

PetZ Gazette.com

SEPTEMBER 2026



Your Local Pet Resource Publication

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Did you know ...!

According to popular lore, 6th U.S. President John Quincy Adams kept a live alligator in a White House bathtub. The reptile was supposedly a gift from the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825 and kept in an unfinished East Room bathroom, where Adams allegedly used it to frighten unsuspecting guests.

Did you know ...!

Stroking your pet helps reduce high blood pressure by triggering relaxation responses, lowering stress hormones like cortisol, and releasing the bonding hormone oxytocin. Just 10 to 15 minutes of calm physical contact with an animal can lower your heart rate and cause measurable drops in blood pressure. Your dog/cat experiences the exact same chemical boost—their oxytocin rises and their stress drops when you pet them gently.

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SV-MPK - SEPT 2026



The Kennedy's Personal Pets

Many US presidents and their families have had White House pets, and over the years dogs have been central to this unofficial tradition. John F. and Jacqueline Kennedy embraced the presence of pets in the presidential home wholeheartedly during his two and a half year time in office. Among rabbits, horses, cats, hamsters and parakeets, the family had the following dogs: Gaullie, a poodle; Charlie, Welsh terrier; Moe, doberman pinscher; Pushinka, a gift from Khrushchev whose parent was Soviet space dog Strelka; Shannon, Irish cocker spaniel; Wolf, an Irish wolfhound schnauzer cross; Clipper, German shepherd; and four puppies by Pushinka and Charlie named Butterfly, White Tips, Blackie and Streaker.



FUN TRIVIA



*Cats are one of the world's sleepest animals. Only sloths, koalas, and a few other animals can claim to be sleepier than cats. Your average house cat can sleep up to sixteen hours a day, meaning that about 70% of its life is spent snoozing the day away.

*A rabbit's teeth never stop growing. They grow continuously throughout their lives. They wear them down by chewing on rough, fibrous foods like hay.

*By United States law, pet food labels must list ingredients in the food in order by weight. This means that a food with the ingredients "chicken meal, rice, liver meal" must have more chicken meal than rice, and more rice than liver meal.

*The fastest bird is the Spine-tailed swift, clocked at speeds of up to 220 miles per hour.

*Researchers studying what dogs like to eat have found that the appetite of pet dogs is affected by the taste, texture and smell of the food, and also by the guardians' food preferences, their perception of their pet, and the physical environment in which the dog is eating.

*A group of hedgehogs is called a "prickle" or sometimes an "array" because hedgehogs have sharp, prickly spines on their backs. Hedgehogs like to live by themselves. They do not live in big groups in nature. You will mostly only see a prickle of hedgehogs when a mother is with her young babies, or if a few young hedgehogs stay together after growing up.

*The main purpose of a male peacock's tail feathers is a mating display. The colorful feathers, called a train, are used mainly to attract female peahens during courtship.

FUNNY JOKES

The Perfect Customer

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a mid-west town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote, "I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who said, "I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too."



QUIZ



1. What breed of camelid is used for fleece production?
2. Which animal is famous for having long sensitive whiskers?
3. What was the name of Alexander The Great's horse?
4. How far away can a wolf smell its prey?
5. What is an intact male sheep called?
6. What kind of animal was Geoffrey, the longtime mascot of Toys "R" Us?

Answers

1. Alpaca.
2. A Cat.
3. Bucephalus.
4. Almost two miles.
5. Ram.
6. Giraffe.

PAW-SCOPE

DOGS

Virgo dogs are extremely dedicated and hard-working, with high ideals, great integrity, and a love of service. They know how to communicate, whether it's with their bark, their actions, or a serious look. They do best with order and routines: same food, same time of day. They also love being groomed and pampered!

CATS

With Virgo cats, they're intelligence is laser-like focus. They are master mousers and enjoy problem-solving games including those on digital tablets. The best way to improve the human-cat bond is lots of interactive play with a variety of toys.

Animal Facts

*Horses can sleep both standing up and lying down. They have a unique "stay apparatus" in their legs that allows them to lock their joints and sleep while standing!

*The African Grey Parrot is widely considered one of the most intelligent and capable birds in the world when it comes to mimicking human speech and understanding context.

*Studies have shown that goldfish can retain memories for up to five months, and they can even learn to recognize specific colors, sounds, and feeding routines.

*Despite the common stereotype, pigs are incredibly clean animals. They make sure to designate a specific spot as their bathroom area and keep the rest of their living space tidy!

*Cows have best friends and can get stressed when they're separated from them. Like us, they form strong bonds and feel happier when they're with those they trust!

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- *Average dogs learn approximately 165 words.
- *Exceptionally intelligent breeds understand up to 250 words or more.

*Border Collies, Poodles, and German Shepherds typically rank smartest.

DID YOU KNOW

Your Dog Can Tell Time. They have internal clocks that anticipate regular events. Dogs use circadian rhythms and learned environmental patterns. Their sense of smell helps them gauge time as your scent fades throughout the day when you're gone.

Did you know . . . !

A Pig Started A War. In 1859, an American farmer shot a British pig eating his potatoes on the disputed San Juan Island. This sparked a military standoff between the U.S. and Britain, known as the Pig War. Despite troop buildup, no shots were fired. All's well that end's well!

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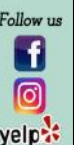
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Cats lick water from the faucet because running water triggers their natural survival instincts. Wild cats learned to avoid still puddles because stagnant pools carry germs, while moving streams are safer. Faucet water also looks clearer, smells fresher, and tastes colder than water in a standard bowl.

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<u>Cronies Sports Grill</u>	Simi Valley	805-583-9999
<u>Nectar of the Dogs Wine</u>	Simi Valley	702-275-0482
<u>Cactus Patch</u>	Moorpark	805-529-9550
<u>Carrara's Pastries</u>	Moorpark	805-552-4250
<u>Country Harvest</u>	Moorpark	805-876-0276
<u>Lucky Fool's Pub</u>	Moorpark	805-532-1500
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SILLY DOG PUNS

What's a dog's ideal job?

Barkeology

What do you call a great dog detective?

Sherlock Bones!

What do you call a dog that swallows a ring?

A diamond in the ruff!

How are a dog and a marine biologist similar?

One wags a tail, while the other tags a whale

What do you get when you cross a dog with a phone?

A golden receiver!



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



www.petzgazette.com



Oh, those puppy dog eyes!

Puppy eyes are partially an evolutionary "trick" designed to tug at our hearts. Dogs have a special muscle above their eyes that their wolf ancestors don't. It lets them raise their inner brows in a way that makes their eyes look bigger, softer, and more childlike. That expression creates the irresistible "puppy dog eyes" look humans are hardwired to find cute and nurturing. Over time, dogs learned that this facial move gets our attention, affection, and often extra treats, too.

Save the date

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30



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Click on location links to go to respective websites

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September is a month marked by significant historical events. Notable occurrences include the end of World War II in the Pacific with the declaration of VJ Day on September 2nd, 1945 by President Truman. The discovery of the Titanic's wreckage by Robert Ballard, and the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

How to Help Prevent Foxtail Problems

► Avoid foxtail-infested areas in “foxtail season” – from early summer, when foxtails and surrounding grasses start to dry, until the fall or winter wet season eliminates the foxtail threat.

► If you must walk your dog in areas where foxtails grow, keep him on leash and on the trail to help reduce his chances of encountering the awns.

► To keep your dog from inhaling or ingesting a foxtail awn, don't allow him to play fetch anywhere near foxtails. Don't allow hunting or tracking dogs to sniff around foxtails.

► If you have foxtails in your yard, keep the plants mowed while they are still green to help prevent them from going to seed. Better yet, pull the grasses up by hand and deposit the whole plants directly into a garbage bag or compost bin.

► If your dog is long-haired, trim all the hair between his toes, over the top of his toes and feet, from his legs, around his ears, his vent, and his belly. Short hair helps deny the foxtails the resistance they need to migrate deeper into the dog's skin.

► Keep your dog well groomed. Foxtails readily work their way into mats, but can be easily brushed out of a



In foxtail season, practice tracking or hunting in foxtail-free zones: green lawns, the beach, or concrete.

clean, untangled coat.

► Most importantly, after every outdoor experience in a foxtail zone, check your dog from head to toe. Examine the space between each and every toe and underneath his feet. Look in his armpits, groin, anal area, and ears.

► Keep alert for suspicious lumps, bumps, or swellings on your dog. Look for limping or excessive licking of toes, head-shaking, sneezing, or a glued-shut eye.

► If your dog exhibits any of the symptoms of having a foxtail (see sidebar, previous page), take him to a veterinarian as soon as possible – that day!

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@SDV.AUTHOR

Want updates?

Questions? E-mail me at:
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ANIMAL FACTS

The spirit animal for September is often considered the Raven. Some sources also associate the Fox or Hawk with September birthdays. The Raven, in particular, is linked to wisdom, intellect, and a connection to both the spiritual and physical realms.

Several animals are commonly associated with autumn, which includes squirrels, deer, and migrating birds. Squirrels are often seen gathering nuts, deer engage in mating rituals, and birds fly south for the winter. Other animals like foxes, hedgehogs, and geese are also linked to this season, preparing for winter through various activities such as growing thicker fur, hibernating, or migrating.

Visiting an orchard or pumpkin patch is a quintessential autumn activity. These places are not just about picking pumpkins or apples; they offer a whole day of fun with activities like hayrides, corn mazes, and petting zoos.

Animals do not usually complete their hibernation in autumn, but many start the process during these cooler months. As temperatures drop and food becomes hard to find, animals like dormice and queen bumblebees look for safe places, build nests, and enter a deep sleep that lasts through the winter.



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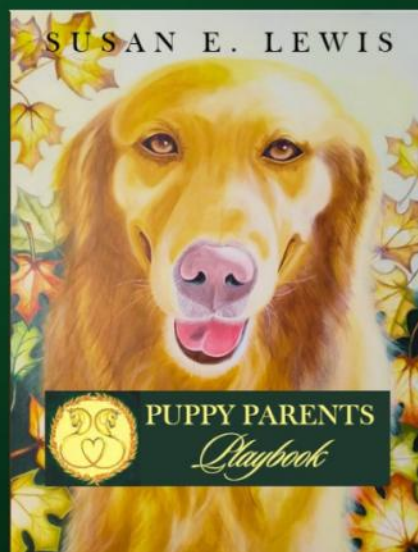
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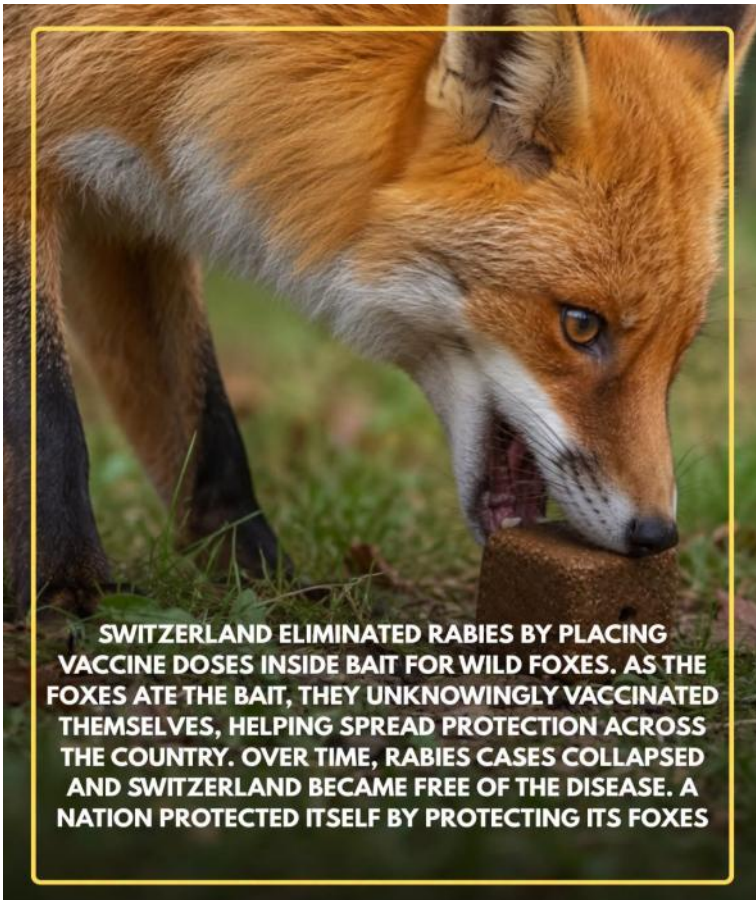
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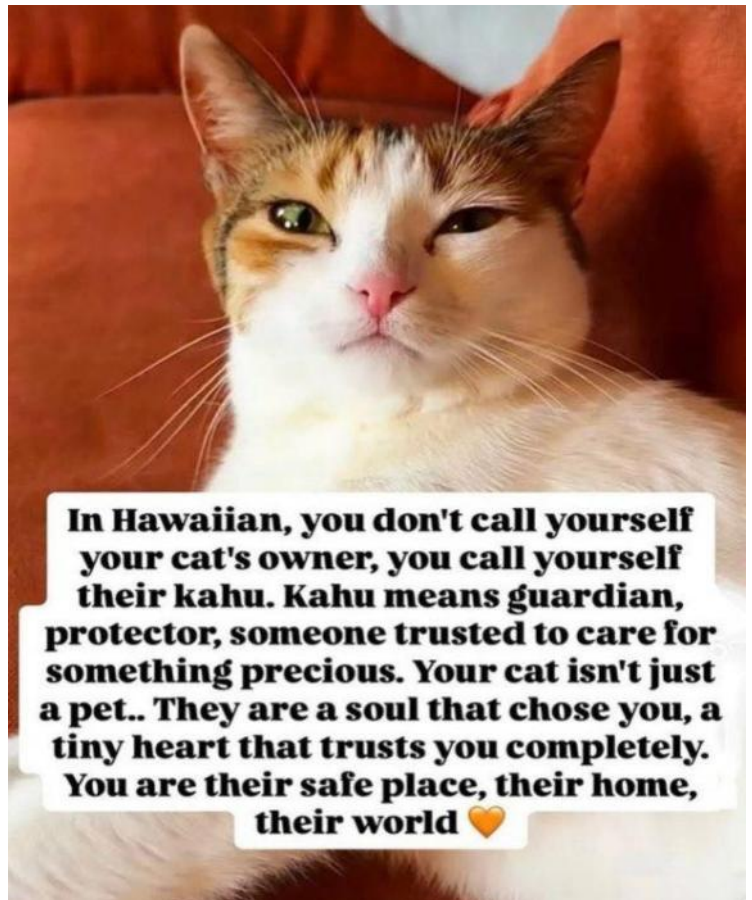
A newborn hummingbird is small enough to drink nectar from a single raspberry. One berry becomes a complete feeder in the wild. Its entire beginning fits in the curve of fruit. Scale changes everything.



I'm America's **ONLY** marsupial. I carry my babies in a pouch. I eat 5,000 ticks per season. I'm virtually immune to rabies — my body temperature is too low for the virus. I eat venomous snakes and I'm resistant to their venom. And you call animal control when you see me in your trash can. I'm the best pest control on your street. And I've been here for 70 million years. You're welcome.



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Facts for the month of September

September 1, 1939: World War II began with the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany, leading to declarations of war by Britain and France.

September 1, 1985: Oceanographer Robert Ballard discovered the wreckage of the Titanic on the ocean floor.

September 2, 1666: The Great Fire of London started in a bakery and lasted for four days, destroying 13,000 houses.

September 2, 1945: President Harry Truman declared VJ Day, marking the end of World War II in the Pacific after Japan's surrender.

September 4, 1998: Google, the search engine company was founded.

September 9, 1776: The United States officially came into being as the Continental Congress changed the name from the United Colonies.

September 9, 1943: The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe, also known as Operation Avalanche.

September 11, 2001: The September 11th terrorist attacks, the deadliest terrorist attacks in human history, occurred in the United States.

September 12, 1624: The first publicly tested submarine, built by Cornelis Drebbel, was demonstrated on the River Thames in London.

September 13, 1902: Harry Jackson became the first person in Britain convicted on fingerprint evidence at the Old Bailey, the Central Criminal Court in London.

September 15, 1830: William Huskisson, a British MP, became the first rail fatality at the opening of the Liverpool Manchester Railway.

September 16, 1810: Mexican Independence Day, commemorates Mexico's separation from Spain, not the day Spain officially recognized Mexico's independence.

September 19, 1893: New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

September 24, 1789: The United States Supreme Court and the position of Attorney General were established.

September 24, 1948: The Honda Motor Company was founded.

September 27, 2008: Astronaut Zhai Zhigang completed China's first space walk.

September 28, 1066: The Norman conquest of England began with the arrival of William the Conqueror. He landed at Pevensey Bay, marking the start of the invasion.

New Clients Welcome!



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BE KIND
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Back-to-School Pet Treats

Homemade Dog & Cat Treats

Pet Friendly • Vegan • Plant Based
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Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unsweetened pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup oat flour
- 2 tablespoons ground flaxseed
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened sunflower seed butter
- 1 tablespoon water, as needed

Directions

- Preheat oven to 325°F.
- Mix pumpkin, oat flour, flaxseed, and sunflower seed butter into a soft dough.
- Add a little water if needed.
- Roll out and cut into small pet-friendly shapes.
- Bake 18-22 minutes until firm.
- Cool completely before serving.

Treat Tip

A fun occasional treat for your furry study buddy. Store in the fridge and serve in small portions.

Always check with your veterinarian if your pet has special dietary needs.

What Pets Can Learn at School

- Good manners
- Sit, stay, and come
- Walking nicely on a leash
- Sharing toys
- Making furry friends
- Confidence in new places
- Fun tricks and games
- Kindness and patience

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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



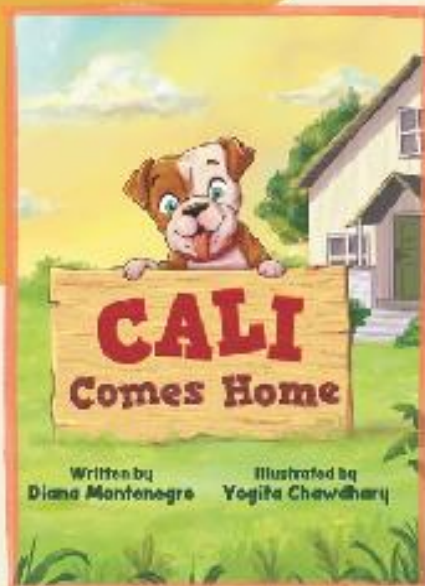
DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR

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.



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HORSE TRIVIA



Horse 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 Toddington Mills, England.
- If a horse's eye tears excessively the problem may be a nasolacrimal duct that is blocked by debris, inflammation, or scar tissue, or that has been damaged.
- Scientists believe that the first known ancestor of the horse lived about 50 million years ago. This prehistoric horse is called Eohippus and had four padded toes on the front legs and three padded toes on the back legs. Eo means "dawn" and hippus means "horse," so Eohippus is "dawn horse."
- A horse's splint bones are thought to be remnants of toes from prehistoric horses. The splint bones are small bones (about the size of a pencil at the top and tapering down to be much smaller) found on each side of the cannon bone.

HORSEY JOKES

What do you feed a race horse?

Fast food.

Why can't horses dance?

They have two left feet.

What's the hardest thing about learning to ride a horse?

The ground!

What do you call a horse that lives next door?

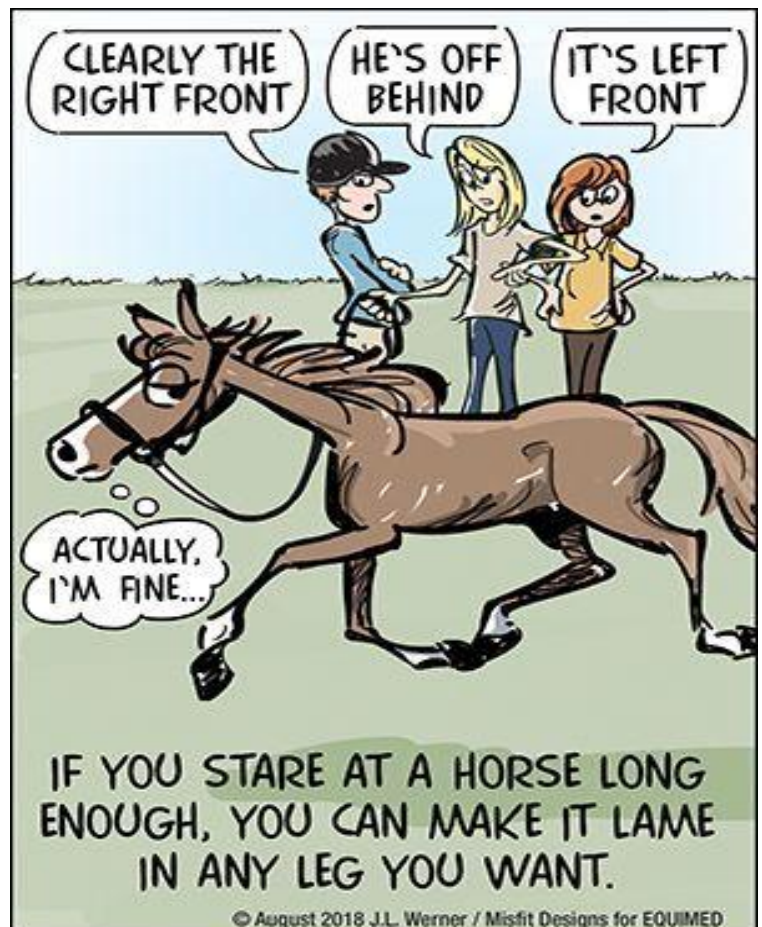
A neigh-bor!

Why did the man stand behind the horse?

He was hoping to get a kick out of it.

Why did the pony have to gargle?

Because it was a little horse!





SEPTEMBER MEMES



Dogs
Are Like
Potato Chips...
...It's hard
To Have Just
ONE!!!



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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
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Dog Days Search & Rescue	805-551-9706	Simi Valley
Eastwood Ranch Rescue/Adoption Ctr	818-338-1551	Agoura Hills
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Mad Love Animal Rescue	213-364-2353	Los Angeles
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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
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CAN PEACOCKS FLY?

Yes, peacocks can fly. Despite their large size and long, heavy trains, peacocks use powerful wings to fly short distances, usually to escape predators or fly up to trees and rooftops to roost at night. They are surprisingly agile and can achieve vertical takeoff, though they spend most of their time on the ground.

Key facts about peacock flight:

- **Roosting & Safety:** They often fly up to high branches or roofs (3–4 meters) to sleep securely at night.

Flight Ability:

Their long, ornate tail feathers do not significantly hinder their ability to take off or fly.

- **Short Bursts:** They typically only fly for short distances, as they are heavy birds, but they are capable of flying distances under 1 mile.

Not Soaring Birds: They do not fly long distances or soar like hawks; their flight is more of a quick, powered ascent.

HISTORY OF THE PEACOCK (Peafowls)

Peafowl, native to India and Sri Lanka, have been admired for over 3,000 years, symbolizing royalty, immortality, and divinity across cultures. Revered in Hindu, Greek, and Christian traditions, they were imported by ancient civilizations to the Middle East and Europe. Historically, they were treated as royal pets and ornamental, often depicted in art and in modern branding like the 11-feathered NBC logo created in 1956.

Historical Significance and Symbolism

- **Indian Heritage:** Peafowl are deeply rooted in Indian culture, where they are native and recognized as the national bird. The Hindu god Kartikeya is often depicted riding a peacock

- **Ancient Greece & Rome:** In Greek mythology, they were associated with Hera, queen of the gods, and seen as symbols of immortality. Romans valued them as a delicacy, often serving them at banquets.

- **Biblical Times:** Peacocks are mentioned in the Bible as treasures brought to King Solomon.

Religious Symbolism: In early Christianity, the peacock was adopted as a symbol of immortality and resurrection. In Yazidism, Tawûsî Melek, the "Peacock Angel," is a central figure.

Spread and Cultural Impact

- **Alexander the Great:** He is credited with introducing them to Greece and forbidding their destruction after seeing them in India.

- **Middle Ages & Renaissance:** Peafowl were kept in European gardens as signs of luxury and status. Their image was frequently used in heraldry and art.

Modern Day: They remain popular in parks and zoos worldwide and serve as symbols in modern branding.

Interesting Facts

- **"In His Pride":** A term used in heraldry to describe a peacock with its tail displayed.

- **Misunderstood Creature:** Cardinal Wolsey in 1526 had English judges decide whether they were wild or domestic, resulting in their classification as domestic fowl.

"Peacocking": A term denoting pride or, in some contexts (like in Australia), the practice of purchasing specific land to render surrounding areas less valuable.

For a more in-depth explanation, check it out on Wikipedia:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peafowl>

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