goat	T.O.	805-494-9996
Valentino's Pizza & Deli	T.O.	805-380-4969
Toppers Pizza Place	T.O.	805-495-4444
Breakfast Café	Oak Park	818-865-8807
Agoura's Famous Deli	Agoura Hills	818-889-9113
The Latigo Kid	Agoura Hills	818-889-1195
Tifa Chocolate & Gelato	Agoura Hills	818-879-0685
Caffe Aroma	Newbury Park	805-375-7150
Country Harvest Restaurant	Newbury Park	805-375-4598
Saffron Indian Restaurant	Newbury Park	805-499-7115
Side Street Café	Newbury Park	805-499-9323
Pickles Deli	Newbury Park	805-480-4800
The Sandwich Spot	Newbury Park	805-375-3400

List Your Pet-Friendly Establishment Here for FREE!

The old expression "**blind as a bat**" means having very poor eyesight, being completely unable to see, or failing to notice things happening right in front of you. The origin of the phrase is based on the old misconception that bats cannot see because they fly erratically and rely on echolocation to hunt in the dark. However, scientific consensus confirms that bats are not actually blind. They possess functional eyes, and many species have excellent night vision that is superior to human eyesight in low-light conditions.

What to Do in an Emergency

If you see an animal in distress inside a hot vehicle, take action immediately:

Note the Details: Write down the vehicle's make, model, color, and license plate number.

Find the Owner: If you are near a store, ask management to page the license plate over the intercom.

Call for Help: Immediately call local law enforcement (such as the Ventura County Sheriff's Dept) or animal control. In California, trained emergency responders can legally remove an animal from a vehicle to protect its health and safety.

WARNING



**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR
 DOG IN THE CAR**

**TEMPERATURES RISE FAST
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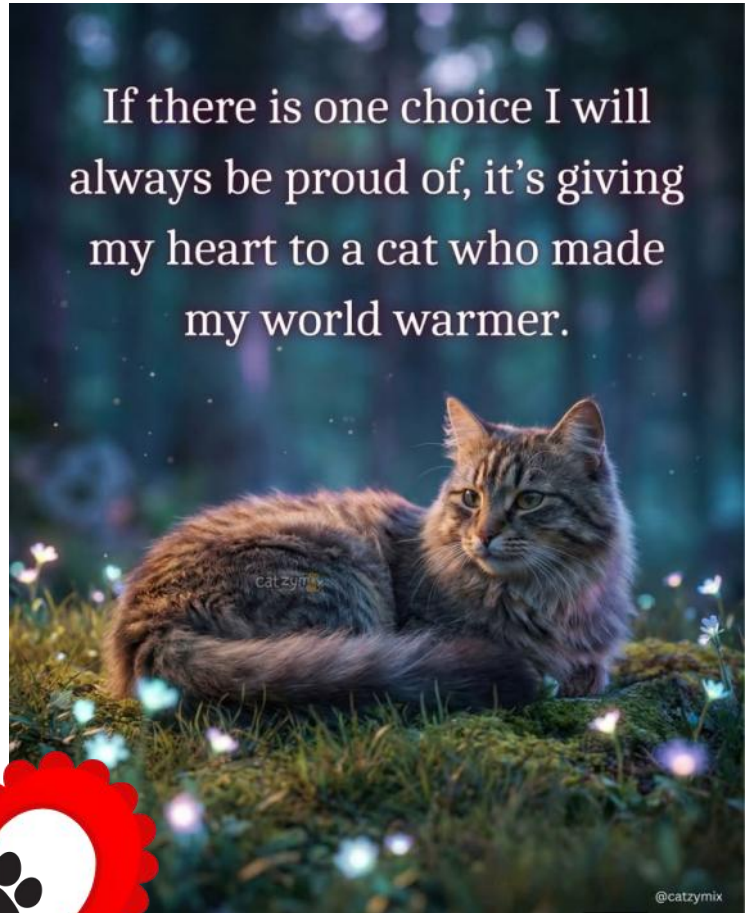
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If there is one choice I will
always be proud of, it's giving
my heart to a cat who made
my world warmer.

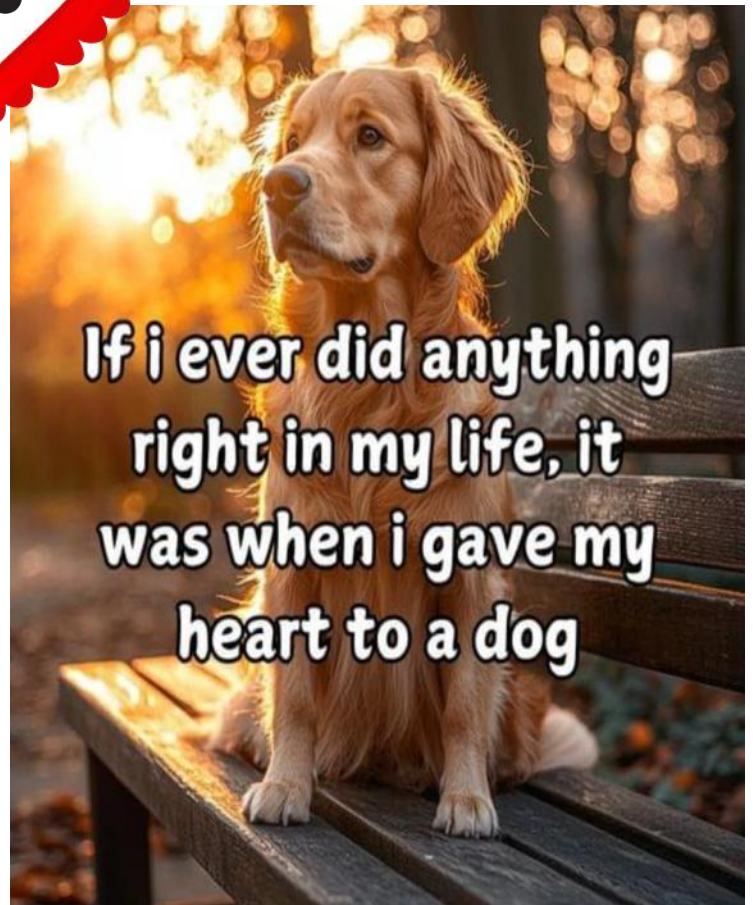


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I ♥ Dogs



**If i ever did anything
right in my life, it
was when i gave my
heart to a dog**



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The park is closed during the following times:

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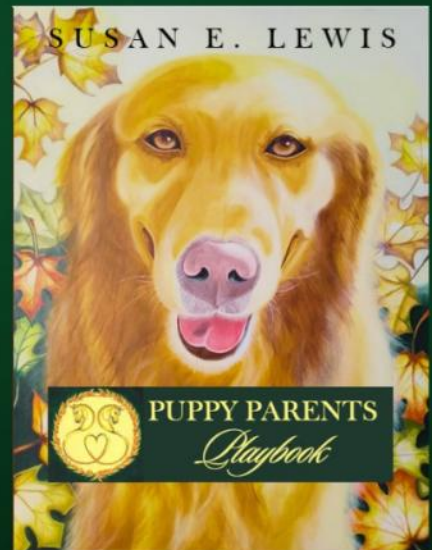
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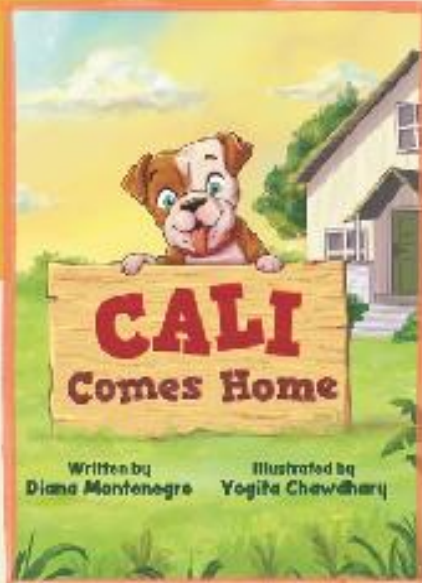
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THE SOUL DOG BOOK SERIES



By: Diana Montenegro



At It's Heart: Cali Comes Homes is about...

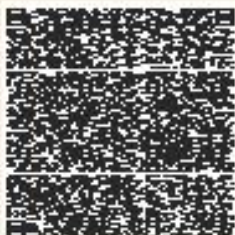
- 🐾 The meaning of "forever home"
- 🐾 The joy of pet adoption
- 🐾 The special bond between humans and their soul dogs
- 🐾 Kindness, compassion, and the importance of dog rescue



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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JULY 4TH BERRY FIRECRACKER Parfaits

- PLANT BASED
- GLUTEN FREE
- NO ADDED SUGAR
- DIABETIC FRIENDLY

INGREDIENTS

- ★ 2 cups fresh strawberries, diced
- ★ 1 cup fresh blueberries
- ★ 1 cup unsweetened coconut yogurt
- ★ 1 cup silken tofu
- ★ 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ★ 1-2 tbsp monk fruit sweetener (optional)
- ★ Fresh mint leaves for garnish

DIRECTIONS

- Blend coconut yogurt, silken tofu, vanilla, and monk fruit sweetener until smooth and creamy.
- Layer strawberries in the bottom of small glasses or jars.
- Add a layer of the creamy mixture.
- Add blueberries.
- Repeat layers until full.
- Garnish with mint and a few extra berries.

Why You'll Love It!

- ✓ Plant-Based
- ✓ No Added Sugar
- ✓ Perfect for Summer BBQs
- ✓ Gluten-Free
- ✓ Diabetic Friendly

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I Bel*e*ve in Healthy Celebrations!



4TH OF JULY PET SAFETY TIPS

Did you know? More pets go missing on July 4th than any other day of the year.

ID & microchip

Make sure contact information is up to date.

Create a safe & secure space indoors.

- ★ Close windows and blinds.
- ★ Turn on TV or soothing music to drown out scary noises.
- ★ Provide blankets, interactive toys, and treats.

Exercise your pet early in the day.

Tire them out before the festivities.

Keep calm.

- ★ Consider pheromones.
- ★ Ask our vets about anti-anxiety remedies.

Keep hazards out of reach.

- ★ Firework debris
- ★ Alcohol
- ★ Glow sticks
- ★ Citronella
- ★ Charcoal
- ★ Kabob skewers
- ★ Cooked bones
- ★ Human foods including grapes, onions, corn cobs, chocolate, fatty & fried foods



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All - Stars

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Show off your beloved pet and help save lives! Enter your favorite photo, rally your friends and family to vote, and your furry, feathered, or scaled companion could BE THE COVER! — or a full month — of the official 2027 Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation Calendar.

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THOUSAND OAKS

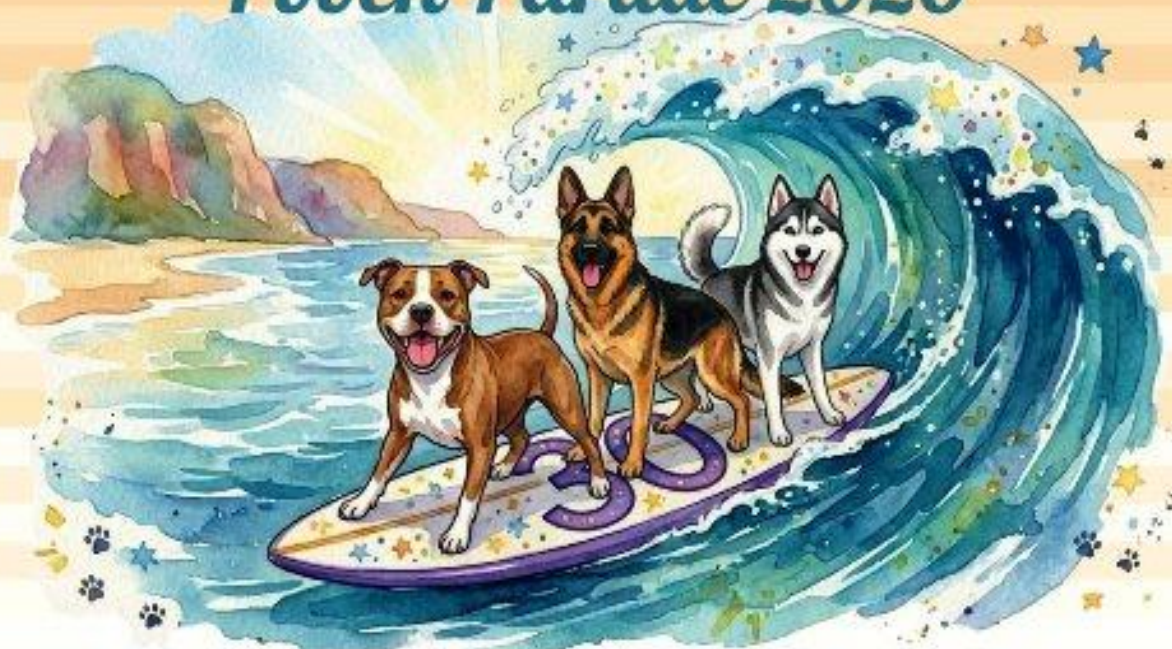
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Blazing Bullet Bucky: The Dachshund Who Dominated the Meadowlands

In the quiet town of Haskell, New Jersey, one dachshund has become a local celebrity. Bucky, known as “Blazing Bullet Bucky,” may be small in size, but his big personality, endless energy, and remarkable speed have made him a favorite among friends, neighbors, and racing fans alike.



Bucky earned his nickname at the Meadowlands Wiener Dog Derby, where he captured back-to-back championships in 2025 and 2026, establishing himself as one of the event's most recognizable competitors. Racing against a field of 100 determined dachshunds, Bucky consistently showcased his speed, focus, and competitive spirit, outrunning the competition and cementing his place as a true racing star.

Away from the track, Bucky enjoys life as a beloved family dog, spending his days playing, running, and winning hearts wherever he goes. His combination of speed, determination, and joyful spirit has made him more than a champion—he's a local icon who proves that determination, heart, and a little speed can turn a small-town dachshund into a local legend.



Follow Bucky's adventures, races, and daily antics on Instagram: [@blazingbulletbucky](https://www.instagram.com/blazingbulletbucky)



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Want updates?

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Questions? E-mail me at:
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FUN FACTS

Dogs can actually smell your fear. In humans, fear and nervousness are accompanied by changes in heart rate and blood flow that push chemicals to the skin's surface. Through these chemicals, dogs can literally smell your different emotions, so don't even attempt to fake even a smile with your furry friends!

Pet rats are not like their wild cousins. Pet rats are actually very lovable and affectionate, and one of the most intelligent rodent pets. They can be taught tricks, and they can even learn to help keep their cages clean.

Pet parrots can eat virtually any common "people-food" except for chocolate and avocados. Both of these are highly toxic to the parrot and can be fatal.

The goat is among the cleanest of animals, and is a much more selective feeder than cows, sheep, pigs, chickens and even dogs. Goats do eat many different species of plants, but do not want to eat food that has been contaminated or that has been on the floor or the ground.



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.



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.

Evolution & History

Ancient Origins:

The earliest ancestor of the modern horse, the *Eohippus*, was a small, dog-sized creature that roamed the earth about 55 million years ago.

Breed Diversity:

All domestic horses belong to a single subspecies (*Equus ferus caballus*), but there are over 400 distinct breeds globally.

First Uses:

Early civilizations utilized horses for their meat and milk, but their domestication quickly revolutionized human society by providing a massive leap forward in transportation, trade, herding, and warfare.

FACTS ABOUT HORSE'S EYES



- Nearly 360° field of vision
- They have 2 blind spots.
 - Directly in front of their face
 - 6ft behind their tails.
- They see mostly with one eye at a time. This is why they can spook at something they just walked by. They are now seeing it for the first time with their other eye.
- Their top field of vision is for seeing at a distance and their lower field of vision is for seeing up close. So they move their heads up & down to adjust for that.
- The largest land mammal eye. Only whales, seals & ostriches have larger eyes.
- Depth perception is different since they mostly see with one eye at a time.
- They have Great night vision. Even better than cats!
- Sensory hairs around their eyes alert them to possible eye-damaging objects. Do not trim these hairs, they need them!

MEMES





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
Ventura Co. Animal Services	805-388-4341	Camarillo/SV



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**More pets are lost on the Fourth of July
than any other day of the year**

July 5th is the busiest day of the year for shelters, which may be why the month of June was dubbed National Pet Microchip Awareness Month. When animals get spooked, their fight-or-flight response often takes over and they flee and get lost. Consider these recommendations:

- Keep your pet indoors on the Fourth of July. If you absolutely must bring your pet out with you, ensure he has an ID tag, his collar fits properly, and he is attached to a leash at all times.
- Get your pet micro-chipped. This can be scheduled as a quick outpatient appointment with your veterinarian.
- Take a photo of your pet, which will help your community identify him should he be lost and found.

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
EVERYONE!**



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