

Internet Interpet

You discover a lot of funny things over the holidays when you surf the Net—whether for gifts, amusement, information or just curiosity. We also get a lot of tips from readers—not ANOTHER dog tracking/pet telephone/global positioning device! Seriously, we invite your pointers to websites, products and services that you think are either unusual or fun. Here are ours.

Lisa discovered this online dating service which was created exclusively for pet lovers or all persuasions. It's not just for people looking for life partners, it's also used for locating a nearby buddy for your pet or perhaps someone with a pet to hang out with. It's **Date My Pet** and you can sniff around at <http://www.datemypet.com> to see the range of people and their pets who are not necessarily desperate or dogless. And in this issue, you can howl at Lisa's adventures in the single world as an attached pet owner when she joins the community to check out the animals on offer.

My Fat Kat at www.myfatkat.com is dedicated to all happy and well-fed cats, but it is also a parade of puffed up pussies on display that you can vote for. They range from the curvy furball to the plump princess which can barely put her paws together. Does my cat look fat in this site? You bet!

Even more bizarre, but funny as it is off putting, is **'The Pet Cookbook—Have Your Best Friend for Dinner'** by cult book publisher Nicotext. No, it's not a tome on how to prepare gourmet dog biscuits, horse muffins or bird crackers. It's actually a 100 page spoof of turning man's best friend into a main course. You can find it at <http://www.atomicbooks.com/products/-/11550.html> and please remember, it's a parody.

As the author claims, "What's considered a pet in one country is considered just another animal in another. In some countries, your beloved pet may even be considered a tasty meal. This cookbook is designed to give you the best recipes on how to cook your pet. With influences from all over the world, these recipes will help bring new flavors into your kitchen." It includes recipes such as Creamy Parakeet Pasta, Roasted Kittens with Red Wine Sauce, Scorpion Soup with a Sting, Guinea Pig Pie and other hilarious recipes.

Let's get away from food and fat cats! How about some exercise? We get a lot of requests from people looking for dog-friendly parks and beaches and off leash areas throughout Sydney. One of the more thorough sites, with links to various council sites that are specific is **'Off-Leash Dog Park in City of Sydney and Surrounds'** at <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~crocomut/SydneySpace.htm>. It includes UBD references along with photos. Some of the information is dated but the handy links allows you to access updated information directly by area from councils.


Our choice of specific dog park is **Café Bones** at Hawthorn Canal in Leichhardt, which is under new ownership and is a dog cult favourite. Our most local one is the old brickworks at the Sydney Park at the end of King Street in Newtown with 40 hectares of dog running bliss.

But our all time favourite and one with a great website of leash-free and dog-friendly information is Centennial Park. In a four page PDF at their website—http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/visitor_information/dogs-you'll find maps of the entire park, outlining dog poo bag points, disposal bins, off-leash and on-leash areas, all the rules and so much more. In the case of our Dalmatians, we've been

running them around the Grand Parade (4 km) to the left of us on our bikes for over ten years. There's also the **'Dog Bowl'** as we call it where the memorial is just a hundred metres from the café. And the café is great because there are tether points and water dishes set out so that you can sit outside with your dog and enjoy a meal or coffee together.

But what if you lose Rover out on a run? You have to be quick about it and organised. There are two sites we can direct you to, one American at <http://www.missingpet.net/advice/index.html> and two Australian at <http://www.petnet.com.au/pethints/199608.2.html> and <http://www.petalert.com.au/resources/tips.php> each with great advice.

Well, I'm sure there will be some new technology to locate missing pets as well as high tech toys at biggest Pet Expo trade fair (www.globalpetexpo.com) when it happens in San Diego in late March. The Urban Animal team will be going and reporting back to you in our May 15 issue.



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