

# Cat pee problems solved

We received a call from a regular reader recently. She rang to enquire whether we could put her onto a cat behaviouralist as her cat was displaying some unusual behaviour. Her normally clean and well-behaved moggy had turned into a pee-monster. Recently, he'd decided to pee anywhere he pleased, mostly ignoring the litter tray, and had made a corner of the living room a favourite spot to relieve himself.

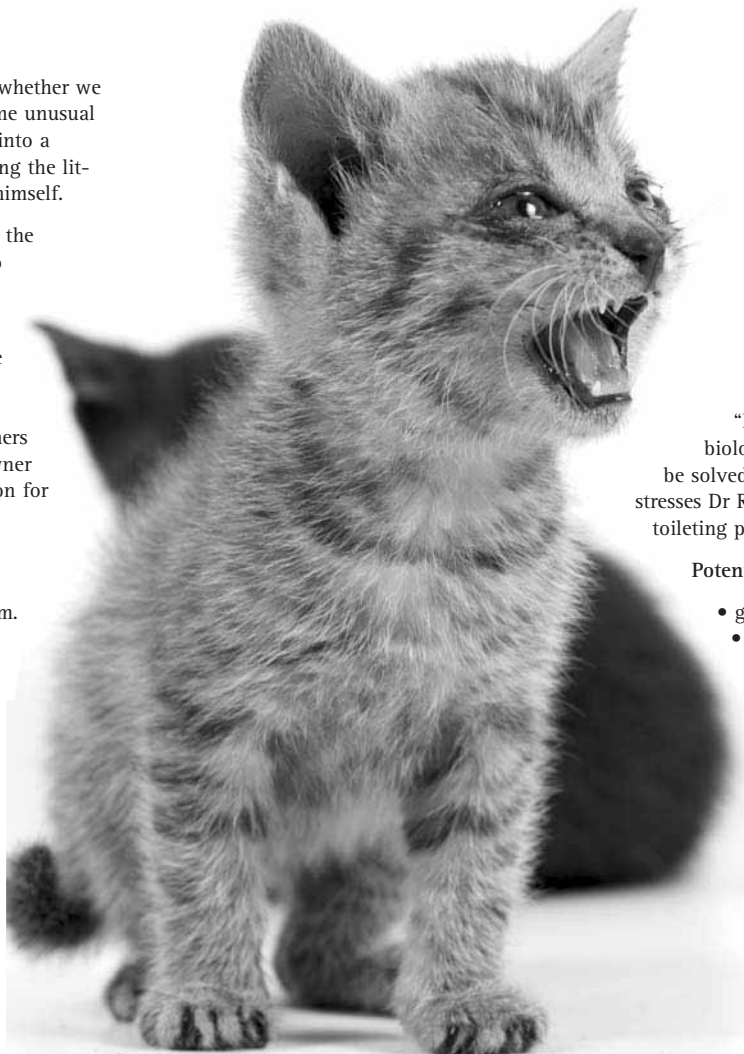
When asked whether there had been any significant changes in the household, the woman replied, "Not really, not too much. Perhaps it could be something to do with my partner moving out with half the furniture and taking the dog."

Dr Joanne Righetti, a Sydney based animal behaviouralist, laughed when she had the tale of the pee-monster relayed to her. "I would say the changes in the household are pretty significant. There are a number of reasons as to why a housetrained and clean cat will become an 'inappropriate eliminator'. Some of these are simply mistakes, some have an underlying medical condition and others are purely behavioural. Sometimes the cat does not have a problem but the owner does. Behaviour that is perfectly natural for cats becomes a source of frustration for us."

The problem of a peeing cat is common, yet understanding the reasons can be complex. Dr Righetti has now written a book that looks at understanding the problem and solutions for the cat owner that has been experiencing this problem.

"Cat Toileting Problems Solved" details the most common problems

- toilets indoors after always urinating and defecating outside
- 'misses' the litter tray
- toilets when you leave him/her alone
- urinates or defecates in inappropriate areas
- sprays against walls, furniture and belongings



Dr Joanne Righetti

"It's important for cat owners to understand the natural biology and behaviour of cat toileting. These problems can be solved but it takes time and there are no quick fix solutions," stresses Dr Righetti. "A vet check should also be carried out as cat toileting problems can have an underlying medical problem."

Potential illnesses include

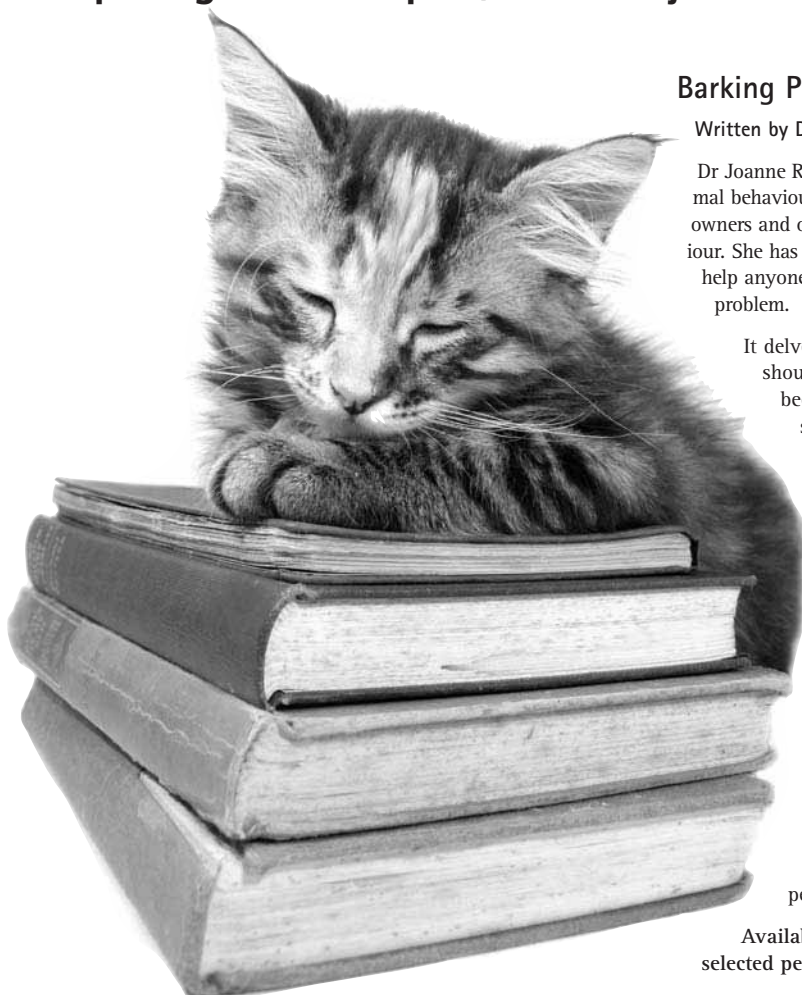
- gastrointestinal disease
- urinary tract infection
- crystals or stones in the bladder
- blocked bladder
- hormonal disease like diabetes
- kidney failure
- cancer

The book *Cat Toileting Problems Solved* will be available through pet stores and vets in September.

Animal behaviour consultant Dr Joanne Righetti helps pet owners and animal organisations understand pet behaviour and solve problems. She regularly consults for the Animal Welfare League NSW, Delta Society Australia, Nestle Purina, All Natural Vet Care and can be heard regularly on 702 ABC Sydney.

# Pet Reads

Compelling books on pets, care and just fun reading



## Barking Problems Solved

Written by Dr Joanne Righetti

Dr Joanne Righetti, PhD is a Sydney based, animal behaviour consultant who routinely helps pet owners and organisations understand pet behaviour. She has written this problem-solving guide to help anyone out who has a dog with a barking problem.

It delves into why dogs bark and what you should do when barking escalates and becomes a problem. Tips on understanding the barking problem are covered—like boredom, visiting guests or just being over excited. Identifying the underlying problems of why you have a barking dog and solutions to each case are given.

This is a very handy guide for those who want some insight and solutions to problem barkers. It's a responsible booklet for all barking problems and stresses that there are no 'quick-fix' solutions—just sensible methods to understand and control the problem. Also hitting vets and pet stores will be Joanne's book on cat pee problems.

Available through Vets and selected pet stores rrp\$9.95

## How To Speak Dog – the art of dog – human communication

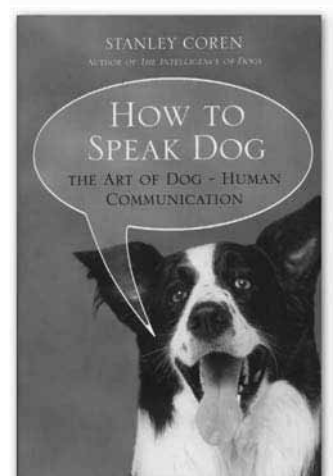
Written by Stanley Coren

Coren wrote 1994s controversial book, *The Intelligence of Dogs*, publishing his research on how breeds differed in mental abilities due to genetic make-up. Border Collie and Poodle owners proudly trotted out his findings as these breeds were ranked smartest in working intelligence. Fans of the Afghan and Basenji (the two lowest ranking breeds) either ignored the book or decried the research.

With this new book Coren gives the reader an insight into the language of dogs he calls 'Doggish'. It's a book about how to interpret dog speak by reading body language, and understanding your dog's vocalisations. Coren believes that the average domestic dog can understand words at about the level of a human two-year old.

It's an informative book and Coren certainly has a passion in trying to understand dog behaviour and communication. At times the writing is ponderous and Coren can waffle on a bit. However, most dedicated dog owners will learn a great deal about dog communication and the hidden signals they give us.

Available through bookstores - Published by Running Press, distributed by Bookwise International rrp \$22.95



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## Puppy Care & Training

Written by Bardi McLennan

From a series of books 'Your Happy Healthy Pet' comes this puppy care and training guide. It's written for new-or soon to be-puppy owners. The American author, Bardi McLennan, was a contributing editor to 'Dog Fancy' magazine and has written for numerous US publications. McLennan gives a comprehensive list of all the essential tools you'll need before bringing puppy home. There's a helpful chapter on puppy proofing your home and hidden dangers that could be detrimental to your puppy's health and wellbeing.

This guide also covers what to expect with a growing puppy with advice on when to switch from a puppy diet to maintenance feeding. How much and what type of exercise a growing dog should get. A first aid kit to assemble and emergency procedures are also covered.

Finally, it's all about the basic training that should be taught to a developing pup for he or she to become a well socialised and confident puppy. Oh and we should mention that there's some great advice on how all the family can be involved to enjoy and have fun with your new bundle of joy.

Overall this is a well researched and sensible guide for new pup recipients. I would also highly recommend this book to folk who haven't had the joy of a puppy for a number of years as McLennan uses positive reinforcement training methods. So there's no silly, old fashioned (and cruel) 'rub his nose in it' punishment!

Available through bookstores - published by John Wiley & Sons  
rrp \$20.95

## Freshwater Aquarium

Written by Gregory Skomal

This book is an illustrated guide to setting up and maintaining a balanced freshwater aquarium. It covers choosing the size of the aquarium; setting up the tank; selecting filtration and lighting systems and creating a healthy, balanced environment for your fish. For the novice there is a comprehensive guide to popular fish species with colour photos.

The guide also gives suggestions on choosing the right mix of fish-top water, middle water and bottom dwellers. Skomal also provides details on what conditions are best suited to each species. A happy, healthy environment for your fish is a balancing act and requires care and dedication. This is an excellent guide for anyone interested in establishing an aquarium.

Available through bookstores - published by John Wiley & Sons  
rrp \$20.95

## You Bake 'Em Dog Biscuits Cookbook

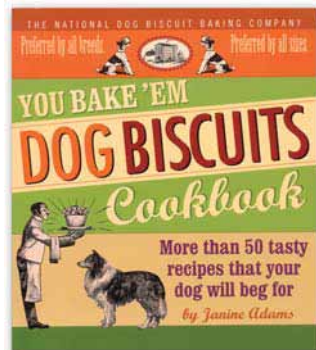
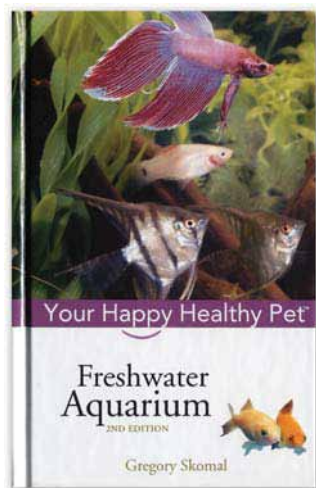
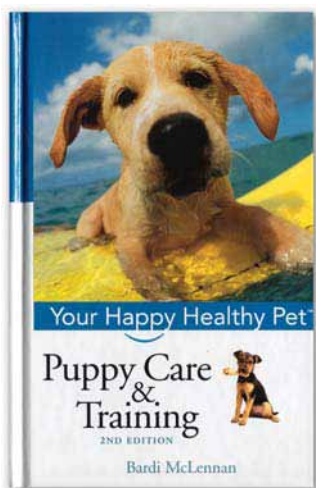
Written by Janine Adams

The first edition of this cook book, released in the US, had only 24 dog biscuit recipes and was cleverly packaged with a range of cookie cutters. This beefed up version has over 50 dog treat recipes but comes without the fun cookie shapes.

We all love the smell of biscuits baking and your canine companion is probably going to want to be your assistant chef when you roll up your sleeve and roll out the dough. There are recipes for basic dog biscuits, training treats, low fat (for pudgy pooches) and special occasion snacks. The author has also had the sense to include recipes for special needs dogs-those that suffer from allergies or have other dietary requirements.

Making your own biscuits is not only cost effective but you also know exactly what you're feeding your dog. We can only fault this book by pointing out that conversions from imperial to metric and Fahrenheit to Celsius have not been made for this market. You'll also see that we've reprinted one of these fabulous recipes in our Cuisine de Critters column on page 6 to give an example of the tasty treats that are in this quality cookbook.

Available through bookstores - Published by Running Press, distributed by Bookwise International  
rrp \$22.95



## PET SOUNDS

### Sounds Scary

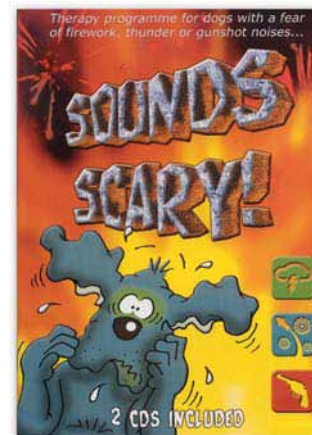
2 CD set therapy program for dogs with a fear of fireworks, thunder or gunshot noises...

Finally we have this 2 CD set available for dogs that crumble and hide under the bed whenever there's a thunderstorm. Desensitising a cowering pooch is key to getting them back on track and overcoming their fear of scary sounds or things that go bump in the night.

A dog with a sound phobia is not a happy dog and this CD set and helpful manual will assist the owner to understand and cure the problem. The set is a practical and convenient tool to help your dog overcome a common problem.

CD one starts out with gentle rain then right through to a noisy thunderstorm. CD two is full of fireworks and gunshots. The manual gives a step-by-step guide and program to desensitise and make counter conditioning effective.

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rrp\$85.00



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## BEFORE



## AFTER

