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**Australia's Own**



# Tid Bits

Press Paws on the Pulse - Edited by Jess Goldstein

Helping Humans Helping Animals - IFAW launches tsunami disaster relief

IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) has launched a relief operation in Southern Asia to help animals and people affected by the recent disaster. IFAW teams are helping local people in tsunami-devastated coastal fishing communities protect their abandoned livestock and companion animals by providing food, temporary shelters and vaccinating against disease. They're also working to reunite survivors with their animals.

IFAW has deployed emergency relief teams of veterinarians and animal care experts from Australia, China, United Kingdom and the United States to work collaboratively with local groups in affected areas in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

"For many survivors in these areas, their livestock has become their lifeline. By saving their animals we are literally saving their lives," said Anand Ramanathan, IFAW's Emergency Relief Operations Manager.

The fears of disease outbreaks are also intensifying for both humans and animals. Companion animals and livestock seem to have borne the brunt of the effects of the tsunami and this program is providing not only cattle and goats, but also hundreds of abandoned dogs with vaccinations against common infectious diseases. This will come as welcome relief for so many survivors who not only rely on their livestock for economic reasons, but also their pets for much needed emotional support.

To support IFAW's relief efforts or to receive updates on their progress, visit the IFAW website at [www.ifaw.org](http://www.ifaw.org)

Walkin' the Dog - improving your health through the loving paws of your dog

In a bid to curb declining levels of physical activity in both people and their pets, the RSPCA and the National Heart Foundation of Australia have teamed up to produce a new Community Service Announcement to improve the health of Australians. With

well-known recording artist Diesel providing his own take on the song 'Walkin' the Dog' as the soundtrack to the campaign, the message is clear: healthier, happier people means healthier, happier pets.

"Walking your dog is an excellent way to get the minimum 30 minutes of activity required to gain health benefits and you're also more likely to stay active because it's fun. It can be incorporated into your lifestyle and you have a four-legged exercise buddy who can help keep you motivated", says the Heart Foundation's Tony Thirwell.

Like humans, overweight pets have a shorter life span and poorer quality of life. Obesity in pets is also associated with medical problems such as osteoarthritis, cardiovascular disease and liver disease. So with 60% of Australian adults and 41% of dogs being overweight there's no better time to hook on the leash and get walking.

A (Sixth) Sense of Danger - what did the animals know that so many humans didn't?

Several stories have appeared in the media since the devastating tsunami discussing the possibility that animals may have indeed sensed the impending destruction. While statistics are hard to come by as to the exact numbers of animals affected by the tsunami it has been reported that relatively few animal bodies have actually appeared during the clean up, a report that seems somewhat negligible compared to the human loss.

Wildlife experts believe the reason animals are able to predict approaching disasters long before humans realise what's going on is due to their more acute hearing and other senses. They can hear or feel the Earth's vibration and take this as a sign that there is something just not quite right in their environment. This in turn compels them to relocate somewhere safer.

Elephants in particular have been noted in several cases to show signs of a 'sixth sense' in the hours before the wave hit, with many fleeing to higher ground. There have also been reports of buffalos, goats, bats and even flamingos retreating to safer ground during the hours before the tsunami. But possibly the most out of character display is pet dogs refusing to go on their morning walks!

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Speaking of Speaking Animals - spend a night in with 'Creature Comforts'

This hilarious series currently screening on ABC TV puts the voices of ordinary people into the mouths of the largest cross section of plasticine animals the small screen has ever seen. 'Creature Comforts' provides a unique documentary style insight into the lives of the wild animals and domestic pets of the British Isles.

The interviewers have left no stone unturned, no tree unclimbed, no sea uncrossed in their quest to discover what our finned, furred and feathered friends really think about the issues that are closest to their hearts. Inspired by the creative genius of Nick Park and brought to life by the award winning Aardman, the animation team behind the much loved Wallace & Gromit and Chicken Run, Creature Comforts attracted up to 8 million viewers per episode when series one screened in the UK.

So if you've ever wondered how a cockroach multi-tasks? Are squeaky toys degrading to dogs? How much does a Goldfish think it's worth? How does an arthritic seagull get into a bag of crisps and of course how do guard dogs cope when their timetables are re-arranged? Then this is the show with the answers.

'Creature Comforts' is a unique, charming and very funny look into the observations of these eccentric creatures that reveal themselves to be not that dissimilar from their human owners!

Series one of 'Creature Comforts' is currently being aired on ABC TV every Monday night at 9:20pm and a DVD is soon to be available.

Animal Planet - an abundance of animals on the small screen

For those of you on the lookout for interesting animal-related shows over the coming months here are a few suggestions appearing on Animal Planet:

'Barking Mad' - unique among pet programs, this series brings together a team of animal behaviourists to deal with the psychological welfare of pets. Some examples of animals visiting the psychiatrist's couch in February include an emotionally fragile ferret, a dog with a toilet fetish, a tortoise that thinks he is a fearsome dinosaur and a horse so terrified of water it won't even step in a puddle! Join them on the couch weekdays-January 31 to February 10-at 5pm.

'Breed All About It' - learn more about the colourful world of purebreds. This series profiles over 150 different canine breeds with each episode concentrating on just one. It includes interviews with owners, trainers, judges, breeders and veterinarians and can be seen weekdays at 11:30am.

'Cell Dogs' - this series follows several inmates as they participate in dog training programs from behind bars. Each year hundreds of abandoned and abused dogs are sent to prison - not to be punished, but to find the attention they were missing in the outside world. This 13 part series follows their stories, from California's toughest female prison to Ohio's infamous death row and is screening Fridays at 6:30pm.



Creature Comforts screens Mondays 9:20pm ABC

'Lyndal's Lifeline' - this six part series sees wildlife presenter Lyndal Davies travel across the world donating US\$10,000 to sanctuaries in need. Screening every Sunday night at 6:30pm, this is Animal Planet's first interactive wildlife crusade with viewers going on to vote for an additional US\$10,000 to be donated to the sanctuary deemed most in need. Find out how far this money can actually go when this series premieres on March 6.

'Attenborough Presents' - the brilliant Sir David Attenborough returns for a series of theme nights screening Saturday's at 6:30pm from February 5. Look out for a couple of specials premiering throughout February: 'Attenborough Presents...Pelicans - Taking the Plunge'-February 5, and 'Attenborough Presents...Sensitive Sharks'- February 19.

And a few notable mentions:

'O'Shea's Big Adventure' - premieres Mondays at 6:30pm from January 31

'Growing up Wild: Zebra' - Friday February 18 at 8:30pm

'Growing up Wild: Baboon' - Friday February 25 at 8:30pm

"The best thing about a man is his dog."  
- Proverb

# The Advocate

## SIAMESE TWINS SURVIVE 20,000 FLEAS!

By CLAUDE YOSOFA

**Cabramatta** - just 12 hours after a massive flea attack, Siamese twins the Meow-Tsu's were totally flea-free. This after applying a single treatment of new Advocate to their skin - a new product from Bayer covering more aspects of parasite control than any other.

The results were miraculous. Within 5 minutes the fleas stopped biting. Coroner Doctor Ninelives confirmed that both adult and larval fleas started dying within 20 minutes and the remaining fleas were dead within 12 hours. Even new fleas that jumped onto the subjects died within an hour. Thanks to new Advocate's fast flea control, the Meow-Tsu's have retired to the windowsill for a scratch-free nap.



### WORMS NO MATCH FOR SCOTT

By ROLF RALPH

**Manly** - Mr Scott, a North-shore terrier, has won a remarkable battle. Scott was taken hostage by an army of hookworm, roundworm and whipworm, who kept the terrier lethargic for weeks. Luckily, help arrived with Advocate - a new product from Bayer that covers more aspects of parasite control than any other. With monthly application, Advocate actually prevents intestinal worms like roundworm and hookworm (even in their larval stages) and whipworm. After just one application of new Advocate to his skin, Scott returned to full strength in mere days. Not to bark up the wrong tree, Scott paid tail service to Advocate's speedy rescue mission. But one thing's for certain: Scott's no puppy.



### HEARTWORM IS ALL BARK, NO BITE

By PAT McOAT

**Heartworm** has dogged us for years. Mosquitos transmit heartworm throughout Australia; the infection is serious, sometimes fatal. But with monthly application of new Advocate from Bayer, the deadly heartworm can finally be subdued - even in their larval stages. By taking years off the heartworm's life, new Advocate effectively adds years to ours. It's no longer a worm-eat-dog world.



### WAR ON PARASITES OVER!

By DOCTOR DO-THE-LOT

**Peace** comes as new Advocate from Bayer ends years of parasitic terror. Advocate controls a broader spectrum of parasites in cats and dogs, attacking fleas and ear mites, as well as heartworm, hookworm and roundworm (including their larval stages). Monthly application prevents gastro-intestinal worms effectively. It's also one of the fastest flea-killers available. And since Advocate works on kittens from 9 weeks and puppies from 7 weeks, it seems that peace is here to stay.

DOG	Flea Adult	Flea Immature	Ear Mite	Heart worm	Hookworm Adult	Hookworm Immature	Roundworm Immature	Roundworm Adult	Roundworm Immature	Roundworm Adult	Roundworm Immature	Roundworm Adult	Roundworm Immature	Roundworm Adult	Roundworm Immature
Advocate*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Revolution*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sentinel* Spectrum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\*Registration in Progress.

CAT	Flea Adult	Flea Immature	Ear Mite	Heart worm	Hookworm Adult	Hookworm Immature	Roundworm Immature	Roundworm Adult	Roundworm Immature	Roundworm Adult	Roundworm Immature	Roundworm Adult	Roundworm Immature
Advocate*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Revolution*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Advocate is available from Veterinary clinics and can be purchased without consultation.

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