



*"The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog." - Ambrose Bierce*



Welcome to  
The Pet 'N Player,  
a free monthly newsletter  
from Pet 'N Play -  
Your Personal Pet Sitters.  
We hope you enjoy it!

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### Monthly Poll:

(Click on the question to answer)

[Are you considering any pet-related New Year's resolutions this year, like taking them to the groomer more often, going on more dog walks, or anything else?](#)

## [Ten Strange Dog Behaviors Explained](#)

Vetstreet



Dogs might not seem as mysterious as cats, but canines do have their fair share of behaviors that are truly baffling. As humans, it's hard for us to make sense of many canine body language and social cues. A dog's desire to sniff butts, hump legs and chase his own tail just doesn't translate. To help you better understand your dog's odd habits, we rounded up 10 dog behaviors that people commonly consider mysterious. [Read More](#)

### **This month's pet trivia (answers below):**

1) How fast can cats run?

A) 20 mph   B) 15 mph   C) 30 mph   D) 50 mph

2) Which animal likes to take dust baths?

A) Hamsters   B) Chinchillas   C) Ferrets   D) Gerbils

3) Which household pet varieties include the leatherneck, citrus tiger and the German Giant?

A) Bearded Dragon   B) Turtle   C) Parakeet   D) Snake

4) Which household pet was brought from China to Paris in the

The results of last month's poll question (actually two questions last month):

**Do you really want a hippopotamus for Christmas (or maybe a puppy)?**

**and, Are you putting your pet's picture on your holiday cards this year?**

It turns out that no one wants a hippo for Christmas, and two thirds of you would prefer world peace. As for a pet's picture on your holiday cards, it was a mixed response with no pets, pets by themselves, and pets with other family members evenly divided.

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**January Pet Holidays:**

**[National Train Your Dog Month](#)**

**Walk Your Pet Month.**

**Adopt a Rescued Bird Month.**

January 2, 2016: **[National Pet Travel Safety Day](#)**.

January 14, 2016: **National Dress Up Your Pet Day.**

January 22, 2016: **National Answer Your Cat's Question Day.**

January 24, 2016: **Change a Pet's Life Day.**

19th century?

A) Degu B) Coral Snake C) Gerbil D) Ferret

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*"The clever cat eats cheese and breathes down rat holes with baited breath." - W. C. Fields*

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## [The Right and Wrong Ways to Greet a Cat](#)

Vetstreet



How a person greets his or her own cat or an unfamiliar cat can affect the cat's perception and reaction to the person. In greetings gone wrong, a cat may panic and try to get away or may resort to defensive gestures like growling or scratching to end the interaction. When greetings go right, cats are more likely to offer mutual greeting and affection in return. Since all cats are individuals, there's no perfect method for greeting them. But there are certain greetings more likely to be perceived as unsafe or threatening and others more likely to be viewed as safe and friendly. [Read More](#)

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January 29, 2016: [Seeing Eye Guide Dog Birthday.](#)

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**Looking for that perfect holiday or birthday gift for your favorite pet lover?**

**Click on a banner ad to check out the products.**

**Or [visit our web site](#) for other unique and fun products for pets and pet lovers alike!**



Meet Natasha - The Featured Pet for January 2016

[See all of our past Featured Pets here!](#)

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## 11 tricks you can teach a senior dog

Mother Nature Network

The old saying goes that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but we know a lot of old sayings are wrong — this one included. Of course we can teach old dogs new tricks! In fact, it's a great way to keep your dog mentally stimulated and having fun throughout his life. One important thing to keep in mind about teaching senior dogs new tricks and behaviors is the dog's level of physical ability. Many senior dogs are perfectly able, but if your dog is getting achy in the joints or has other limitations that come with age, keep these in mind. [READ MORE](#)

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"My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to \$3.00 a can. That's almost \$21.00 in dog money." - Joe Weinstein

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## A dog that lives 300 years? Solving the mysteries of aging in our pets

Science AAAS

Jeanne Calment has nothing on Creme Puff, the cat. The oldest living human made it to the ripe age of 122—not bad for a species with an average life span of 71 years. But

Creme Puff, a Texas feline that allegedly subsisted on bacon, broccoli, and heavy cream, more than doubled the longevity of her kind, surviving a reported 38 years. Bluey, an Australian cattle dog, was no slouch either. At age 29, he became the oldest canine on record, living more than twice as long as the average pooch. [READ MORE](#)

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#### Fun facts about pets:

The phrase "raining cats and dogs" originated in 17th century England. During heavy downpours of rain, many of these poor animals unfortunately drowned and their bodies would be seen floating in the rain torrents that raced through the streets. The situation gave the appearance that it had literally rained "cats and dogs" and led to the current expression.

In addition to using their noses, cats can smell with the Jacobson's organ which is located in the upper surface of the mouth.

The term "dog days" has nothing to do with dogs. It dates back to Roman times, when it was believed that Sirius, the Dog Star, added its heat to that of the sun from July 3 to August 11, creating exceptionally high temperatures. The Romans called the period dies caniculares, or "days of the dog."

In ancient Egypt, the entire family would shave their eyebrows off as a sign of mourning when the family cat died.

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We hope you get a laugh at one of the comics below. There are new comics every day on our web site, just click on a comic. They are brought to you by [Andertoons](#).



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## Pet Sitter's Corner

Each month in the Pet Sitter's Corner we will keep you up to date on changes with Pet 'N Play, local events, and other interesting news.

**Thursday-Sunday, January 21-24, 2016 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan 2016 Michigan Winter Dog Classic**

Michigan's largest dog show is tail-wagging fun for the whole family! More than 7,000 dogs will compete in various events. See educational demonstrations, exhibits and much more. And you may even bring your own dog! Tickets are \$10, and kids under 12 are FREE! [Find out more here](#)

Regular dog walking customers will now receive **Modern Dog Magazine FREE!** It is a lifestyle magazine for modern dogs and their companions. It is our way of saying Thank You for being a regular customer, and will be dropped off every three months or so as long as you are a regular customer! This replaces Bark Magazine. [Check it out here.](#)

Winter is here, and so is the cold weather that comes with it. Please be extra careful when taking your dog out for walks, your cat too. Beware of chemicals on the ground, from toxic ice melters to the sweet taste of extremely toxic antifreeze solutions. Even frostbite can be a dangerous concern. So protect their paws (booties work well), put on a coat in extreme cold (or in any cold for some breeds, like Greyhounds), and watch for chemicals on the ground. And remember not to eat the yellow snow :-)

**Thank you for reading our newsletter! We hope you enjoyed it.**

**And please feel free to share it with anyone and everyone.**

Send any pet sitting questions you have to us at: [info@pet-n-play.com](mailto:info@pet-n-play.com)

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**Trivia answers:**

1) C - Cats can travel up to 30 mph over short distances    2) B - Chinchillas. Since it is dangerous to get Chinchillas wet, a dust bath is the other alternative    3) A - Bearded Dragon (a medium sized lizard)    4) C - Gerbil. These creatures were often referred to as desert rats

[Check out past issues of The Pet 'N Player here](#)

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