

## Perhaps there's something in the water at Israel's zoo

Israel's zoo has had a baby boom in the hippo department. A high birth-rate has boosted the hippo population to 40—far more than the average zoo could handle.

Zookeepers say they reached a point where they could find nothing to do with so many of them. So in recent months, 14 hippos have been shipped by air or sea to zoos in Russia, Turkey, Vietnam, even Kazakhstan.

## Time to restrain your dog in the car

Driving with an unrestrained dog in a vehicle is now illegal in NSW and motorists face some hefty fines. If you're caught driving with an animal in your lap you could be fined \$338 or \$422 if caught in a school zone.

Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act offenders can receive up to six months' jail and fines of up to \$5500 if an animal is injured as a result of being unrestrained. In the case of an accident an unrestrained pet can become a missile.

We'll also take this opportunity to remind readers that airbags can kill your pets instantly, so ensure that your pets are secure in the back seat not front.

## We don't think Ellen or Pam Anderson will be lining up for this job

"Ever had leprosy? Thanks to animal research, you won't." That's the message posted on billboards in the US from biomedical researchers to promote and defend the use of animals to test drugs and medical devices. A marked decline in public support for using animals in research has sparked a national campaign to promote it.

The Foundation for Biomedical Research is investing more than \$1 million in its "Research Saves" campaign. Campaign organisers say a serious drop in public support of animal research for scientific and medical reasons forced their hand. From 2000 to 2008, they say, Americans' support for that research using animals shrank from 70 percent to 54 percent.

"We need a celebrity spokesperson, but can't find one," said Dick Bianco, an associate professor of surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical School, who is part of the campaign. "If we could get a celebrity, that would change everything. By nature, we're a bunch of introverted nerds."

## World Dog Games a Howling Success

If you didn't go then you'll never know just how good the World Dog Games were. Held at Acer Arena, the two-day event in the last weekend of October was action-packed and full of fun. Canine athletes competed in Agility, Flyball, Canine Disc and DockDogs for some serious prize money. It's not everyday you see an athlete take a poop in the middle of their heat.

## PIAA shows off the latest trends in products & grooming

Talking about weird and wonderful competitions... the PIAA (Pet Industry Association of Australia) held its annual trade show up on the Gold Coast. New product was showcased to retailers from around Australia and the grooming competitions were hotly contested. Our favourite competition is the Extreme Grooming where patient Poodles have been dyed then clipped into weird and wonderful creatures. Pictured below is a Poodle that was primped and transformed into Wonder Woman.



Don't forget to make your holiday bookings, as spaces are filling fast

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