



## Pet/Nip Tuck on the Rise

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- The Chance to win a Sony Digital SLR Camera!
- RSPCA Officer of the month.
- How to make an eco-friendly statement with your pet.
- Thinking of encouraging wildlife into your garden?
- Hamster losing his hair? The Pet Doctor answers your questions.
- Zombie Frogs.
- Drug Lords strike back with Drug Mule Dogs.



Written by Najlaa Heerah

The new wave of Cosmetic Surgery for pets all started in Brazil, and slowly moved up to the USA, where cash laden pet owners are offered the opportunity to perk up their pups faces with a little nip & tuck.

Research has shown that despite a ban on tail docking and ear cropping in the West Hollywood region of the USA, the rise of pet plastic surgery is becoming evermore popular with pet owners of the Hollywood Hills.

Shows such as E! Channel's *Insanely Pampered Pets*, and UK Production Company, Tiger Aspect's *Pet Plastic Surgery* are highlighting the popularity of operations such as facelifts, 'neuticles', (prosthetic testicular implants) and even rhinoplasty. *Insanely Pampered Pets* takes a light hearted approach to the matter, UK's Pet Plastic Surgery, offers a more controversial point of view, but both detailing the lengths that owners would go to for flawless pets.

**'The owners should be jailed and these so called vets struck off the register'**

Disgraced by the popularity of some operations, Sir Patrick Moore, reveals his disgust '... These poor animals are being humiliated and demoralised by having braces inserted and faces restructured – the thing is,



for every time they visit these so called doctors, even for the removal of braces they will be required to be anaesthetised, and the higher the quantity increases, the nearer to death they are. The owners should be jailed and these so called vets struck off the register.'

However, the RSPCA's work with the USA's Humane Society has proved somewhat successful as the countries largest national veterinary organisation, Banfield, The Pet Hospital, has banned tail docking and ear cropping operations on dogs in all of its 730 operating pet hospitals.

The RSPCA will continue to work with the Humane Society in tackling the rise of unnecessary Pet Plastic Surgery in the USA.



Bolt with Lightning in Kenya

## Bolt adopts Lightning fast companion

Usain Bolt, the world's fastest man has adopted a baby cheetah, who was aptly named by the sprinter, Lightning Bolt.

On a four day tour of the country along with the UK's Colin Jackson and other athletes, they visited the RSPCA's conservation orphanage in Nairobi,

Kenya where Usain spotted the, erh, well spotty cub.

Bolt was said to be besotted by the animal, adopting the cheetah for £8,500 pounds in a bid to raise awareness of the environmental conservation projects taking place in Kenya.

## Dogs are still being used as Drug Mules

Despite constant campaigning against dogs being used to carry drugs - the problem still remains. Last week the Metropolitan Police conducted a dawn raid at a warehouse in East London.

What they found was lifeless, limp bodies of dogs who had travelled with sacks of liquid cocaine in their stomachs, only to have it ruptured again to service the drug habits of the United Kingdom.

When RSPCA officers were called to the warehouse they were shocked by the sight greeting them, which is why the organisation is bringing back its '1 Gram' Campaign. The charity will also be working in conjunction with specialist anti-drug organisations such as, 'Drug Prevention' in America and other countries to tackle the issue internationally.

"We have re-established the 1 Gram Campaign to highlight the continual

use of animals, in carrying drugs from one country to another. Although it is most common for dogs to be used in the transactions, there have also been reports of the use of cats." Mark Watts Chief Executive of the RSPCA also highlights the advantage of having connections with the drugs prevention unit.

There will also be new RSPCA offices at all major UK airports working with the police force to detect if animals entering the UK are carrying drugs. RSPCA officers will have a vet at their disposal, should drugs be detected in the dogs.

The RSPCA has also released a new advert alongside Talk to Frank, the confidential drugs advice line, to raise awareness in the younger community about the use of dogs in carrying drugs.

It features Pablo, the drug mule dog visiting different drug users on a night out.

130,000 dogs enter the UK as drug mules, of which less than 20% go undetected.

The re-launch of 1 Gram hopes to put a gradual halt on the use of animals and drugs.



Screen grab from Pablo the Drug Mule Dog Advert

## Dawn of the Dead Frog

In light of RSPCA's National Frog week, we bring you, Zombie Frogs.

Don't be fooled by the kindly eyes and half smiles. What you're looking at here are potential frozen zombies, aka wood frogs.

Frighteningly well adapted to their chilly northern North American habitats, wood frogs are among the animal world's "zombies"--Halloween-y creatures that've evolved the ability to twitch back from the brink of death. Lab tests have shown wood frogs to survive being frozen nearly solid--with up to 70 percent of their internal water turned to ice--for about four weeks, usually in forest burrows, according to researchers at the Laboratory for Ecophysiological Cryobiology at Miami University, Ohio.

The frogs' resilience is linked to a shifting of water to areas less likely to be damaged by freezing, as well as natural "antifreeze" in their blood. During thawing, wood frogs' hearts begin beating again, and normal movement returns within a day.



Wood Frogs in North America

## Want to create an ideal wildlife habitat in your garden?

Resident Wildlife Gardener at the Dorset Wildlife Trust, Jim Fleur, gives us a few tips on encouraging wildlife in to the garden.

You need to think horizontally and vertically when considering the area of your garden in which you're planning to attract wildlife to. By horizontal, this means the area of ground at soil level, both length and width, you have to play with and the vertical means from the soil up to the canopy formed by the highest branches of any trees. Shrubs and trees are the main two components of wildlife garden design as they provide shelter and are also excellent sources for finding food. Things to Consider

When planting trees and shrubs, you need to ask yourself how much shade from the sun they'll provide, if they'll attract food sources and whether or not they're evergreen or do they shed their leaves in autumn.

The type of birds you may want to attract will also have an implication for the type of trees you may wish to plant. Some birds prefer berries, for example, others like an intense concentration of trees whilst others prefer



open meadow land so it's important to gain an understanding of a particular species of bird's nesting habits. It may well be that your best option would be to build or make a bird box. Different species of birds prefer to feed in a particular way. Some like clinging onto bird feeders, others like bird tables and some prefer to eat on the ground. On this note, what type of food are you going to put out? Not all birds like the same food. What about butterflies and bees? If you want these to grace your garden, you'll need to include nectar bearing plants and, as far as bees go, if you use insecticides you may need to rethink your strategy about effective pest control or you may end up

killing them off. If you want to attract toads, frogs and newts etc., you're going to need a pond with shade nearby and which is designed to provide easy access to and from water and land.

What is important overall is to strike the perfect ecological balance so that the 4 basic habitat needs are met for all the creatures you intend to 'invite' into your garden. No doubt, you'll want to attract some species more than others but, as a consequence of designing the right setting for those whom you wish to set up residence in your garden, you might also be creating the perfect environment for others whom you regard as a pest.

### Pet Officer of the Month Sarah Wilks



November's Pet Officer of the Month is Sarah Wilks, who found Mitsy (pictured), in a wheelie bin when she was off duty. Mitsy, now 8 weeks old was close to death when Sarah found her, but thanks to Sarah, Mitsy is now healthy.

### The Young Photographer's Competition

Interested in winning a Sony Digital SLR Camera?

This competition is for budding wildlife photographers who are under 18 and want to show off their skills.

Send in your favourite wildlife / animal picture that you have taken yourself, anywhere in the UK and email it to [youngphotographers@rspca.org.uk](mailto:youngphotographers@rspca.org.uk) for your chance to win that camera and have your picture grace the front covers of January 2010's issue of *Member's Monthly*.

Deadline is 20th December 2009. Go to [www.rspca.org.uk/youngphotographersaward](http://www.rspca.org.uk/youngphotographersaward) for full terms and conditions.

# The Pet Doctor answers Your Questions



## Can I give my dog a home remedy?

Hi Doc,  
I have a 14 year old Lab. The last two days she has had diarrhea. She hasn't acted like she's sick. (drinks water, eats, is excited to see us). Do you have any "home remedies" I can try or can we give her something over the counter?

Hi June,

I would be afraid to recommend home remedies or OTC products. Her age group have an analogous age to humans of about 108. If your 108-year-old grandmother had diarrhea would you try OTC products, or would you rush her to the doctor? Take advantage of the fact that she still feels good and please get her into see her veterinarian first thing. Please, also, update us on how she is after her doctor visit.

Many Thanks, June from Wimbledon

## My Hamster is losing his hair

Dear Pet Doctor,

My hamster is a long-haired syrian and I got him about 6 months ago as a rescue but because of this I'm not exactly sure of his age; I think he's about 18 months. Recently I've noticed that on his back the hair is thinning a little, its not patching but looks like he might be losing a little hair. I thought he might have mites because he scratches sometimes but there doesn't seem to be any sign of them on his fur or skin. Also the skin looks fine apart from a little dandruff. I don't really want to put him through the stress of the vets unless I have to because he is a pretty jumpy hamster although he has been tamed. He was kept in a cage all the time until we got him so he was quite fat but now he has gradually lost weight and seems a good size. I have had a good feel of him as best I can and I didn't feel any lumps and bumps. So I'm wondering whether this could just be old age? He is still very active and eating and drinking well but I wouldn't want to just ignore the hair loss.

Eva, Shropshire

Hi Eva,

Hamster Hair loss can come with old age and will usually start at about 1 1/2 years old to 2 years years old. The other reasons for hair loss can be a vitamin deficiency, or as you had mentioned mites. At this stage I would not put him through too much as he is getting up there in age and stress can take its toll on him. I would make sure he is getting the best quality food. Oxbow puts some out that is great for small rodents and is very nutritional. Watch for changes in weight and appetite if there is weight loss or he seems to not want to eat, then at that time you may need to see a Vet with Pocket Pet Experience.

Email your questions to the Pet Doctor on [petdoc@rspca.org.uk](mailto:petdoc@rspca.org.uk)

Please note: although all questions are answered and available to access online, only a few make it into *Members Monthly*. If your question hasn't been answered in this month's edition, please go to [www.rspca.org.uk/members/petdoc](http://www.rspca.org.uk/members/petdoc) to access your answer.

## Pimp Up your Pooch – Eco Style

Pet collars do not get as eco friendly as this. Founded in 2003 by Sonya and Sean Hubbard, Wagging Green is an environmentally friendly pet collar company which uses bamboo fibre, instead of the traditional synthetic fibres.

When the couple discovered they're Jack Russell pup was allergic to the usual synthetic collars, Sonya decided to make little Gidget a collar from cotton material, which turned out to be a hit with the dog, and other pet owners. The couple expanded into cat collars and went green in 2008 after discussing the importance of sustainable living and the benefits of Bamboo fibre, "It's organic, renewable, soft, strong, bio-degradable, naturally

anti-bacterial, and hypoallergenic!" says Sonya. The only problem was acquiring bamboo in webbing form – it didn't exist! Sonya and Sean did not see an obstacle, but an opportunity to acquire the patent for a bamboo webbing factory and the eco friendly pet collars!

With an evolving collection of unique and vivid pet collars to suit every pet personality, and even a collection of eco friendly dog t-shirts, the Wagging Green brand will be a common household name in no time.

If you are interested in pimping your pooch the eco friendly way, visit [www.wagginggreen.com](http://www.wagginggreen.com) for a selection of cat and dog collars, dog T-shirts and other accessories.

We love the Classic Eco collection (pictured)

