

Internet Interpet

By Phil Tripp

In the music industry where I come from, virtually all recordings are now offered online for download, the same with TV programs, movies and books. But when it comes to pet items, you can't download dog food! Virtually all pet items are not virtual—medicines, toys, treats and other items can't be digitised or downloaded. So we tend to go out to shop for these in supermarkets, pet shops and even K-mart or Big W.

I'm already saving time shopping for my household groceries online at Woolworths or Coles and having them delivered. And I'm saving money too by still getting those gas vouchers and not being distracted by end bin or aisle placements of products I don't really need.

Though all of us love to shop in great pet supply stores, sometimes time gets the best of us and we can't always make a stop in a part of our driving plan. So it's becoming more convenient to shop for gifts, toys, bulky items and even dog food online to get the best prices and fast delivery. It's also a great way to keep up with what's new and exciting without having to sort through crowded aisles of a pet warehouse style of operation and you don't have to ask advice from a teenager.

Critter Cottage (<http://www.crittercottage.com.au/>)

Critter Cottage bills itself as 'Special Products for Special Pets' and is based out of Queensland. They do handle bulky products being the exclusive online distributor for the Pet Loo, they also sell dog houses, beds, toilet solutions, travel and outdoor goods, feeding and watering devices as well as gift vouchers.

Pet Zympatico (<http://www.petzypatico.com.au/>)

Pet Zympatico has a motto of being 'For Pets With Style' and they specialise in pet beds, dinnerware, leads, collars, coats and caps. They were based in Brisbane but recently moved to Sydney, which means an extra savings in freight on bulky items.

Paws Only! (<http://www.pawsonly.com.au/>)

Paws Only! is a Sydney operation specialising in the delivery of premium dog food products. You can choose from brands such as Natural Balance, Hills, Nutro, Eagle Pack, Eukanuba and others. They even have a fresh selection of Mutts Meatloaf, Tasty Tuna Pasta, Chicken Casserole and Lamb and Veggie Casserole in various sizes but only available for local delivery.

Einstein Pets (<http://einsteinpets.com.au>)

Einstein Pets is not for pets with degrees or even pedigrees. They specialise in interactive toys, enrichment devices and home-alone toys for dogs but also for cats and critters. They also carry the Sassy Treats line of organic pet treats and a range of park essentials and travel accessories including the car saving Back Seat Buddy. Thankfully no prams!

Mammoth Mutts (<http://www.mammothmutts.com.au/>)

Mammoth Mutts is for big dogs and medium ones too, but it specialises in larger products and those more indestructible than the mauling jowls can normally destroy. They handcraft their dog beds with removable inserts and washable cotton outer covers. They also have a range of tags, leashes and collars, and yes, bling for Bubbas and Beaux Eaus.

Trendy Paws (<http://www.trendypaws.com.au/>)

Trendy Paws is a Victorian-based fashion house for dogs and cats with a range of collars, leads, harnesses and jackets, all designed in Australia. They also have a handy set of sizing pages and how to compute Chinese animal years to know when the next Year of the Dog is after 2006. (answer: the next YOTD starts February 16, 2018)



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Waggle (<http://www.waggle.com.au>)

Waggle is for "Dogs And Cats On The Go", outdoors and extreme! Boots, life jackets, Ruffwear, wag bags, macho harnesses, doggie back packs, travel bowls and first aid kits are all lines for rugged dogs and their field guides to have on hikes, boating or other outdoor pursuits. They even have backpack carriers to take along dogs who aren't quite up to ruffing it on their own paws.

Paws a While (<http://www.pawsawhile.com.au/>)

Paws a While is a shop in the Queen Victoria Building, but also online, that specialises in memorabilia for humans who love dogs whether by breed or as collectable products. Though they do have a range of products for pets, this is where you'll find the t-shirts, statues, notepads, pens, socks, tea towels, post-it notes, calendars, diaries and just about anything else that can have be breed specific mutt merchandise. And yes, you'll find a doggie doormat there too.

Petalia (<http://www.petalia.com.au>)

Petalia calls itself a 'World of Pet Care' and does more than just sell dog and cat products. They also deal in things for small pets, birds, fish, horses and even farm animals. To top it off, they carry health products and medications as well as having a guide to vets by state and a fascinating array of highly informative articles.

Colourful Critters (<http://www.colourfulcritters.com.au/>)

Colourful Critters is for herp fanciers and is a new site out of Newcastle that specialises in reptile and amphibian products as well as training and licensing referrals. For those qualified as keepers, there are starter kits, enclosures, accessories and foods for all types of herps. They also have products like cleaning agents, handling gels, heaters, lamps and a state by state guide to licensing. The site tipped me to the Wild Expo in May at Castle Hill which should be a hoot!

Doggymates (<http://www.doggymates.com/au>)

Doggymates is not a shop but it is an online buddy hookup place where you may be able to find someone to shop with while having your pups in care of another member who has pets. It's more of a social group where like-minded owners can swap tips or help each other out by minding each other's pets during work, holidays or even shopping. When shopaholics and pupaholics get together, watch out!