

COZY

dec. 2013

6 ways to
exercise your
indoor
cat

when man's
best friend
becomes the
best man

create the perfect environment
for your **pet jellyfish**

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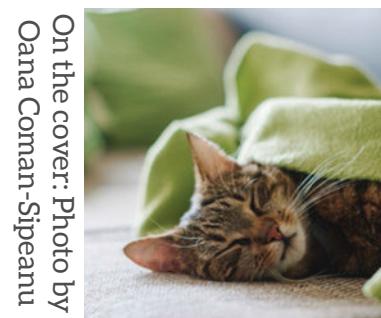


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DirecTV debuts a brand
new channel—for dogs

Contributors

Christian Roy is a software engineer in the Boston, Massachusetts area. He lives with his girlfriend and two cats, Kerrigan and Felicia. Christian can typically be found in many different forms in any number of fantastic video game locales.



Olivia Rush is a barista who lives in the suburbs of Providence, Rhode Island with her Russian Grey, Kiana. Olivia can often be found taking Kiana for walks, or curled up in the reading room at the local library with a huge book.

Lucas Lantos is a freelance photographer from Bath, Maine, where he lives with his fiancée and his mini daschund, Meatloaf. When he's not walking Meatloaf, Lucas can almost always be found on a bicycle or behind a camera somewhere.



cozy

publisher

Norah Bradley

editor-in-chief

Susan Logan

managing editor

Annie B. Shirreffs

marketing coordinator

Steve Dale

creative director

Ari Choquette

web editor

Melissa Kauffman

production coordinator

Carissa Smith

editorial assistant

Wendy Bedwell

Kay Devbliss

editorial contributors

Julie Kraut

Christian Roy

Olivia Rush

Lucas Lantos

photographic contributors

Christian Roy

Kristina Werner

Tim Seaggety

editor's note

Recently I took a long weekend to visit my hometown and see my family. When I got back, my two cats had very different reactions—one became so much more affectionate than usual and the other was very standoffish and wouldn't come to me for hours. Whenever I find my cats acting differently, I'm struck by how each has her own personality that's so distinct. They even have their own meows! Getting to know a pet and its personality is one of the true joys of pet ownership.

As with our people friends, we have to learn to listen to our pets and give them what they need. So many behavioral problems come from trying to impose our own wants and needs onto our animals—and when we stop to listen to them, we find that we can clear up some of those less-than-desirable behaviors. So this month, take a minute (or hour, or day) and listen to your pet. If she needs some affection, curl up on the couch with her. If she wants a couple hours to be mad at you in your presence, put on a movie and wait for her to come to you.

And of course, we want to thank you for supporting us and for choosing to read Cozy magazine. We're passionate about small animals, and we're incredibly fortunate to have people like you to share our passion with.

Norah



fun finds

Want to give your pet a comfy space to call their own and still have an uncluttered, modern-style home? Here are some brilliantly designed accessories that will work for your pets and for your home.



Left: Decorate your home with a playground for your cats. This live cat tree is beautiful and functional for your space. (catpalaceusa.com, \$1300)
Opposite: The Sophia shelves from HausPanther are a fashionable way to provide your cat with lots of vertical space. (hauspanther.com, \$150)



Top: The FishHotel tank is sold as separate cubes that can be combined together for different decor effects (umbra.com, \$35 each)

Right: Try a fold-up murphy bed to save space, like this custom-made model from Murphy's Paw Design. (murphypawdesign.com, \$1500)

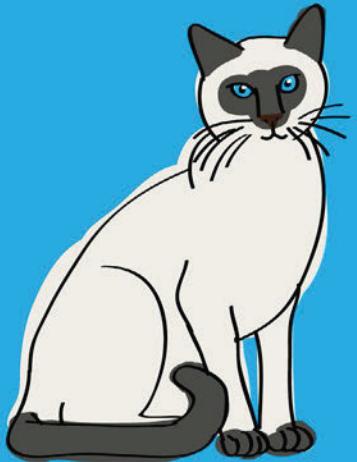


Using a pet bed with a bold color and pattern can have great visual impact in your space. (jossandmain.com, \$37)

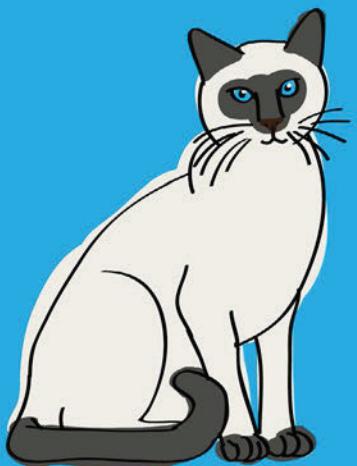


Above: Hide your litter box away with an elegant litter box cabinet. (catteux.com, \$2300)
Right: Finally, furniture the cat can scratch! This wall unit does double duty as a scratching post and entry table. ([ModernistCat shop, etsy.com](http://modernistcat.etsy.com), \$349)
Left: A dog house that doubles as a side table is a versatile piece that will keep your room looking stylish. ([ModernistCat shop on etsy.com](http://modernistcat.etsy.com), \$549)





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Conversations

Cozy contributor
Olivia Rush answers
our questions about
life with Keira, her
Russian Blue.

Dec 2013 * Cozy



How long have you been a cat owner, and what kind of cats have you owned?

Although I only own one cat right now, I have found great joy in owning several cats at once. Most of my cats have been rescued adult cats and I have had quite a mix of both short- and long-hair cats, and have had the opportunity to experience a wide variety of breeds.

How old is your current cat and what kind of funny or mischievous things does she do?

My current cat is named Kiana. She is an 8-year-old female cat that has a loving and kind personality. Both Kiana and I had to recently deal with the death of my other cat, who had cancer. We have found comfort in each other's company. One of the funniest things about her is how much she wants to act like a dog.

What do you love about owning a cat, and what makes her so lovable?

I love the company my cat gives me. She greets me at the door when I come home. I never feel alone. She loves me and doesn't expect anything but food, shelter, and love. It's easy to love her.



How has owning a cat made your life richer?

Owning a cat has made my life richer for several reasons: It has taught me to take care of something, it has made difficult times of my life easier, and it has brought me many wonderful friends from around the world who also own cats.

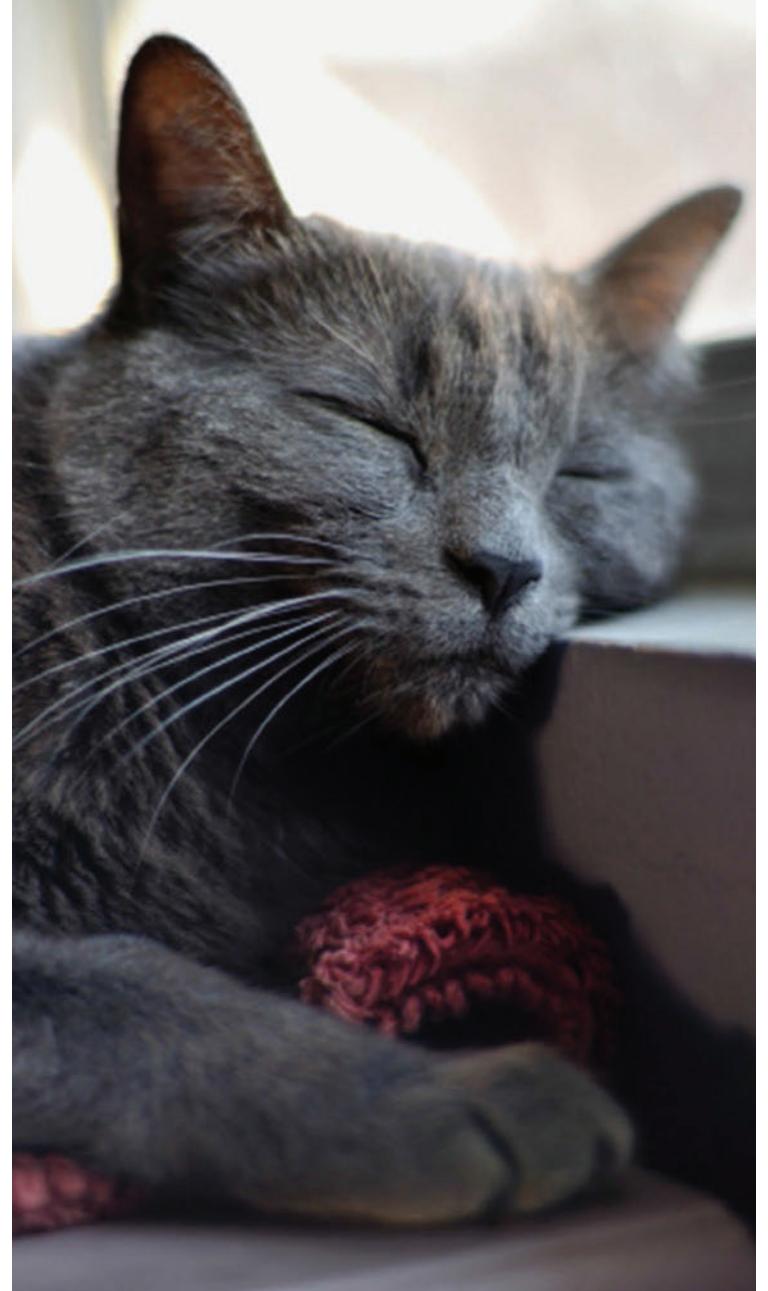
Can you share a cute story about your cat?

Kiana came to me because she was chosen by the breeder especially for me. She was a small wiry kitten who took no grief from her larger siblings. She was also known as the "evil kitten."

One day when she was still at the breeder's house, she could not be found anywhere in the kitten room. The breeder looked everywhere and couldn't think of how she could have gotten out. She was frantic. Then she saw a hole in a desk chair in the room. She stooped down and peeked in the hole, and there was Kiana looking out at her innocently from her new "nest."

What do you love about owning a cat? What makes them so lovable?

Cats are wonderful pets because they are affectionate, loving, and easy to care for. What I love most about owning and fostering cats is seeing how all the cats have their own personalities. I also love that cats don't care how much money is in your bank account or what type of clothes you wear, they love you for you, and that's hard to find in humans. ©



Doggie I do



Increasingly, man's best friend is sometimes also man's best man—if not a ring bearer, flower girl or simply a member of the wedding party. To meet this growing demand, wedding planners, niche retailers and other businesses are offering new services and products geared toward helping pets fulfill their special roles.

words by Sarah Needleman



Check websites like etsy.com for hand-made, customizable items made just for your pet.

at a wedding ceremony in Los Angeles

this coming Saturday, poodle mixes Lily and Luna will walk down the aisle sporting pearl-white leather leashes and hand-crafted floral collars.

A wrought-iron feeder and stainless-steel water bowls will await them at the reception, before the dogs cap off the night at a pet-friendly hotel.

"They are family," says 32-year-old bride-to-be Sarah Royer, who shares ownership of the pooches with her fiancé, Jonas Koester, also 32. "They have to be in the wedding."

Mostly dogs but also cats, pot belly pigs and birds are getting outfitted with ornate wedding gear, including miniature tuxedos, veils and top hats. Trainers are prepping them for top performance and sitters are standing by for when the job is done.

Husband-and-wife team Dedi and Gary Wood of Plano, Texas, have been hired by six clients to oversee dogs in wedding ceremonies since launching Shadow & Marty's Pet Care Services in 2008. Another couple,



Sheryl Bass and Neil Cline of Palatine, Ill., sell for \$130 a petal-dispensing wooden cart that's hitched to a pooch to walk down the aisle. The pair invented the device so their Affenpinscher mix could be in their own wedding in 2006.

"When I found the (pet) petal-pull cart, that turned out to be perfect," says Sarah Dostal, a 26-year-old health-care worker in Ventura, Calif., who is getting married in July and will have her and her fiancé's two Shih Tzu take part in the ceremony.

Angel, a seven-pound, two-year-old, will serve as the flower girl, dispensing lavender rose petals. Hercules, an older Maltese-Shih Tzu mix, will act as ring bearer, carrying a \$10 pillow she purchased at a crafts store on his back and fastened by a black ribbon with Velcro.

"It brings in the personality of the bride and groom," similar to another growing trend of couples making donations to their favorite charities in lieu of party favors, says Anna Pohl, owner of Day Planners LLC, an event-planning business in Sarasota, Fla.

Five years ago Ms. Pohl says she hadn't planned any weddings with pets in them, but now she does about two out of 30 a year.

Even couples who invest in lavish weddings are incorporating

pets into their nuptials. "You just have to be careful in how you handle them," says wedding designer Preston Bailey of New York, who charges rates for weddings with or without pets starting at \$200,000. In the past 12 months, he designed three weddings with dogs in them for the first time, he says.

"They are family. They have to be in the wedding."

Accidents can happen even at well-planned ceremonies. Two summers ago, Nora Sheils watched in horror when nature called for a client's West Highland terrier moments before the bride was to come down the aisle at her parents' home in Portland, Ore. "There was a big gasp," says Ms. Shields, owner of Bridal Bliss LLC, who plans eight to 10 weddings with pets a year out of an average of 60.

Brides and grooms also run the risk of offending guests, and churches, synagogues and other venues often have a no-pets policy. Pets could also potentially upstage the bride on what is supposed to be her big day.

Making sure everything goes smoothly can be costly. Los Angeles animal trainer Colleen Paige, who readied

pets to participate in 15 weddings last year, charges about \$2,500 per event and more if multiple pets and travel are involved, or if an animal is especially badly behaved.

Though she mostly works with dogs,

she has also prepped a pot belly pig, miniature horse and a goat for weddings, often setting up mock events for practice sessions. "It was a tug of war to get the pig down the aisle," she says. "It kept stopping to eat the flowers." ☐



Left: A bride gets a kiss from her furry friend after walking down the aisle. Above: This fancy pooch is ready to fulfill his duties as ring bearer.



MOON JELLYFISH

Watching fish in an aquarium has always been a relaxing endeavor, but adding jellyfish brings a tank to another level. Unfortunately, it isn't quite as easy as a trip to the pet store. Up until now, it hasn't been easy to keep jellyfish in home aquariums due to the filtration systems used in standard tanks, which tend to injure or kill the jellies. Jelly-Fish Art solves that problem with a clever approach to filtration adapted from much larger aquariums.

WORDS BY SCOTT YOUNKER



Inventor Alex Andon

desired his own jellyfish, but had to find a way to work around the filtration issue. Fortunately, he spent time building large commercial jellyfish tanks for tourist aquariums. Large-scale tanks have special water flow patterns that standard aquarium tanks haven't been able to mimic. These flow patterns keep the jellies away from harmful systems and the walls of the aquariums.

Andon endeavored to create home-size tanks, and after some tinkering he made the Desktop JellyFish Tank. The tank uses a circular flow that centers the jellyfish in the tank. This keeps them from getting stuck on the sides of the tank or becoming caught within the various inlets.

The Desktop JellyFish aquarium comes in only one size, a 6-gallon capacity tank, and is made out of crystal-clear acrylic. There's

How to care for your pet jellyfish

Upon arrival: make sure your tank is set up BEFORE ordering your jellyfish. When your jellies arrive, follow the instructions carefully to acclimate them to their tank. The jellyfish must be introduced to the new water gradually and given time to get comfortable.

Daily: feed your jellyfish a nutritious food with plenty of fatty acids. For extra nutrition, you can hatch brine shrimp (commonly known as sea monkeys) to put in the tank with your jellies.

Weekly: Replace 25% of the water in your jellyfish tank and check salinity. Never use tap water in your aquarium; salt water can be purchased or mixed at home. Make sure the salt water stays in the 30-45 ppt salinity range.

For more information on jellyfish care and how you can get started on your own aquarium, visit www.jellyfishart.com.

enough room in the tank to keep five jellyfish, but the kits that JellyFish Art sells only go up to three. You can get the single jelly, three jelly, or the deluxe kit which comes with a hermit crab and a cleaner snail as well. Kits also come with lighting systems that allow you to play with the color of the lights that display in the tank.

JellyFish Art sends only one type of jelly—the Moon Jellyfish—an example of which you can see in the photo gallery above. You can also put regular aquarium fish in with the jellies.

Desktop JellyFish aquariums are fairly pricy, starting at \$285, but JellyFish art sends everything that you need to get started including food, the fish themselves, and if you get the deluxe kit, you'll get cleaning products, water-testing equipment and aquarium salt. ©

The tank uses a circular flow that centers the jellyfish in the tank. This keeps them from getting stuck on the sides of the tank.



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"Word around the fire hydrant is that calcium helps keep teeth and bones healthy.
Mmmmm, bones."



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Jackson Galaxy

The star of Animal Planet's *My Cat From Hell* has been dubbed the "Cat Daddy." How did he get his start as a cat behavioralist and what tips can he share with cat owners about dealing with troublesome cats?

words by Sherry Phillips



One night, about 15 years ago,

Galaxy went into the cat room at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley, Colorado, where he worked, to calm the kitties down during a storm, and the cats just kind of gravitated toward him. The "Cat Daddy" was born.

"If you know that you can help affect a change in an animal's life and keep them from being euthanized in a shelter, you jump on it," the New York City-born cat wrangler says. "That is as simple as it was. Over time, we started implementing me doing home visits."

Galaxy sits on the board of directors of Stray Cat Alliance and Fix Nation in Los Angeles, as well as on the board of advisors of Neighborhood Cats in his hometown of New York City.



This season of "My Cat From Hell" is Galaxy's fourth, and he says that each year producers up the ante on the problems. One of his most difficult in season four was trying to re-educate a cat, which had been abandoned, to once again trust humans and come into the house of the people trying to rescue it. There was also an instance where a mom was convinced that the family's cat was attacking her small dogs.

"It was the most intense psychological challenge I have ever dealt with. I am not a human psychologist," he says.

But the story that touched his heart the most was a little girl with a cat named Autumn. She was about to lose her tabby to the animal shelter because it peed on everything.

The author of the memoir *Cat Daddy: What the World's Most Incorrigible Cat Taught Me About Life, Love and Coming Clean* recalls that "The family said, 'Of course we want her to have this kitten, but we are losing everything in the house from microwaves to couches.' The pressure was really on."

When not filming the Animal Planet series, Galaxy, who now lives in Los Angeles, runs his private consulting practice, working with →

families to help them understand why their cats are acting out and how to resolve the issues.

"I come into homes with cats halfway out the door," he says. "Their owners are ready to bring them to shelters or turn them out into the street. We are able to make that not happen and forge a bond between humans and animals. That is my part and I get to see it happen every day."

In Galaxy's memoir, *Cat Daddy: What the World's Most Incorrigible Cat Taught Me About Life, Love and Coming Clean* (Tarcher/Penguin, May 2012), he tells the inspiring story of Benny, the cat who saved his life and set him on the path to becoming America's Cat Daddy. Along the way, he shares his mission—born from his many years working at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley—to help save the 4 million dogs and cats who die in shelters each year. As Galaxy says: "Working in an animal shelter grounded me in the current reality of animal overpopulation and convinced me simultaneously of the promise of a no-kill country."

"If you know that you can help affect change in an animal's life, you jump on it. That's as simple as it was."

So what, would Cat Daddy tell every cat guardian if he could?

"Get more," he said without hesitation. "My job is demystifying [cats], 'fixing,' making the problems less than so you bring more into your house so less die," he said. "That's all that I care about."

"In the process of getting more, learn the way they see the world and make it matter to you," he continued.

Galaxy also is dedicated to building an online community. While he can't personally respond to every post, he hopes that those who have seen his show and attended Cat Mojo 101 reach out to other cat guardians who might be approaching the end of their ropes.

"It's important that we keep this ball rolling," he said. "The bottom line to all of this is to get more cats homes; kill fewer cats." ©

Jackson Galaxy's top tips for handling your cat



» Play with your cat! There are so many behavioral issues that will naturally resolve when Kitty can spend her energy playing with you.

» Limit food to specific feeding times. Cats will stress eat just like humans will, so if Kitty isn't feeling good he may start to overeat and gain weight.

» Vertical space is a natural confidence booster for a cat. She can look over the whole room while staying out of arms reach and at eye level.

» If your cat doesn't like to be pet, try winning him over with small food treats. The trick is to link petting with positive associations in the cat's mind.

» Is your cat flicking her tail back and forth or shrinking away from your hand when you reach for her? Cats will use body language to let you know when they don't want attention. Leave her alone for now and try again later.

» Make sure Kitty always has a clean litter box that's not too near his food. Placement is just as important as cleanliness, and if he isn't happy with where the litter is he'll find other places to use the bathroom (like your potted plants!).



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Playing dress up

At the annual Fancy Rat Convention in New York City, these fashionable little creatures did a full runway show featuring designs by Ada Nieves.

words by Julie Kraup

rats can play a big role

in the world of science—but what about in the realm of style?

Rodent lovers tried to prove that rats aren't creepy household pests, but adorable pets by putting on a rat fashion show at the NYC Fancy Rat Convention in New York City on May 29.

Decked out in tutus and wedding dresses, among other ensembles, the rodents showed their lovable—and fashionable—sides by wearing the miniature outfits.

Pet fashionista Ada Nieves is selling rat tuxedos, wedding dresses and bridesmaids gowns among other exclusive designs.

Ada, from New York, said: 'The rats look very cute and seem to like wearing them. Rats are very popular these days and the owners love to dress them up.'

Rat fans gathered in New York for a rodent fashion show featuring Ada's outfits, which come complete with crystals, feathers and frilly tutus, and sell for around £50 (about \$80) each.

Right: This fancy rat is decked out in an Ada Nieves original. Opposite, top: This gown, inspired by the Disney princess Belle, could be seen on the rattie runway in NYC. Opposite, bottom: This little guy modeled Nieves' matching vest and leash set, which can double as a walking harness.



Dolled up in little rodent-sized vests and even a mousy-looking bridal gown, rats sashayed with their handers up and down a makeshift runway at the convention.

Rat owner Kelly Antonova, 27, said: 'Rats have amazing personalities. They are like a dog, cat and ferret all rolled into one. But each also has its own individual character.'

'I've had rats who swim in a little bath, or sleep on the bed. You can train them on a little lease and they will learn how to dance, and how to fetch things like a dog. Rats are very sociable and give you a lot of love. They are very intelligent and share similar characteristics to humans.'

The latest breeds sell for around £70 (\$112) but owners are also spending a fortune on rat furniture for their cages, toys, hammocks, clothing and harnesses.

Kelly, from Long Island, who runs a pet supply business, Kelly Critter Creations, added: 'Friends of owners usually end up falling in love with rats and getting their own. It became more fashionable once people realised celebrities were keeping rats. The message is finally getting out that rats make great pets.'

Rats are the perfect household pet, she insisted, boasting they are easier to care for than dogs or cats and smarter and cleaner than guinea pigs.

Ashten Anthony, 24, a self-styled rat breeder from Pottsville, Pa., says folks just have to get over their petty prejudices against rats.

"There's a negative stereotype people have about rats," Anthony said. "Rats are wonderful, great pets."

Scenes from the flick "Ratatouille" — considered a breakthrough sympathetic artistic depiction of the rodents — played on a wall. Paintings and sculptures of rat were on display.

With models provided by the Big Apple Rattery, the event could do a lot to help rats overcome their stigma, said event organizer Tara Delahoz.

According to rat owners present at the Fancy Rat Convention, despite the negative stereotype people have about rats, these creatures have amazing personalities which make them much more suitable pets than cats, dogs or ferrets. They are very sociable, intelligent, loving, and can be trained to do all kinds of tricks, from dancing to fetching stuff.

"Once people see how beautiful they are, they'll get turned on to them," the Queens resident said. ©



DogTV

There are channels for news. There are channels for sports. There are channels for food, and the outdoors, and shopping, and recently, all about sharks. Now, there's a channel just for your pooch.

words by Geetika Rudra



**"you can really
use TV
to entertain
pets,"**

Ron Levi, founder of DOGTV, told us. "We have created programs where every frame, second and sound have been tailored to fit the way dogs see and hear the world."

DOGTV aims to help dogs who suffer from separation anxiety when their owners are away by providing "relaxing, stimulating and behavior-improving content" packaged in three- to six-minute-long segments, according to the channel's website.

"We wrote and recorded very relaxing music specifically for dogs. Everything we included in our content is something research tells us dogs like to see, like other dogs and moving objects," Levi said.

The creators of DOGTV say they did three years of research on dog behavior, focusing on surveillance video of dogs to see not only what they did while home alone, but also how they reacted to television.

The result was a television channel geared just for dogs while they hang out at home alone. "Whenever there's a dog home alone, we feel this is a perfect babysitter," founder and Chief Content Officer Ron Levi said.

The channel features no barking and the occasional squeaky toy—Levi says their research showed that dogs got irritated and angry when barked at from the television—along with enhanced colors to make the more visible to dogs.

"We enhanced the greens and reds in the picture to make them more vibrant so they would be visible to dogs," said Nicholas Dodman, a professor of animal behavior at

Tufts University. "We also included sounds that would be calming for dogs, but not necessarily humans."

DOGTV includes three types of programming, including stimulation, relaxation and exposure. The station will air without commercials and humans may notice that the images on the screen are not as clear as they should be.

"The content is not for human eyes," Levi said. "It might be clear to dogs, but not necessarily for people."

The idea of keeping a television on at home for the dog while people are away is nothing new, actually. The Humane Society actually recommends keeping a television on while you're gone if your dog has displayed signs of separation anxiety in the past.

DOGTV has attracted the attention of animal rights groups across the country. The channel is even being tested in veterinary clinics and shelters, which creators say leaves some dogs "mesmerized."

"This channel is a grand experiment that has a lot of potential to do a lot of good," Kirsten Theisen, director of pet care issues at The Humane Society of the United States, told us. "We are hoping the science behind the channel is accurate and that the developers will follow up to see how to improve dogs' quality of life." ©



Cozy * Dec 2013



hey. that tickles.

We don't speak the same language.
You just know what I'm saying.

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six ways to exercise your indoor cat



new treats

If you're committing to a healthier lifestyle for your cat, it probably means you're spoiling him less with food treats; that can leave a lot of pet owners feeling guilty about neglecting their pet. But just because you want your cat to slim down doesn't mean you can't give him any special treats. Buy fun toys instead of food treats. Focus on items that will really get your cat moving, like a stringed feather on a pole that your cat will never get tired of swatting at.

laser pointer

If you're looking for some extra kitty cardio, Dr Lee recommends getting a laser pointer to use with your cat. The bouncing light will get even the most sessile of felines up to paw at it.

food move

Move your cat's food during feeding time from a counter to the floor and back again, forcing your feline to jump around during eating. Make it a game for your cat with lots of snuggling rewards when he makes the jump.

water and food work out

"If you've got a super lazy cat that does nothing but eat, make that work for you," Lindsay Stordahl, owner of Run That Mutt and blogger at ThatMutt.com suggests. "Separate his water and food so that simply moving from one to another burns some calories."



cheap non-toys

Dr Justine Lee, veterinary specialist and author of *It's a Dog's Life... but It's Your Carpet and It's a Cat's World... You Just Live in It*, recommends opening your eyes to non-toys that your pet loves. Her cats like to play with paper, boxes and bags. Leave these items around the house in high places where your cat can safely jump to add some extra work-out time.

vertical space

"Make sure there are safe vertical spaces in your home for your cat to jump on," Jean Hofve, DVM, author of *The Complete Guide to Holistic Cat Care: An Illustrated Handbook* suggests. This could be a window sill, set of empty shelves, or a cat tree so that even when you're not home kitty can burn some energy jumping around.

your pets



Felicia

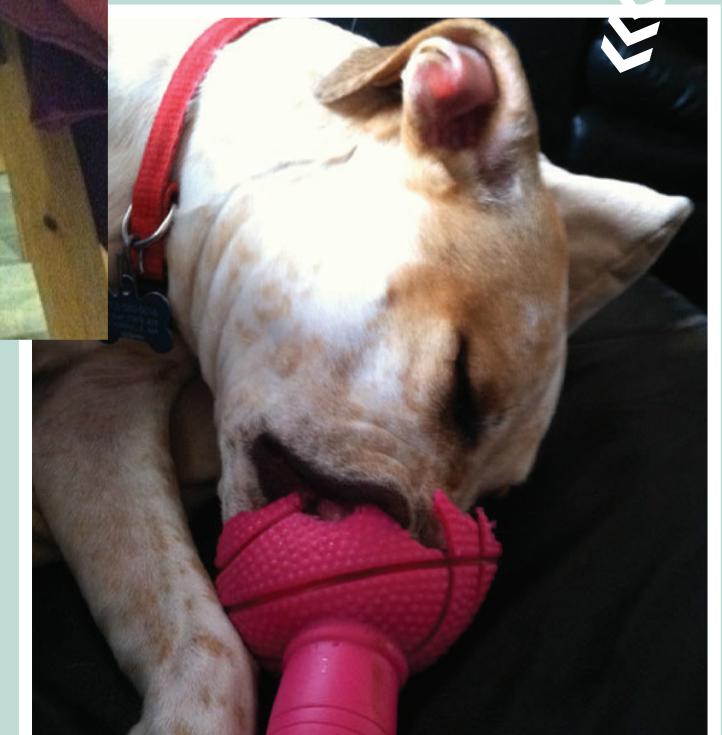


Fiona & Allie

Dakota



Kerrigan



Sadie

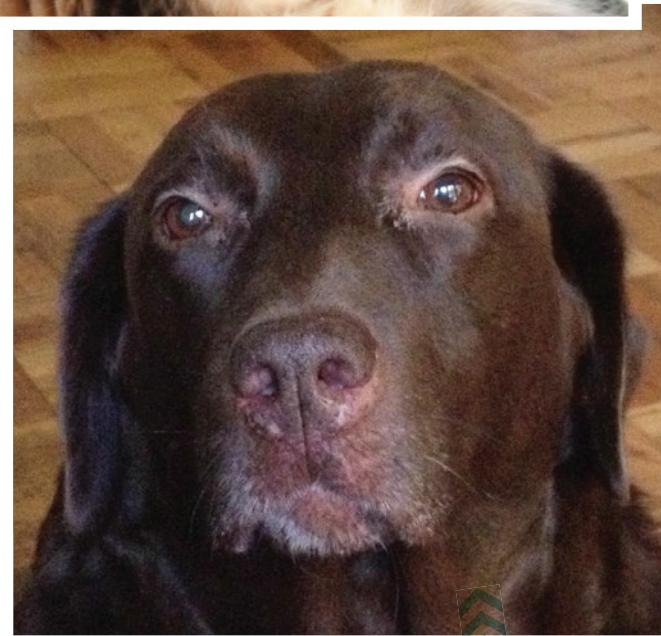
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and you might see your
furry (or scaly!) friend in
the next issue!



Ciro



Maui



Kali

Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms.

George Eliot