

# Tid Bits

## Give the gift of a Little Penguin this festive season

What do you give the folk in your life who have everything? A Little Penguin of course. Phillip Island Nature Parks Penguin Foundation are offering the opportunity to give the gift of a Little Penguin via their 'Adopt a Penguin Scheme' for Christmas. By gifting a Little Penguin you'll be helping to sustain and protect these lovely little waddlers.



For \$75.00 the recipient will gain the following:

- Regular updates on the life of their penguin throughout the year—its health, what it's eating, whether it's been cheeky, how it interacts with other penguins, even if it's in love
- Photo of their penguin
- Membership to the Penguin Foundation
- Free entry to the Phillip Island Nature Parks Penguin Parade
- Exclusive invitation to the Penguin Foundation Members Open Day

Not to mention a warm fuzzy feeling that this delightful gift will contribute to establishing nesting boxes (love nests) that provide penguin couples a safe home to increase their prospects of more little penguins. This program also funds ongoing research and monitoring of the Little Penguins and protection of their environment. It also helps in the rescue and rehabilitation of those endangered by rubbish, oil spills and introduced predators like foxes, cats and dogs.

For further information regarding penguin adoption visit [www.penguinfoundation.org.au](http://www.penguinfoundation.org.au) or call 03 5951 2800.

## Dogs suffering from OCD could unlock the mysteries of this illness in humans

Medical researchers at the University of Massachusetts are looking for specific genes in dogs and humans to discover the cause of OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). OCD in dogs is a behaviour that can be odd, often directed at objects, including the dog itself. It often manifests in dogs that are stressed, anxious or bored and can be extremely frustrating for the owner. Often, destructive behaviour is exhibited from compulsive digging to more serious behaviour like biting their own feet. Researchers hope that by finding the common gene, both humans and dogs will benefit from treatment of this illness.

## UK Postal strike puts Bristol Zoo's reptiles in strife

The strike by Britain's posties has affected the dining habits of Bristol Zoo's reptile inhabitants. The Reptile House had a regular weekly delivery of over 3,000 live crickets set for the dinner plates of the chameleons and lizards. Despite going without their favourite food, staff have been breeding their own crickets and feeding an alternative treat—fruit flies. Staff also have been making alternative arrangements for the deliveries by utilising courier services.

## TV personality, DeGeneres, falls foul of a private US rescue organisation

Comedian, presenter and day-time chat show host, Ellen DeGeneres, thought she was doing the right thing when she adopted a rescue dog, called Iggy, from a private shelter called Mutts and Moms of Pasadena. Unfortunately, Iggy didn't get on well with

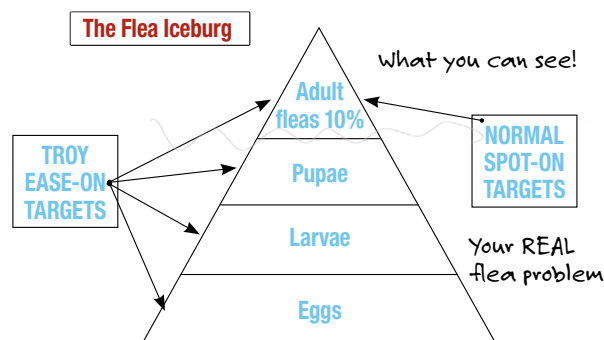
**NEW**

**TROY**

# EASE-ON

'A revolutionary flea treatment for dogs that targets the whole flea lifecycle - maximising protection for your pet'.

Most spot-on flea treatments only manage the tip of the flea iceberg. Only 10% of the total flea population are adult biting fleas (the one's you can see). The rest of the flea population (90%) are in either the egg, larvae or pupae stage.



Troy Ease-on contains Pyriproxifen, an insect growth inhibitor that stops eggs developing into larvae, larvae developing to pupae, and pupae developing into adult fleas. Adult fleas that come into contact with Troy Ease-on will also not be able to lay eggs.

The addition of Permethrin in Troy Ease-on kills adult fleas.

So the whole iceberg is targeted – not just the tip (adult flea population) you can see, providing a much more thorough and effective flea treatment.

Troy Ease on comes in packs of two for small dogs (2mL) medium dogs (4mL) and large dogs (8mL).



\*\* Not suitable for the treatment or control of the paralysis tick.



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**TROY**

the household cats and despite DeGeneres and her partner, Australian actress Portia de Rossi, spending a reported \$3,000 on behaviourists, the decision was made to find Iggy a new home. Iggy was placed in the home of her hairstylist and immediately bonded with the younger members of the household—two of the hairdresser's daughters aged 11 and 12 and life seemed pretty happy, stable and comfortable for Iggy. All's wells and ends well, right? Wrong!

It seems that when Ellen and her partner adopted Iggy, they signed an agreement with the agency that they would not give the dog to another family without informing the agency. So representatives of the shelter grabbed the dog back. At the time of writing this, Ellen had made an on-air tearful plea to the shelter to return Iggy to his new, loving home. As the saga unfolded and death threats to the Iggy's rescue group escalated, it was reported that the rescue organization had requested the Hairstylist come to their address to fill out the necessary paperwork. The Hairstylist had failed to take the time out to do the requested paperwork. It also emerged that re-gifting dogs is something Ellen's done a few times before.

## Cancer concern surrounding micro-chips gets media mileage in the US

"Micro-chips can cause cancer" was the headline screaming from various areas of the media in the US in late September and early October. It came after a series of studies over ten years found a possible connection to cancer in laboratory mice.

According to the Associated Press, a series of studies between 1996 and 2006 suggests that implanted micro-chips caused deadly tumours in laboratory rats and mice. A 1998 study found 10% of micro-chipped mice developed cancer. A separate 1997 study by German researchers found a 1% cancer occurrence in micro-chipped mice.

The media's alarm bells rang out to pet owners who've had their pets implanted with these identifying chips that have long reunited lost pets and their owners. Given the small incidence of cancer that could be associated with microchips, the benefits of locating a much-loved pet far outweigh the slim possibility of cancer.

# Bark & Meow At Your Parliament On The Sale of Animals

On October 18, Sydney Mayor and NSW Parliamentarian Clover Moore introduced a bill into NSW Parliament to prohibit the keeping and sale of mammals at shops or markets, regulate the advertising or brokering of sale of mammals and prohibit the sale of mammals to children. It also would only allow the sale of mammals through animal shelters, council pounds, veterinary practices or registered breeders and only recognised breeders could propagate animals.

The issues addressed are of concern to the general public including consumers and pet owners, as well as commercial interests such as pet stores, pet supply retailers, breeders, vets, kennels and other members of the pet industry. Animal welfare organizations have their views as do pet industry trade organizations. We urge anyone with an opinion—for or against—to present it to their appropriate Parliamentarian(s) to direct their consideration of the Bill and their voting on it.

You can find a complete list of over 130 Parliamentarians at that site—go to the box Members of Parliament—and use the drop down menu or select All on the left hand menu to get a complete list of their phone, fax, mail and email addresses.

To view the bill at the NSW Parliament website, go to <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/> then go to right hand box titled Bills and you will see a pull down menu with an alpha list of introduced bills. Go to the ANIMALS (Regulation of sale) Bill 2007 and hit the Go button. You will then be presented with a PDF of the entire bill.

For those of you who do not have Internet access, unfortunately, according to Ms Moore's office, "Parliament does not give hard copies of Bills to the general community and the Government bookshop only sells Acts in force, not Bills." So we suggest you can contact the Member For Sydney Clover Moore's office at 58 Oxford St., Paddington or phone on (02) 9360 3053 to request a printed copy of the bill be mailed or faxed to you. You can also fax the office on (02) 9331 6963 to request a copy of the 22 page bill.



## Your pet can give you more than love. It can give you worms.

Dogs infected with worms pose a real threat to your family. And the risk to children is even greater. Kids can easily come in contact with larvae that can penetrate skin causing serious scarring and inflammation. Or even settle in the eye and cause blindness.

But now there's an easy way to protect your dog and family from worms. With Drontal Chewable - a proven treatment that eradicates all gastro-intestinal worms in your best friend.

Drontal Chewables are made with real liver that dogs can't resist. They are so good they even come with a unique guarantee: your dog will love the chew, or Bayer will replace it with a free Drontal tablet. Ask your vet for Drontal Chewables, or look for it in your pet or produce store.



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**GUARANTEE**

**YOUR DOG LOVES IT OR GET A FREE TABLET**