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AUGUST 2026



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Did you know ...!

Giant pandas are making major headlines globally, highlighted by active courtship at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and a wave of successful red panda births in US and UK zoos. With Chinese loans securely continuing, pandas remain a major focus of wildlife conservation. While giant pandas dominate the news, red pandas are also experiencing a successful breeding season. A pair of rare red panda twins were born at the Santa Barbara Zoo on July 2, marking a major milestone for the facility.

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Current Royal Pets

King Charles III and Queen Camilla currently own a rescued Jack Russell Terrier named Bluebell and a mixed-breed rescue puppy they adopted in early 2025. They previously had another rescue Jack Russell terrier named Beth, who passed away in late 2024. Throughout his life, the King has been a known dog lover and historically owned several Jack Russells, including his most famous dog, Tigga, who lived from the 1980s until 2002.

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SV-MPK - AUG 2026



The First "True" Pet in the Archaeological Record

While early dogs served primarily as working partners, the oldest undisputed evidence of a dog kept purely as a loved companion as a pet comes from the Bonn-Oberkassel dog burial in Germany, dated to about 14,200 years ago. Archeologists found the skeleton of a young dog buried alongside a man and a woman. Examination of the dog's teeth showed it had survived a severe case of canine distemper as a puppy. This burial proves that humans formed deep, emotional bonds with dogs as individual companions, rather than just treating them as utility tools.



FUN TRIVIA



*Red foxes are the most widespread meat-eating mammals in the world! They live in the Arctic Circle, North America, Europe, central Asia, and northern Africa. They also live in Australia and the Falkland Islands as an introduced species.

*The country with the most cats in the world is the United States, boasting an estimated 74 to 95 million domestic and pet cats. China ranks second with around 53 million cats, followed by Russia with nearly 23 million.

*Every single modern bird (including chickens) is related to the T-rex. Birds literally are living dinosaurs, evolving from a group of meat-eating dinosaurs called theropods, which also included the T-rex.

*A purebred, golden-haired Tibetan Mastiff holds the record for the most expensive dog ever bought, selling for \$1.95 million in China during a 2011 auction.

*Kangaroos have a longer average lifespan of 20 to 25 years, compared to wallabies which typically live 11 to 14 years.

*Dogs experience the same brain activity during REM sleep as humans do, which is why your dog might twitch or run in their sleep.

*Modern famous dogs are a mix of Hollywood stars, internet celebrities, and record-breaking influencers. Today's top dogs include internet sensations like Doug the Pug and Tika the Iggy, the movie star Messi (the Border Collie from Anatomy of a Fall), and the highly popular French Bulldog, which reigns as one of the trendiest dog breeds globally.

FUNNY JOKES

That's Magic

A magician was working on a cruise ship. Since the audience was different each week, the magician did the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the Magician did every trick. Once he understood, he started shouting in the middle of the show, "Look, it's not the same hat!" or, "Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table!" Or "Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?" The magician was furious but couldn't do anything. It was, after all, the Captain's parrot. Then one stormy night on the Pacific, the ship unfortunately sank. The magician luckily found himself on a piece of wood floating in the middle of the sea, as fate would have it ... with the parrot. They stared at each other with hatred, but did not utter a word. This went on for a day... then 2 days... then 3 days. Finally on the 4th day, the parrot could not hold back any longer and said... "Okay, I give up. Where's the ship?"



QUIZ



1. How many feathers are there in a peacock's tail?
2. What percentage of DNA do humans share with chimpanzees?
3. Which species of bird lays the largest egg?
4. What is the zoonotic disease for which dogs must be vaccinated?
5. What breed is Slinky, the dog from Toy Story?
6. Which dog breed holds the Guinness World Record for the longest ears?

Answers

1. Approx 200.
2. 98%.
3. Ostrich.
4. Rabies.
5. Dachshund.
6. Bassett Hound.

PAW-SCOPES

DOGS

Your Leo dog hates to be ignored. Their vanity has no limits and they love being the center of attention. Fiercely loyal, they will protect their family at all costs. Kind and loving, they will always be your BFF.

CATS

The Leo cat is protective and caring. Emotional and intuitive creatures, they're always aware of what's on their owner's minds. They're also sensitive to what's going on around them.

Surprising Pet Facts

*Birds like parrots actually have taste buds located on the roofs of their beaks instead of just their tongues.

*Rabbits are masters of directional hearing and can rotate their ears independently by 180 degrees to detect danger.

*Goats may be known for their grazing, but they are incredibly agile and can climb trees in search of food.

*Iguanas are able to hold their breath for up to 30 minutes.

*Some lizards can detach their tails to escape and also to distract predators for up to several minutes.

*Many hamsters only blink one eye at a time.

*Guinea pigs communicate with over a dozen vocalizations from purring to wheeking.

*Ferrets are currently the third most popular pet in the US. There are an estimated 8 to 10 million ferrets in the United States being kept as pets.

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DID YOU KNOW

France's Cosquer cave, 20,000 years under the sea! Deep sea divers exploring an underwater cave near Marseilles, France, in 1991 were surprised to discover prehistoric wall murals with drawings of humans and animals; but were astounded when they found depictions of Penguins! Check out this 6 minute video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esFXWbx5hKE>

Did you know . . . !

Cat doors have been used in Europe since the 14th century. While popular legend credits Sir Isaac Newton with the invention, historical records show them existing centuries earlier, such as a carved cat door in England's Exeter Cathedral dating back to 1598. They also appear in Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th-century work, The Miller's Tale.

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Q: What is the name of the service dog who assisted former President George H.W. Bush in the last six months of his life? The dog was named after the hero pilot who successfully landed a US Airways flight in the Hudson River in 2009. **A: Sully**

Q: What Bahamas-based musical group had the catchy hit, "Who Let the Dogs Out?" **A: Baha Men**

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A Dog on the Throne of Norway

In the 11th century, a dog named **Saur** was named the King of Norway. He ruled for three years after a political dispute, and the court circle was ordered to honor the four-legged monarch. According to legend, he wore a lavish gold and silver jeweled collar and chain. Courtiers carried him on their shoulders to prevent him from soiling his noble paws. He lived a heavily guarded life, officially supported by a council of advisors who ruled in his name.

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



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DID YOU KNOW

Garfield is an American comic strip and media franchise created by Jim Davis. Originally published locally as *Jon* in 1976 (later changed to *Garfield* in 1977), then in nationwide syndication from 1978, it chronicles the life of the title character Garfield, a lazy, gluttonous, and sarcastic cat, along with a dim-witted dog named Odie and their human owner, Jon Arbuckle. As of 2013, the comic held the Guinness World Record for being the world's most widely syndicated comic strip. The strip frequently focuses on Garfield's appetite, laziness, and interactions with other characters.

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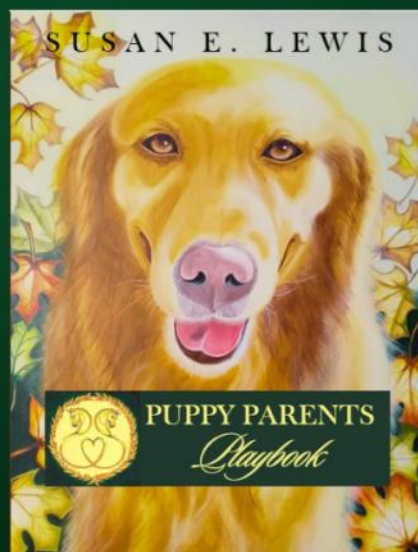
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ANIMAL FACTS

Owls can twist their heads 270 degrees

These birds have the insane ability to swivel their heads in almost a full circle thanks to their flexibility and the fact that their heads are only connected by one socket pivot. Researchers at Johns Hopkins also found that owls have backup arteries, so when they turn their heads at extreme angles, they're still getting blood and nutrients when their blood vessels are cut off during turning.

Ringtail lemurs out-stink each other

Ringtail lemurs have one of the most unique conflict-resolution tactics of all animals: stink fights. Since lemurs live in large social groups of 20 to 30, breeding season can bring a lot of competition. Male ringtails have scent glands on their wrists and shoulders. The wrist gland produces a volatile, short-lived odor, while the shoulder gland produces a brown, toothpaste-like substance, which is much longer lasting. Basically, male lemurs wave their tails and waft a fragrance toward their rivals, resulting in a smelly standoff until someone backs off.

Honey badgers are resistant to venom

Honey badgers are known as one of the most vicious animals on the planet. And they pretty much hunt anything because they're able to resist venom, an evolutionary wrinkle resulting from their diet of venomous snakes. From bugs to birds, crocodiles, and pythons, they take them all on. And they've evolved to digest entire animals, including bones and feathers.

Beavers have metal teeth

Beavers' teeth never stop growing, so they chew to keep them at a reasonable length. But their teeth are also built to go through the chomping. They have an enamel made with iron, which gives them an orange hue, but also keeps them strong and resistant to acid.

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Fun Facts for the month of August

August, the eighth month of the year, is named after the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar. It's known for being the last month of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and is associated with the harvest, particularly of summer vegetables and fruits. August is also known for the Perseid meteor shower and has unique astrological connections with the zodiac signs Leo and Virgo.

August was originally called "Sextilis" in the Roman calendar, meaning the sixth month. It was renamed in honor of Augustus Caesar, who was born in September.

A Month of Harvest:

In many cultures, August is considered the harvest month, with summer vegetables and fruits reaching their peak.

Meteor Shower:

The Perseid meteor shower, one of the most popular meteor showers, typically peaks in mid-August.

Zodiac Signs:

August is associated with two zodiac signs: Leo (July 23 – August 22) and Virgo (August 23 – September 22).

Unique Calendar Feature:

In a standard year, August is the only month that starts on the same day of the week as no other month. In a leap year, it shares its starting day with February.

First Sandwich?:

The first sandwich, as we know it today, is said to have been created on August 6, 1762, by the Earl of Sandwich.

Women's Right to Vote:

The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, granting women the right to vote, was ratified on August 18, 1920.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Speech:

August 28, 1963, is the date of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Birthstones:

The birthstones for August are peridot, sardonyx, and spinel.

Birth Flowers:

The birth flowers for August are the gladiolus and the poppy.

Weed Month: (not what you're thinking!!!)

In Anglo-Saxon times, August was known as "Weod Monath," meaning weed month, due to the abundance of general weed growth.

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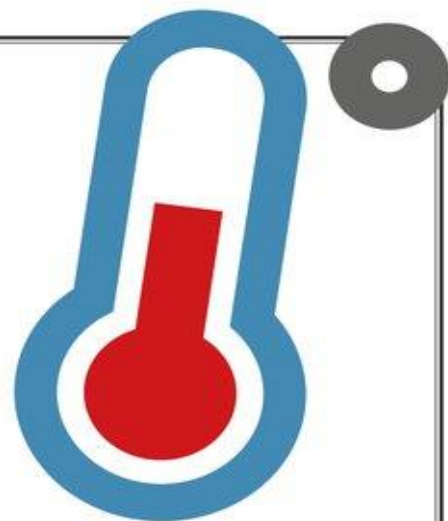


@SDV.AUTHOR

Want updates?

Questions? E-mail me at:
books@sharonvaturi.com

Keep your dog **SAFE** in **HOT WEATHER**



✓ Top Tips

Walk your dog during cooler parts of the day, either early morning or late evening.



Always provide fresh, clean water.



Ensure your dog has access to plenty of shade.



Your dog may appreciate a paddling pool to splash around in.



✗ Avoid

Never, under any circumstances, leave your dog in a parked car.



Avoid walking your dog on hot pavements as their paw pads can easily burn.



Keep your dog out of direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time.

Signs of Heatstroke



- Excessive Panting
- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Weakness
- Increased heart rate
- Seizures

Dogs at Higher Risk

- Brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds, such as Pugs, Bulldogs and Boxers
- Senior dogs
- Obese dogs



**your
dog**

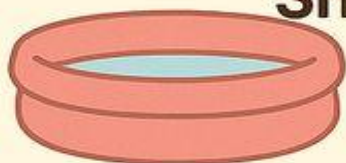
How to Cool Your Cat in Summers



1

Cooling Mats or Damp Towels

Place a cooling mat or damp towel in shaded areas. Cats love lying on something cool after sun time.



Shallow Pool Splash

Let your feline take a dip in a shallow pool. Safe, fun way to lower body temperature outdoors.

2

3

Chill by Air Vents

Let your cat rest by open windows, fans, or air vents to enjoy cool breezes.



Cool Lap Companions

Use instant ice packs or cold, damp cloths in a lap cat needs a cuddle.

4

5

Plenty of Fresh Water

Always provide cool, clean water. Add ice cubes for extra refreshment.



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WARNING

DON'T LEAVE DOGS IN HOT CARS

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 911 (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



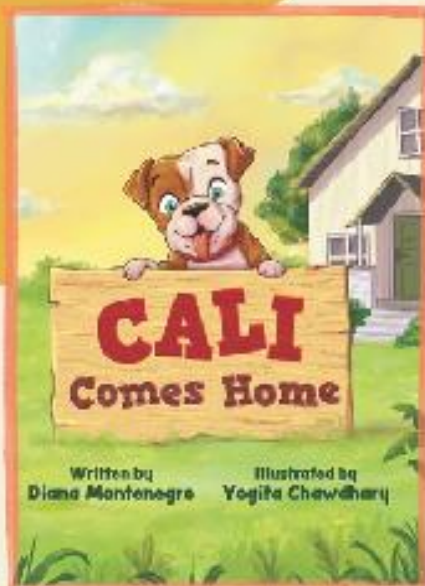
DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR

TEMPERATURES RISE FAST
EVEN WITH THE WINDOW OPEN

CALL 911
IF YOU SEE A DOG IN DISTRESS

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.



Purchase on
Amazon



Instagram
@TheSouldogseries



Purchase on
Etsy

Here's a few pet stories that will hopefully amuse you!

"Our dog loved to steal socks. One day, the dog was trying to steal my husband's socks, right from his feet, so my husband took them off and sat on them. Defeated, our dog went upstairs. Minutes pass, and he starts howling mournfully. We figured he was stuck on the bed or something. My husband went upstairs to rescue the dog. Suddenly, chaos erupts. I hear the sound of a 55 lb dog jumping from the bed and hitting the floor. I hear four paws and two human feet scrambling around the room. Then, the sound of a dog tearing down the stairs. He appeared, running as fast as he could through the room, to the couch, and grabbed the socks from where they had been hidden. My husband showed up, hilariously defeated."

"My dog will walk on his back legs when he sees other people because they always laugh and pay attention to him when he does."

"I have difficulty walking due to a pain condition, so I walk slowly and carefully upstairs. My cat has learned to copy me specifically and slowly walks up behind me like he has difficulty too. He is totally able-bodied and has no pain walking, so he was clearly taking the micky, lol."

"When my cat was younger, he would hide behind a sheer curtain, not realizing I could see him. He meowed as though he was calling me, so I understood he wanted me to find him, and I played along. I'd pretend to search for him while he looked pleased with himself. When I'd get close enough, he would jump out on his hind legs with his paws up in the air before gently slapping my shin as a 'gotcha'. Then he'd do a victory lap around the room, looking so happy that I 'fell for it'. He was clearly amused by the whole situation."

We want to hear from you!

If you have a short funny story to tell, then let us know and we'll post it!

info@petzgazette.com

Save the date

Pooch Parade 2026



CARL 30 Years of Sandy Paws and Second Chances

SUNDAY, September 13

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

'oloʻkoy Beach Park, 1601 Harbor Blvd, Oxnard



30



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HOMELESS ANIMALS

*Years of
saving lives*



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SEPTEMBER 27,
2026**



**11.00 AM
2.00 PM**



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YACHT
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HORSE TRIVIA



HORSE TRIVIA

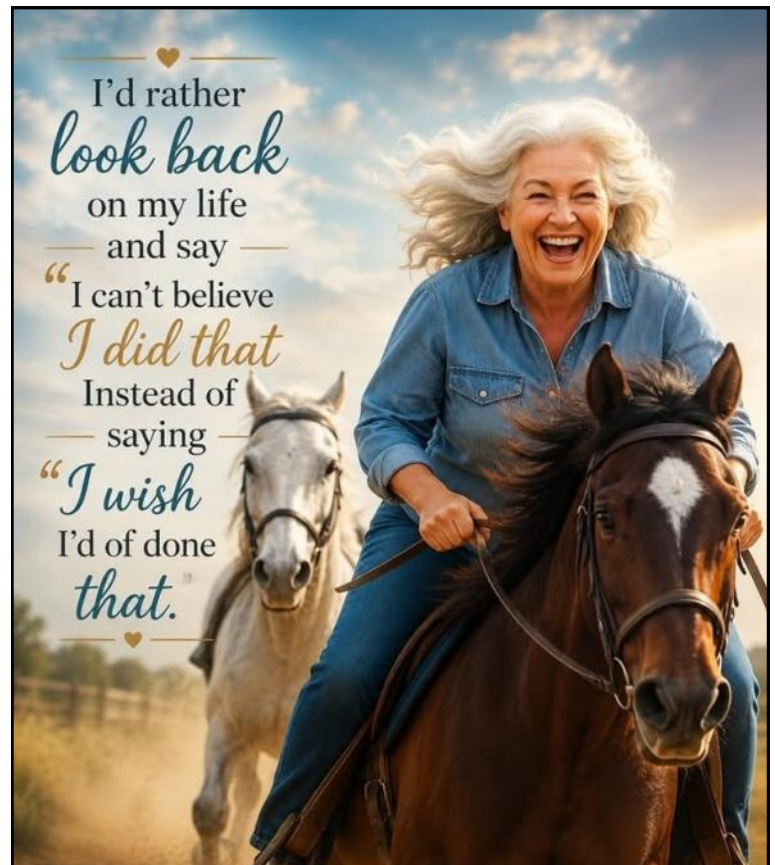
*The most expensive pet ever purchased is an American Thoroughbred racehorse named Green Monkey, which sold at auction for a record-breaking \$16 million in 2006.

*According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the tallest living horse is Big Jake, a nine-year-old Belgian Gelding horse, who measured 20 hands 2.75 in (210.19 cm, 82.75 in), without shoes, at Smokey Hollow Farms in Poynette, Wisconsin, USA, on 19 January 2010.

*Horses have great long-term memories! They can recall things they have learned years later without any refresher of what they learned between learning and recalling.

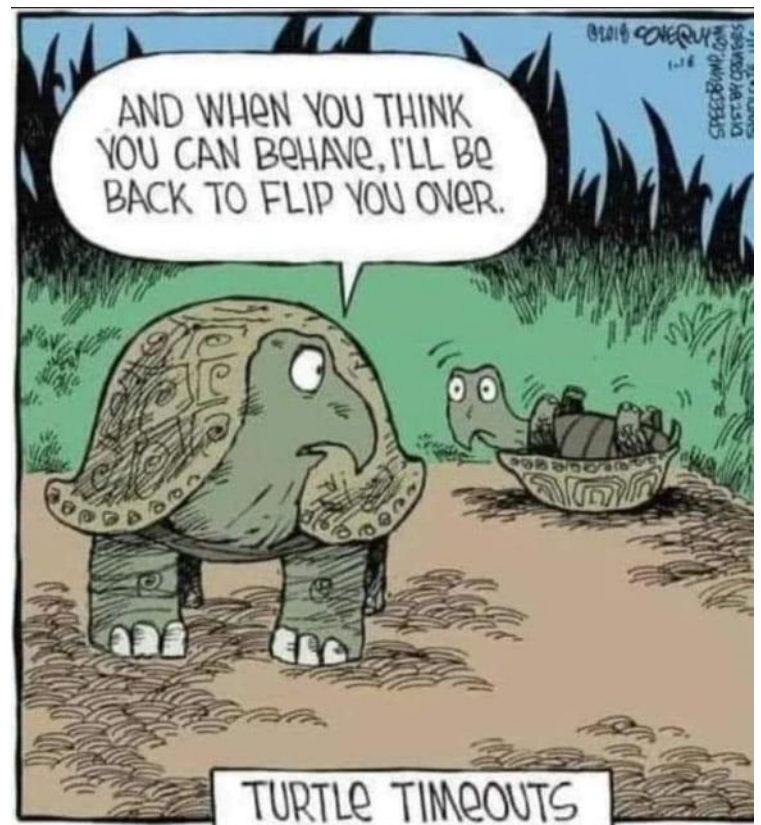
THE PONY EXPRESS

The Pony Express was a system that delivered mail on horseback between Missouri and California. The service lasted for only about a year and a half in the early 1860s. The Pony Express was a system of U.S. mail delivery made by horse-and-rider relays that took place from April 1860 to October 1861. Over 100 stations, 400-500 horses and enough riders were needed - at an estimated cost of \$70,000. But on April 3, 1860, the first official delivery began at the eastern terminus of the Pony Express in St. Joseph, Missouri. Close to midnight on April 14, 1860, the mail reached its destination in San Francisco.





AUGUST MEMES





VENTURA CO. RESCUE GROUPS



Local Pet Rescues

Clickable Links	Phone #	Location
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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
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Animal-Inspired Inventions That Changed the World

Nature is generally the first to innovate. Through sophisticated solutions to life's most difficult problems, plants and animals have been adapting, optimizing, and surviving for millions of years. Scientists, engineers, and designers have noticed this and are using the natural world as inspiration for everything from medical technologies to transportation. Some of the most effective, sustainable, and unexpected developments in contemporary technology have resulted from this technique, called **biomimicry**. These are some amazing instances where someone took inspiration from nature and used it to create something better.

1. Velcro — Inspired by Burrs

Burrs are small seeds or seed cases with tiny hooks or teeth that allow them to stick to fur, fabric, or feathers and be transported elsewhere to grow. They're produced by plants like burdock. Swiss engineer George de Mestral created Velcro after noticing how burrs stuck to his dog's fur. By mimicking the burr's tiny hooks, he developed the now-familiar hook-and-loop fastener.

2. Bullet Trains — Modeled on the Kingfisher's Beak

Japan's Shinkansen trains once produced loud sonic booms when exiting tunnels. Engineers solved this by reshaping the train's nose after the kingfisher's beak—built for silent, splash-free dives. The redesign reduced noise while increasing speed and efficiency.

3. Gecko-Inspired Adhesives

Geckos cling to walls using millions of microscopic hairs (setae) on their feet. Scientists replicated this structure to develop powerful adhesives for robotics, wearable tech, and medical devices—strong, reusable, and residue-free.

4. Self-Cleaning Surfaces — The Lotus Effect

Lotus leaves stay clean thanks to microscopic textures that repel water and dirt. This discovery led to the creation of self-cleaning paints, windows, fabrics, and solar panels that reduce grime buildup and cut down on maintenance.

5. Bird-Safe Glass — Mimicking Spider Webs

Spider webs reflect ultraviolet (UV) light, which many birds can see but humans cannot. This natural feature acts like a warning sign, helping birds avoid flying into the webs and damaging them. Drawing from this principle, architects and conservationists have developed glass with UV-reflective patterns to reduce bird strikes. The technology is now being used in office buildings, transit stations, and even residential homes to create bird-friendly structures without compromising design.

6. Humpback Whales — Improved Wind Turbines

The bumps, or tubercles, on the leading edges of humpback whale fins play a critical role in improving their lift and agility in the water. These ridges disrupt airflow in a way that reduces drag and delays stall, allowing the whales to execute tight turns and precise movements despite their massive size. Inspired by this natural adaptation, engineers have applied similar designs to wind turbines and fan blades. The result is improved airflow control, making the blades not only quieter but also up to 20% more efficient in converting wind or air movement into energy.

Animal-Inspired Inventions That Changed the World - cont/...

7. Termite Mounds — Passive Cooling in Architecture

Despite blazing heat, termite mounds stay cool due to natural ventilation tunnels. Architects have applied this design in buildings like Zimbabwe's Eastgate Centre, which maintains comfortable temperatures with minimal energy use

8. Solar Panels — Leaf-Inspired Efficiency

Although this is not related to animals, these plants use angled leaf structures to maximize sunlight absorption. Solar panels now mimic these designs—tilting with the sun or unfolding like leaves—to capture more energy throughout the day.

9. Sharkskin — Drag-Reducing Swimsuits and Surfaces

Shark skin's ridged scales, called dermal denticles, reduce drag by channeling water more efficiently along the body, and they also naturally repel bacteria by preventing microbial buildup. This unique texture has inspired the design of faster, more hydrodynamic swimsuits used in competitive swimming, as well as anti-fouling coatings that prevent marine organisms from attaching to ship hulls—improving fuel efficiency and reducing maintenance. Additionally, the same principle has been applied to create antimicrobial surfaces for hospitals, public restrooms, and medical equipment, helping to lower the risk of bacterial transmission in high-contact environments.

10. Dolphins and Bats — Birth of Sonar and Ultrasound

Bats and dolphins use echolocation to navigate and hunt, emitting high-frequency sounds and interpreting the returning echoes to map their surroundings with remarkable precision. This biological sonar inspired the development of underwater sonar systems used in submarines, ships, and ocean exploration, as well as medical ultrasound imaging, which allows doctors to visualize organs, tissues, and even unborn babies without invasive procedures.

11. Beavers — Better Wetsuits

Beavers stay warm in cold water thanks to their dense fur, which traps insulating layers of air close to the skin, preventing heat loss even in freezing conditions. Scientists applied this concept to modern wetsuit design by creating materials with microscopic, air-trapping structures that mimic beaver fur. This innovation allows wetsuits to provide excellent insulation without the added bulk of traditional neoprene, improving mobility and comfort for divers, surfers, and cold-water swimmers.

12. Swarm Intelligence — From Ants to Drones

Ant colonies and bird flocks operate with remarkable efficiency despite having no centralized leadership, relying instead on simple local interactions and shared signals to coordinate complex group behavior. This decentralized intelligence has inspired the development of swarm robotics and distributed algorithms that allow fleets of drones to work together autonomously, as well as systems for managing internet traffic, warehouse automation, and global supply chain logistics. These nature-inspired models offer greater adaptability, scalability, and resilience in dynamic environments.

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