

**August 1, 2008**

**Volume 1 Issue 3**

## **PAWS TO THE STARS**

### **Pets and Vacation**

Check in Time by Jessica Taylor

It's travel time, and what could be better than taking your pet along? Whether you are going camping, to the beach, or to the mountains, there are a number of places that allow your pets. With a little research, you will find the perfect pet-friendly hotel in no time!

There are a number of hotel chains that allow animals. Each chain has its own policies, such as number of pets per room, weight restrictions, and extra pet fees. However, just because a hotel is part of a chain does not mean that it shares the same pet policies as the chain. Many hotel chains are privately owned, meaning that it is up to the owner to decide how the hotel will operate. This is just a short list of well-known chains that allow pets. Once you figure out where you are vacationing, call the hotel directly to check on its pet policies.

La Quinta Inn & Suites: This hotel chain claims to have a "chain wide pet policy," which means that pets are accepted at all locations. However, still check with the specific La Quinta before you take your pet. They do not charge an extra fee for your pet, but do ask that you are present

### **POINTS OF INTEREST**

**Visit our Yahoo web page**

**And please register your pets**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Pets and Vacation	PP.1-3
All About Ferrets	PP.4-5
The Importance of a Pet Trust	PP 6-7
The Basics of Iguana Care	PP.8-10
Parrot Care	PP.11-12
Bad Medicine for Pets	PP. 13-17
About us	P.18
Coming Attractions	P.18

## Pets and Vacation



**A chameleon**



**Parakeet**

that you are present when the cleaning crew comes to clean your room. If you cannot be present, then the pet must be secured in a crate. La Quinta welcomes all pets weighing less than 50 pounds.

**Marriott Hotels & Resorts:** Each Marriott has its own pet policy. In Fort Collins, Colorado, there is a non-refundable pet fee, and a \$25 extra charge for three or more pets. Also, families with pets can only stay on the first floor. In Miami Beach, Florida, there is no additional charge for pets. Pets can weigh up to 100 pounds, and must be secured in a crate if the owner is not present.

**Americas Best Value Inn:** There are over 400 pet-friendly locations across the United States, but each location has its own policy. For instance, if you are visiting Palm Springs, California, then there is a \$10 fee for the entire stay. This location only allows dogs. In Savannah, Georgia, the fee is \$10 per pet each night, but there are no additional restrictions.

**Intercontinental Hotels & Resorts:** Intercontinental offers a handful of pet-friendly hotels across the country. Although the policy slightly differs from city to city, most hotels allow animals (with a weight limit). Most locations charge a \$100 non-refundable pet fee.

**Holiday Inn:** This hotel chain offers a multitude

## Pets and Vacation

of pet-friendly hotels in 47 states. Each hotel's policy varies significantly. The Holiday Inn in Nashville, Tennessee, welcomes all pets, regardless of size, and does not charge an extra fee. Gulfport, Mississippi accepts any pet weighing less than 20 pounds and does not charge a fee.

No matter what chain you choose, here are some things to expect: a waiver, some sort of fee, a weight limit, a number limit, and a crate requirement. Most hotels will make you sign a waiver, taking complete responsibility for any damage your pet may cause to the room. Most hotels will also charge a fee, whether it is a refundable deposit, a non-refundable deposit, a fee per night, or a cleaning fee. The weight of your pet is often a determinant of where you can stay. Some hotels only allow pets less than 20 pounds, while others accommodate up to 100 pound pets. You will also be allowed so many pets per room. If you have more than the number allotted, then you can expect an extra fee. The crate is very important. If you leave your pet unattended, then many chains require that your pet be secured in the crate (in case someone comes to clean the room).

Vacationing with you pet can be a great experience! There are hundreds of hotels across the country that allow pets. Each hotel, whether independent or part of a chain, has its own policy. Once you figure out your destination, research the hotels in the area to find the right fit. More than likely, you will find fees associated with having your pet, but it is worth it to have the extra company!



**Pot Belly Pig**



**A Sugar Glider**

## All About Ferrets

Domestic ferrets are the third most popular house pet in the United States. They make good pets since they are quiet, entertaining, and relatively low maintenance. Due to their exuberant personality, ferrets are generally better suited as pets for adults or for older children.

### *Interesting Facts*

**Characteristics:** Ferrets are small mammals usually weighing less than 5 pounds. The males are much larger than females. Ferrets reach puberty at 4 to 8 months and females produce an average litter size between 8 to 10 kits. Life expectancy is up to 8 years but longer if fed a good [diet](#) and with regular veterinary care.

**Appearance:** There are two basic colors of ferrets; sable and albino, but there are many color mutations, producing a wide range of shades and coat patterns. Color variations include Black, Champagne, Cinnamon, and Chocolate.

**#1 Preventable Health Problem:** [Poor nutrition](#) is the cause of several health problems. Feeding low quality, generic cat food results in malnutrition due to the low amount of quality protein. It can also



A Ferret

**Suffering the loss of a pet is like losing a child, to many people their pets are their children**



A Peacock

## All About Ferrets



**A butterfly fish**



**A Porkfish**

increase the risk of bladder stones. Over-feeding sweet treats can result in obesity and dental problems.

**Preferences:** Ferrets are a living contradiction. They are extremely [active](#) and energetic pets but also love to [nap](#). They enjoy playing and are extremely curious, so it is important to let them play in a ferret-proof room. Provide a soft and snug [nest](#) for napping once they are back in their [cage](#).

**Best Features:** Their silly and unpredictable antics make ferrets irresistible and a joy to watch. Agile and inquisitive, ferrets are a bundle of energy that spring into action when let out to play.

**Housing:** Ferret [cages](#) should include a [litter box](#) with a very low entrance, a [no-tip water bowl](#) as well as a [clip-on food dish](#), and a [sleeping tube or nest](#). Caged ferrets need to be let out for at least 4 or more hours every day to play in a room that has been ferret-proofed.

**Diet:** Ferrets require a concentrated [diet](#) that is high in energy and protein but low in fiber. Provide quality foods specifically formulated for ferrets as well as a steady source of fresh [water](#). Ferrets will stop eating if they are without water for 24 hours.

## The Importance of a Pet Trust

Many pet owners think of their pets as part of their family. Legally pets are considered personal property like a car or jewelry.

If you are sick, injured, or unable to care for your pet and have not planned ahead, your pets may not be taken care of by the person you want. They may be managed like your other personal property.

Upon your death, your pets will pass as residual property under your will or your states intestate laws.

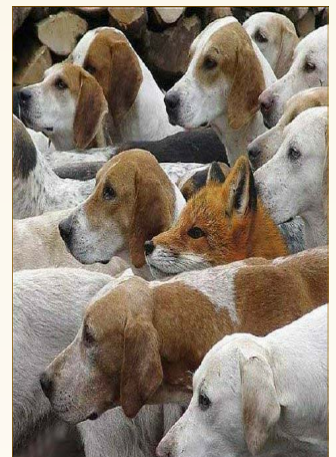
It is important to make specific provisions in your will, trust, and other estate planning documents to provide for your pet. If not, your pet could end up like many, in a shelter or on the street.

A Pet trust give you the ability to control your pets care if you are unable to. You can also add additional pets to the trust during your life. The trust can go into effect as soon as you create it.



### A Tribble

**A Good Tip:**  
When you are in deep trouble, look straight ahead, keep your mouth shut, and say nothing.



## The Importance of a Pet Trust



**A Stuffed  
Penguin**

**If you can  
donate  
time or  
money to a  
no kill dog  
or cat  
shelter**



**Virtual pet  
Wooley  
Hooves**

Other less expensive methods of taking care of your pets include provisions in a will to create a pet trust if a pet survives you and conditional gifts in the will. Although a gift in the will does not require that the funds be used for the benefit of the pet the funds are given with the instructions to be used for the purpose you request.

If you would like to know more about creating Estate Planning Documents to provide for your pet, please [Contact](#) a licensed [Estate Planning Lawyer](#) in your state.

Next month I will have a more detailed explanation of what is involved in a pet trust. Many of our beloved pets end up in an animal shelter when the companion either dies or is incapacitated. I think many people believe their pets will be protected by family members but that is not the case for many pets. I for one am going to look into a pet trust. A pet is like a child to be protected whether pet insurance or a pet trust.

## The Basics of Iguana Care

### Food and Shelter: The basics of proper iguana care.

Iguanas are very popular pets. People who take iguanas as pets do so because they may find iguanas "exotic". However, some people are put off by the fact that iguana care can be very hard work. However, if you know the basics of food and shelter for iguanas, then iguana care can actually be quite easy. Here are some things you should know about proper iguana care:

1) Food – Iguanas are strict herbivores. Old books on iguana care still say that you need to feed small insects to an iguana. This advice is backed by the fact that some iguanas have been seen consuming small insects in the wild. However, you should know that wild iguanas usually eat insects accidentally, when some such insect lands on a piece of vegetable matter that the iguana is eating.

Another reason why some wild iguanas eat insects is because of the fact that they have nothing else to feed on. Sometimes, different factors affect the vegetation on an iguana's habitat and so the iguana is forced to feed on insects.

Why shouldn't you feed animal proteins to an iguana?



**TURTLE**

**Dogs have owners**

**Cats have staff**

**Anonymous**



**A green iguana**

## The Basics of Iguana Care



**"We  
can  
judge  
the  
heart  
of a  
man by  
his  
treat-  
ment  
of ani-  
mals."  
~ Im-  
manua**

First of all, iguanas' bodies are made for maximum use of plant foods. This means that they are not able to properly process the high concentration of protein contained in animal products. The part of the protein that their bodies cannot process often ends up as crystals deposited in the tissue. This could lead to gout or kidney failure.

Proper iguana care requires that you try to keep your iguana on a strict vegetarian diet. Some people think that their iguana's growth will be stunted if they do not feed it any animal proteins. You should know, however, that iguanas which are fed strictly plant foods will grow bigger and live longer.

Shelter – this is the second consideration to take in proper iguana care. An iguana owner should pay very close attention to the habitat because of the simple fact that an iguana is cold blooded. This means that the iguana depends highly on its environment for its survival. Here are some things to consider:

a) Temperature – the enclosure for the iguana should have varying spots of temperature. This is so that the iguana can regulate its body temperature by moving between cold and hot spots. You should provide a basking spot for your iguana that has



## The Basics of Iguana Care

has a temperature ranging from 90 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

b) Size – proper iguana care requires that you provide an enclosure which gives your iguana plenty of space to move around. Some people might think that iguanas require small habitat, but the fact is that an iguana that's properly taken care of can grow up to six feet long! This means that you have to be prepared for the future if you want your iguana to remain healthy.

c) Lighting – iguanas need a source of UVA and UVB light. Now while iguana care shops may have some artificial lighting which provides these, you should know that natural sunlight is still the best for your iguana.

These are just the basics of proper iguana care. These tips should get you started on taking proper care of an iguana. However, if you wish to truly master the art of proper iguana care, you should definitely research more about the subject.

### Recommended Resource:

["The Ultimate Iguana Care Handbook"](#) is the definitive guide to learning everything you need about taking care of your pet iguana ...



**RED MCCA**

**Remember  
your pet  
depends  
on you for  
protection**



**A Red  
headed Duck**

## Parrot Care



**Parrot**



**A bicolor parrot fish**

**A warning for owners of parrots, cockatiels, canaries, parakeets, budgies, macaws, cockatoos and all other pet birds ...**

Did you know that pet birds and Teflon don't mix? In fact, Teflon in overheated cookware can quickly kill your feathered friend! This has happened to all too many canaries, parakeets, and even the large parrots like cockatoos and macaws.

The problem with Teflon is that when it is over-heated, a toxic gas is released. This doesn't mean that carefully cooking with Teflon cookware at low temperatures is unsafe; it is the temperatures resulting from cooking on medium-high or high settings that can release the gas. Even if the pet birds are in another part of the house, the toxicity can get to them quickly.

Remember that miners used to use canaries as safety devices inside the mines. Canaries were taken underground with the miners and if the bird died, the miners evacuated to safety quickly because toxic fumes or gases had been released into the mine. Applying that same logic to pet birds and Teflon, it seems that this gas can't be good for humans either. If it will kill a bird, enough of it might harm people.

## Parrot Care

Do you have any idea how many products in your home may contain Teflon? And pet birds can die from any of these. There are non-stick under-eye stove burner catch pans that can quickly over-heat. Products that make dirty release in the bathroom contain Teflon. Often carpet cleaning services offer a product that can be sprayed on carpet to make dirt not stick to it; this product is Teflon based. The fumes from these products can harm your pet birds even though heat is not involved.

So how do you live with Teflon and pet birds. It's easy. Don't use Teflon products except where absolutely necessary. Bathrooms were cleaned for centuries using soap and water so Teflon is not necessary there. Carpets don't have to have Teflon spray. If you choose to cook with some Teflon pans for those messy, sticky jobs, then supervise the cooking closely and cook at low temperatures.

Protect your pet birds from Teflon so that you can live together happily for years and years. Your birds will thank you!



**A frilled lizard**



**A Pork fish**

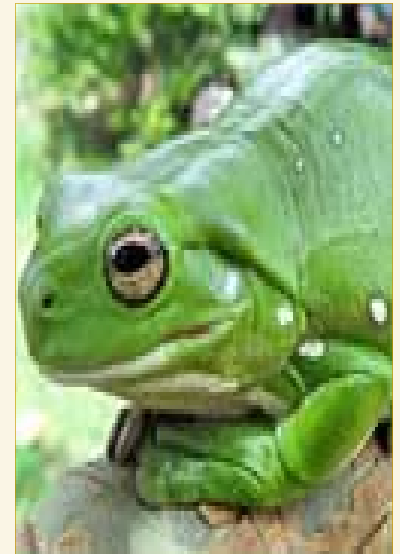
## Bad Medicine for Pets

### Bad Medicine for Pets

Our pets need to lead a healthy life and to achieve this, we must be prepared to provide them with medicines in cases of illnesses. Part of this responsibility is avoiding drugs that could be more harmful to our pets steroids are such drugs.

Many times, a veterinarian will prescribe steroid during an illness. But steroids don't heal the animal, it only reduce the inflammation and swelling. Remember that an inflammation or swelling is the natural response of the animal's immune system to the disease. Steroids work by suppressing the immune system which is only doing its job to protect the animal.

For so long. doctors have told us that the side-effects of steroids only surface after many years but new research has proven that serious health complications and permanent body damage is immediate. For so long. doctors have told us that the



**A dog is the only thing on earth that will love you more than you love yourself**

**Josh Billings**



**Hamster**

## Bad Medicine for Pets



**A horse A  
horse**

**My kingdom  
for a horse**

**Shakespeare**



side-effects of steroids only surface after many years but new research has proven that serious health complications and permanent body damage is immediate.

While steroids are known to be “life-savers” and “miracle cures” in some cases like during a adrenal system failure by jumpstarting hormonal secretion, we now know that steroids damage the kidneys, liver , immune system and bones. It can also cause diabetes.

We must understand that steroids should only be used as the line of defense or during emergencies. But what is happening is similar to the fate of antibiotics. Steroids are now being used on the flimsiest reasons.

Another drug to be wary of are the Heartworm drugs. There are many types of Heartworm drugs and as a responsible pet owner, you should learn to use it wisely in order to minimize its side effects. An example is the Interceptor which has Milbemycin.

Sentinel has Milbemycin and Lufenyron. Heartguard has Ivermectin.

These drugs—Milbemycin, Lufenyron and Ivermectin—were found to cause many side effects. They are depression, convulsion, ataxia, hyperactivity, lethargy, anorexia, eluspecies (in cat), vomiting and even death.

## Bad Medicine for Pets



There's no need for a piece of sculpture in a home that has a cat

Wesley Bates



Other side effects—though minor and don't happen too often—are shaking, tilting of head, slow heart beat and eye problem. We must understand that steroids should only be used as the line of defense or during emergencies. But what is happening is similar to the fate of antibiotics. Steroids are now being used on the flimsiest reasons.

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Other side effects—though minor and don't happen too often—are shaking, tilting of head, slow heart beat and eye problem.

These are scary conditions for your loved pets to be suffering from. As a pet owner, you bring your pets to the vet to cure them of an illness, not aggravate the



## Bad Medicine for Pet



**Llama eating a leaf**

**Your pet is your number one confidant,**



condition or add more debilitating conditions. If you don't trust veterinarian medicines, there are viable alternatives that are effective and inexpensive, and of course safe.

For prevention of heartworm, you can use Homeopathic Nosode. You can also use it for treatment. It doesn't have any harmful effects. Milk Thistle is also an effective liver tonic to repair the damaged liver of your pet.

Many pet owners have been successful with Thistle after having their pet induce chemical drugs to counter the damage done. Some have also made use of the liquefied form of the herb Black Walnut to treat heartworm.

Here is another example of bad pet medicine. Just because prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications are marked childproof doesn't mean they're dog proof. In fact, most dogs find it way too easy to chew through plastic pill containers

if given the opportunity. What's scary is that some of the most common drugs and supplements -- including OTC painkillers, cold medicines, antidepressants, cancer medications, diet pills, and vitamins -- are

## Bad Medicine for Pets

small doses. Keep your pooch safe by storing all meds, vitamins, and supplements in a secure cabinet that's out of your pet's reach.

### JAVMA News

April 15, 2004

#### **Minimizing the risk factors associated with veterinary NSAIDs**

Drug risk information is communicated to veterinary practitioners and to the public through the product labeling. Labeling includes the package insert, the vial or bottle label, the carton label, the client information sheet, and some types of promotional materials. **Drugs that come with client information sheets are intended to be dispensed to clients with the client information sheet accompanying the prescription.**

[emphasis added]

In many cases of adverse drug experiences, **pet owners report they never received the client information sheet from their veterinarian.**

[emphasis added] In the Jan. 15, 2004, JAVMA,

staff at the CVM published an article titled "Emerging issues regarding informed consent." That article reported evidence that pet owners are increasingly concerned about risks and benefits of commonly prescribed veterinary drugs. The article stated that most of the CVM concerning adverse drug experiences now come from consumers rather than veterinarians.

<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/index/fdavet/2004/Mar-Apr04.pdf>



**Teddy bear**

**A good venue to learn about animals to tune into the Animal Planet**



Pet Fleet is a division of Starfleet Internationals and it exists for the enjoyment of the members. The enrollment of pets in Pet Fleet does not count towards a ship's strength. The membership fees will be tallied at the end of the end donated to a worthwhile animal charity. The pet whether it be animal, stuffed, or virtual are part of the lives of members of Starfleet. Remember your pets are helping other needy animals from good homes and loving families

## PPAWS TO THE STARS

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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

In the coming weeks, I will have a an article concerning the pet food industry. Also an article on sugar gliders and turtles. There are many article concerning pet health which is very important along with pet trust. Also write me if you would like something specific covered. Also there will be upcoming articles accessories for pets. I was quite surprised at what I found concerning bird cages, toys, treats (and the toys and treats cover all types of pets.) So the newsletter will be with all sorts of interesting things concerning our pet family members.