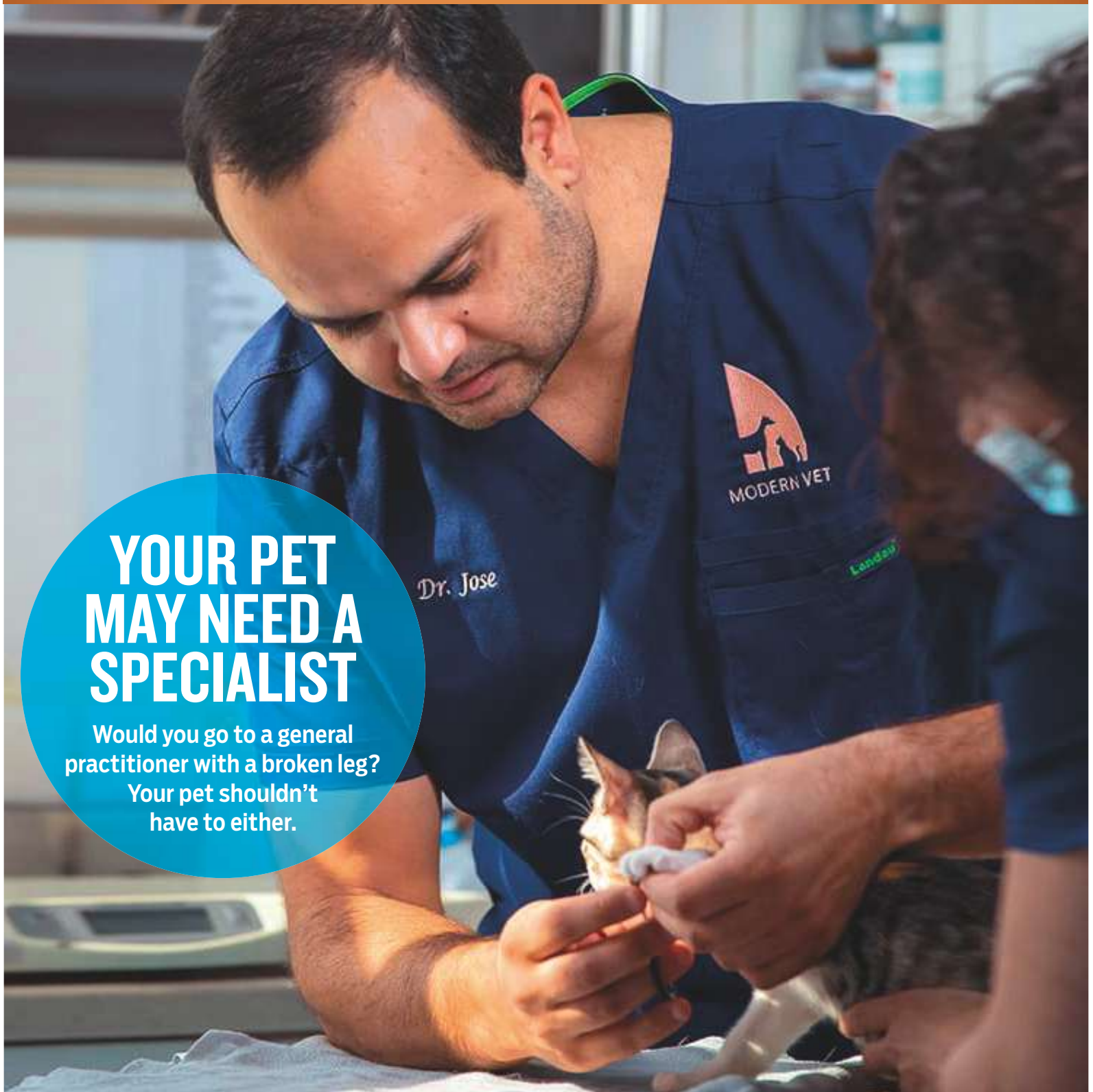


# PET CARE



GULF NEWS

Wednesday, December 7, 2022



## YOUR PET MAY NEED A SPECIALIST

Would you go to a general practitioner with a broken leg? Your pet shouldn't have to either.



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# ARE YOU ASKING TOO MUCH OF YOUR FAMILY VETERINARIAN?

## WHEN TO SEE A SPECIALISED VET

- A puppy with a shattered leg, a cat with a brain tumour, or a dog with a hereditary heart condition... just who does a pet owner turn to in an animal's hour of need?

Dubai is quickly becoming home to the best specialised veterinarians in the GCC; just as Alexandra, an eight-year-old Boxer and her mom drove 1,400 kilometers from Kuwait, to be seen by a team of specialised veterinarians at Modern Vet in Dubai. For those of us who don't know, specialised veterinarians can most easily be compared to human medical specialists like orthopaedic surgeons, gynaecologists, or anaesthesiologists; they have a higher level of education and training in a specific area of medicine.

General practice veterinarians on the other hand can most easily be compared to general practitioners that us humans would go see if we were feeling under the weather. General practitioners or GPs as they are more commonly known, are familiar with many conditions, in many fields, but not in depth.

Think back to the last time you went to see a doctor for something, you'll probably remember that you were referred to a specialist by a GP. Let's say that you went to see the doctor because you found a red bump on your skin. The GP would have referred you to a dermatologist. Just as with humans, pets with serious illnesses will be referred to a special interest veterinarian for further tests and diagnosis once the general practice veterinarian identifies the medical issue.

There is a slight difference however, between us humans, and our pets...pets can't talk and in consequence can't let us know if they are in pain, if they sprained their paw, or if they found a lump on their body. A veterinarian's job demands more skill, experience, and careful observation than a human doctor for this precise reason. A veterinarian's attributes and essential qualities along with various forms of available testing (data, vitals, and trends) constructed by veterinary medical gadgets allows them to diagnose and propose a treatment plan for your pet. Another sub-



● Dr Roy and Dr Rami performing an open heart, PDA surgery at Modern Vet



● Dr Marina performing microscopic eye surgery at Modern Vet Palm Jumeirah



● Modern Vet, Downtown Clinic

stantial difference between human doctors and veterinarians is that veterinarians are trained to treat all animal numerous species and breeds with different physiologies.

Modern Vet is the go-to veterinary referral centre in the UAE, with specialised veterinarians in the fields of ophthalmology, cardiology, dentistry, orthopaedics, and neurology. In 2021, an eight-month-old Pomeranian puppy became the first patient to successfully undergo open-heart surgery at Modern Vet in Dubai. A team

of five specialised veterinary surgeons successfully performed the surgery and post operative recovery without encountering any pre or post operative complications. Since then, Modern Vet has carried out more than four successful open-heart, PDA (patent ductus arteriosus) surgeries and a plethora of other specialised referral surgeries. A PDA surgery requires a highly skilled vascular surgeon and specific surgical tools to perform.

### How does a veterinarian become a specialised veterinarian?

To become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), a person must go through approximately five years of medical education, however, becoming a specialised veterinarian like an ophthalmologist would mean continuing on to a diplomate program after the DVM education. The years of study for a specialised veterinarian (diplomate) is at least three years or around eight years from start to finish. The more specific and complex the medical specialty is, the longer the education will be.

Alternatively, veterinarians can pursue specialised training

from board certified specialists by practicing at a referral center and working in the same department (e.g., ophthalmology) for many years. For example, if a veterinarian were to work at an ophthalmology referral center for 10 years, they would have been looking at, and treating nothing but eyes for that entire period. During that time, the veterinarian would have completed thousands of eye surgeries. A fresh graduate who's completed one or two eye surgeries in the past is incomparable to the experience of a veterinarian that has completed countless eye surgeries over the course of numerous years.

### Medical treatment by specialised veterinarians cost more

You expect to pay more when you visit a medical specialist for humans, and the same is true when it comes to specialised veterinarians. Along with the knowledge specialised veterinarians offer, pet owners benefit from advanced specialist facilities, technology, and support staff. This level of care and expertise can be critical for pets with more complex medical issues but it will cost you. ■

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# ASK THE VET

● Are you worried about taking care of your pet in case you are very ill? An expert answers your question

BY LEE PICKETT

**Q:** I walk my dog, Buster, several times a day. I'm worried about how to care for him if I contract some illness and can't walk him. I'm even more worried about what would happen to him if I were to die from an illness. What's your advice?

**A:** It seems to me that you need to consider three situations: 1) What happens if you are diagnosed with a disease and unable to leave home to walk Buster and shop for his food and yours? 2) If you are hospitalised, who will care for Buster? 3) If the worst happens and you die, where will Buster live?

If you plan for each eventuality, you'll feel more secure knowing Buster will continue to receive care.

First, let's say you are diagnosed with something and remain strong enough

to feed yourself and Buster, but you're quarantined indoors. This week, contact two or three neighbors or nearby friends willing to walk Buster and shop for both of you if the need arises.

Ask these friends if they will take care of Buster if you need to be hospitalised. Make sure each of your helpers has everyone else's contact information, in case the initial care-

**“**  
**Invite the people in a caregiver group to walk with you on occasion so your dog gets comfortable with them. Show them how to get into your home in an emergency.**

giver has an emergency and Buster must stay with someone else. Advise your veterinarian in writing that you authorise these friends to stand in for you.

Invite the people in the caregiver group to walk with you on occasion so Buster gets comfortable with them. Show them how to get into your home in an emergency and where you store Buster's food and medication. Keep a three-week supply on hand, along with your veterinarian's contact information.

Here's the tough part: thinking about what will happen to Buster if you die or are otherwise unable to care for him. This difficult question is worth confronting, even without the threat of having an illness, because it's part of loving Buster.

Designate more than one person to adopt Buster so he will have a back-

up guardian if the first person's life circumstances change. Reaffirm with each person annually that they still want Buster if you become permanently incapacitated or die.

Talk about whether Buster's new family will assume financial responsibility for him or if you'll set aside funds to care for him, perhaps through life insurance.

Then put it all in writing. Attorney Amanda Schworke, who teaches animal law at Duke Law School, recommends you consult your lawyer to ensure your wishes are carried out. Ask about setting up a pet trust, living trust or power of attorney specifically addressing Buster's care.

While pets are legally considered property, you shouldn't simply add a provision to your will transferring Buster to someone else like he's a piece of furniture. The person who re-

ceives Buster through your will has no obligation to actually take care of him or to use any inherited money for his upkeep.

If you can't find a friend or family member who wishes to adopt Buster, select a rescue organisation or shelter that will choose the right adoptive home for him.

Whatever you decide about Buster's care, let the important people in your life know, and designate your wishes on a wallet card and in a prominent location in your home.

**Q:** I want to use a Febreze plug-in near the litter box in my small bathroom. Is Febreze safe for cats?

**A:** Yes, Febreze is safe to use around cats. Remember that litter box odors are easier to control if you scoop the box daily and empty and scrub it every week or so.

— Creators.com

# MY SECOND HOME GROUP PLANS THIRD LUXURY UAE PET CARE RESORT AND EYES INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION

● Aside from the vast amount of indoor and outdoor recreation and socialisation space, it's the commitment to pet well-being and enrichment that appeals most to the group's loyal members

BY PAUL SOWERBY

Of all history's great thinkers and leaders, Albert Einstein wasn't exactly top-of-mind when Dubai's My Second Home luxury pet care resorts were being planned back in April 2015.

But the theoretical physicist nailed the essence of the group's approach to world class dog and cat care when he suggested that while logic can get us from A to B, it's imagination that can take us everywhere else.

And while the three My Second Home Founders and General Manager Sean Parker have relied on vision, ingenuity, and resourcefulness to indulge their passion for pet care, they've also dared to dream.

As a result of their imagination (and quite a bit of logic!), on any given day the two boarding, day care, grooming, training, and retail facilities offer a truly home-from-home socialising and enrichment experience to 300 adored dogs and 25 cats on behalf of almost 4,000 owners.

The first resort in Dubai Investment Park, is vast and includes the world's largest indoor free play dog park as well as indoor and outdoor pools and outdoor off-leash recreation areas. Covering 5,800 square metres (the equivalent of around 30 tennis courts), it was opened with a \$2.7m investment from Co-Founder Sanjiv Dhiman.

The second, built to meet demand for a replica resort from more northerly dog owners, opened in mid-2021 in the busy Al Quoz area. It offers the same level of professionally managed service and quality but in about half the space. It was part of an additional \$10m stepped investment commitment by Dhiman in animal



wellbeing, socialisation and enrichment which also includes plans for a third UAE resort as well as the launch of the first My Second Home pet care facilities outside the UAE.

## Attention to detail

"Doing something special for the dogs and cats of Dubai on this scale once, was tricky. But replicating such a big commitment to their welfare more than once, was the real test," said Dhiman. "Although we're still learning lessons even after seven years, owners reassured us that we were providing what their dogs and cats needed and so we felt the time was right to cater for the needs of more animals up in Al Quoz."

"Coming off the back of an astonishing summer and with both resorts having been fully booked for Christmas for several weeks, we're again under pressure from owners to care for even more of the UAE's dogs and cats and so a third resort seems to make sense. We're also very excited about offering our luxury services to owners and their beloved pets in some relevant international markets. Our approach seems to suit Dubai's dogs, so why not share the love overseas!"

Aside from the vast amount of indoor and outdoor recreation and socialisation space that the My Second Home resorts provide, it's the

attention to detail, rigid safety and welfare protocols and commitment to pet wellbeing and enrichment that appeals most to the group's loyal Members.

"Pet owners tend to know what they want, and they want it consistently," said Robin Hill. "That's a big challenge for businesses that set their stall out to provide a world class service – particularly in crucial areas such as pick-up and drop-off. Sure, there are occasional delays – Dubai's roads are unpredictable. But the key is that as anxious owners, we're continually informed. And yes – it may not be the cheapest pet taxi service in town. But who cares, because for a pet owner, knowing that the service level will be right every time, is priceless. And that's the My Second Home difference. They've taken the time to understand our family's needs – and particularly Leroy's."

Owner Manal Fahby added: "It's more of a way of life for Sparky than a day care or boarding facility. And that's all down to the people. The Reception team, the Handlers, the Trainers, the Groomers, the Managers. They all know exactly how to manage guests on both four legs and two. As Members, when we talk among ourselves, we call it the My Second Home Magic – because the way they get it so right really is astonishing." ■



# 9 EFFECTIVE WAYS TO LOOK AFTER YOUR PETS

• **Mary Hunt** presents tricks and ideas to take care of your furry friends

**A**s I write, a big, beautiful, brindle English bulldog is underfoot, sleeping soundly as bulldogs do. While I cannot claim ownership, Newcastle ("Newkie" to his family) visits often. He's my granddog, and he's as precious as they come. So, while I don't technically have any pets, you can be sure that I am always on the lookout for tips, tricks and ideas to keep down the cost of pet care:

**1 SCRATCHING PADS**  
If your cat prefers the furniture to his scratching post, try placing carpet samples throughout the house. For some reason, many cats prefer them.  
— Sue



**2 BLANKET BOUNTY**  
I donate my used sheets, towels and blankets to the local animal shelter. A towel for a small dog or cat will make a warm, soft place to curl up. My mother is handy with a sewing machine, so we both look for towels and bedding at yard sales. We take large blankets and create soft, warm pads for up to four animals out of them.  
— Cindy



**3 FUZZ FIXER**  
I use a clean dog's brush to remove all the animal hair that attaches to my area rug during the week. It takes just a few seconds. It's easy and cheap because I do not have to buy sticky sheets or disposable products to remove the hair. It's also a lot quicker than taking out the vacuum. You can purchase a dog brush at the dollar store for only \$1.  
— Janice



**6 PAPER TRAIL**  
I use my shredder to shred my junk mail. Then I use it as bedding for my three rabbits. They love tossing it around and nesting their cages with shredded paper. Before I shred, however, I remove colored magazines and glossy flyers, as they don't work well in animal cages. Recycling my paper this way is a great money-saver, and it's fun for my rabbits.  
— Susanna



**4 KEEPING CLEAN**  
Nontoxic bug and squirrel repellents will keep your dog (or your neighbors' dogs) from doing their business on the part of your yard you'd like to keep clean. Black pepper is nontoxic, so I sprinkle a little of it in certain areas to keep my Rottweiler in the part of the yard reserved for her.  
— Lois



**7 VACCINE BOOST**  
I buy dog food at the local feed store because I like the product they sell. I recently found out that they do pet vaccinations more affordably than my vet. The only vaccination the feed store cannot do is rabies. I recommend checking with pet and feed stores the next time you are shopping for a good price on animal vaccinations.  
— Michelle



**5 POOP SCOOP**  
Don't toss out the cardboard french fry container next time you eat fast food. Instead, flatten it, and save it for your next dog walk. When Fido leaves his mark, pull out the container, pop it open, and scoop up the mess. Transfer to the plastic bag you also carry with you, and drop the whole thing into the nearest trash can.  
— Billie



**8 FLEA DIP**  
For an effective flea dip, boil orange and lemon peels in water. Cool the water, and use it for a pet rinse or dip. It smells nice and fresh. You can also slice citrus and rub the fruit into the dog's coat. The bugs will keel over from the smell.  
— Ted



**9 COUPON CARE**  
I am a devoted coupon clipper. Whenever I see pet food coupons offering free or very cheap cans or bags of food, I purchase these items and donate them to our local animal shelter. I feel good about helping homeless animals without putting a strain on my budget.  
— Kim H.

# SMART WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

• There are plenty of how-tos online for those willing to make the effort

MARY HUNT

Recently, I read about a family who spent \$1,000 to cat-proof their backyard so their two cats, who they consider full-fledged family members, could roam outside without escaping to the outside world.

And that's not all. Their felines also have lots of cat furniture, and they regularly dine on cat food that costs north of \$7 per pound.

Perhaps you spoil your pets, too. There are plenty of ways to save money on pet care.

For example, you can feed them expensive food, but make sure you buy it on sale. And then buy enough to last until the next sale. Instead of paying the big bucks for furniture or beds, make them yourself. There are plenty of how-tos online for those willing to make the effort.

Here are some more ways to save money on your pets.

## FRUGAL CHOICES

When selecting a pet, it's wise to think beyond cuteness or breed. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a large dog will likely require an average yearly food allowance of \$225, while a bird's diet is only \$75 per year. Rabbits and guinea pigs like fresh bedding, which adds up to \$415 per year, while a self-cleaning cat will cost you only \$165 a year for litter, on average.

Here's another surprising fact when considering which pet you'll adopt: Recurring yearly exams and vaccinations range from \$210 to \$265 on average for dogs and \$160 on average for cats.



## ADOPT INSTEAD OF BUYING

Breeder prices for dogs are many times higher than the cost of adopting from a shelter. Sure, there will be expenses and fees involved with adopting — but they will be so much less, plus you'll be saving a life.



## LOYALTY CLUBS

There are some stores, not unlike every supermarket on earth, that have loyalty rewards programs. And they have sales. You need to be a loyalty club member to get in on the goodies. It's worth the effort to join. In fact, join several of these programs so you have options. Then watch the sales, and take full advantage of every savings opportunity.



## HUMAN FOOD

Feed your pets all the human food your vet or other pet professional approves and

or recommends. Animal Planet says that baked carrots, steamed broccoli and eggs are safe and healthy for cats to eat — and much cheaper than cat food.



## PET FOOD STORAGE

Some pets are picky about what they'll eat. I don't have a cat, but I've learned that felines are known to refuse food if it's too old because it's been left out. No matter which pets you have, keep an eye on those expiration dates. Refrigerate as necessary, and even look into freezing pet food, especially if you are able to stock up when the good stuff goes on sale.

## SPAY AND NEUTER

The decision to spay or neuter has a

number of implications, according to blogger and pet owner Len Penzo. Spaying or neutering is better for your pet's health, which saves you money in the long run.

Neutered male dogs live 18 per cent longer than unneutered ones, while spayed female dogs live 23 per cent longer than their intact counterparts.

Unspayed cats have been known to damage furniture and carpet by spraying urine on them to attract males. Unneutered dogs can be violent, resulting in injuries or even lawsuits, if they attack people.

There's also the obvious huge cost of not fixing those pets: puppies and kittens.



## PET INSURANCE

Unexpected vet bills can be the most expensive part of owning a pet. Insurance is certainly an option, but choose wisely. Like all insurance, pet insurance is a gamble. It's likely that you will spend more over the course of your animal's life on monthly premiums, if your pet remains healthy.

Can't quite pony up to those big monthly premiums? Create your own insurance. Determine to deposit a set amount of money each month into a special savings account you create for pet health care. Never miss. Should your pet require expensive care, you'll have the money to cover the cost. And if not, you will have built up a nice nest egg.

— Creators.com



Pictures: Shutterstock

# NOBODY WANTED TO ADOPT THE DOG WITH ONE EAR...

● ...UNTIL HE STARTED TO PAINT

Jaelyn Gartner was scrolling through photos of shelter pups when one caught her eye: A dog named Van Gogh with only one ear. His left ear had been ripped off in the cruel world of dog fighting, and he was found bloodied and cowering inside a drainage pipe, covered in cuts and scrapes.

A shelter in North Carolina was trying to get him adopted.

"He'd had an absolutely horrific life, and yet he looked happy, and I was told he got along well with people," said Gartner, founder of the Happily Furever After Rescue in Bethel, Connecticut, which takes in pets at risk of being put down in shelters because they are old or disabled. "His ear had to be surgically removed, but Van Gogh was resilient, even after all he'd been through."

"I had to rescue him," she added.

Gartner arranged for the non-profit Pilots N Paws to fly Van Gogh to her in Connecticut in June. She put out the word on Facebook, Petfinder and Rescue Me that she had a friendly, one-eared dog in need of a home, but nobody wanted the 7-year-old boxer pit bull mix.

"Not a single application came in," she said, explaining that he was staying with various foster families. "I couldn't believe it. He was the cutest dog ever."

After he'd been a part of her rescue for four months, she looked at Van Gogh with his one ear and an idea sparked of how she could make him more adoptable. "I'd seen TikTok videos of other dogs creating paintings, so why not Van Gogh?" Gartner said. "He certainly had the name and the ear for it."

So she dropped small gobs of bright paint on an 8-inch by 10-inch canvas, sealed it in plastic wrap and coated the top with a thin layer of peanut butter.

Van Gogh took to his assignment with the gusto of a true peanut butter-loving artist.

He licked the paint into dramatic streaks, and five minutes later when Gartner decided the painting was done (and Van Gogh had eaten enough



● Happily Furever After Rescue foster volunteer Jessica Starowitz adopted Van Gogh the dog

“**He'd had an absolutely horrific life, and yet he looked happy, and I was told he got along well with people.**

**Jaelyn Gartner**

Founder,

Happily Furever After Rescue

peanut butter), she took the canvas away. It was perfect.

Gartner thought he honorably represented Vincent van Gogh, the legendary post-Impressionist artist who created *The Starry Night* and *Sunflowers*, as the two artists both became prolific.

"He has a fast and creative tongue," Gartner said. "It takes more time for us to get the canvas ready for him than it does for Van Gogh to lick off the peanut butter and smear the paint around."

One of the dog's canvasses was dabbed with blue and yellow paint to re-create Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*.

"We did the art over a week, then I invited people to come and meet him at an outdoor art gallery event," she said. "I had sparkling cider and pastries and I even set up little stands for the paintings."

She was disappointed when only two people showed up at the event on October 23. One of them was Jennifer Balbes of Monroe, Connecticut, who follows Gartner on social media.

"He came up and sniffed my face and we were fast friends. He's an incredibly sweet dog," said Balbes, 56.

She went home with a \$40 Van Gogh painting titled *Clouds*.

Gartner was crushed that Van Gogh's first art show was a bust, but decided not to give up. She took action the following day.

"I put out a post on Facebook that I felt bad only two people showed up, and I said the rest of the art was still available," she said.

Suddenly, everyone wanted it.

"The paintings sold out in two minutes," she said, collecting about \$1,000 for her animal rescue.

Van Gogh continued to complete painting after painting, and





● Jaclyn Gartner, Founder of the Happily Furever After Rescue in Bethel, Connecticut

The paintings have brought a lot of exposure to the small rescue, which has about 20 volunteers.

in mid-November, Gartner held an online auction. A dozen of the dog's paintings sold, raising an additional \$2,000 for the rescue, which she started in 2020. Almost everyone paid more than the asking price for each painting, she said.

More importantly, Gartner said, Van Gogh was adopted on the last day of the auction by one of her foster volunteers. Gartner marveled at how he captured hearts online with his whimsical artwork.

She said she was surprised by the sudden interest in Van Gogh's artwork

after his gallery show was a failure.

"I never in a million years thought I'd see a dog become popular for his paintings," she said. "It's really changed my life and his."

She said the paintings have brought a lot of exposure to her small rescue, which has about 20 volunteers. "Because of the attention from Van Gogh's story, we've now had other dogs find homes," she said.

The person who adopted Van Gogh is one of her foster volunteers, Jessica Starowitz. The adoption was made official on the last day of the auction on

November 21, Gartner said.

Starowitz had taken over watching Van Gogh from another foster family and decided that she couldn't let him go, she said.

"As soon as I saw him, I knew he'd be a foster fail," she said, referring to the situation where pet parents take in a foster animal on a temporary basis, but ultimately adopt them as a permanent member of the family. "He was romping around and licking everyone and playing tug of war. My whole family fell in love with him."

Starowitz said she plans to keep Van Gogh supplied with paint and peanut butter in case Gartner wants to hold any other fundraisers for her nonprofit. She also started an Instagram page for her talented new family member.

"Everyone loves Van Gogh, and he loves people," she said. "Whenever he sees a Ziploc bag and a jar of peanut butter, he knows it's time to paint. But right now, he's sleeping on a big cushion bed in my office."

— Washington Post News Service



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# DON'T HESITATE TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

● Spend a little time researching before you commit to pet accommodation



BY PAUL SOWERBY

There was a time when leaving a dog in kennels was filled with enough dread and anxiety to ruin a holiday before it even started.

Now, thanks to the efforts of a host of Dubai-based pet-lovers and animal professionals, the chance of finding a good fit for you and your fur-child is now very high. However, peace of mind still comes from spending a little time ticking a handful of boxes before you commit to accommodation or day care facilities.

Here's what you should consider:

- Choose only a licensed facility that can show the outcome of routine Dubai Municipality inspections.
- Be clear on what a typical day

looks like and be comfortable with the routine. Gone are the days (thankfully) when dogs stay in kennels all day and night except for short walks. Check that there are separate rest and play areas, swimming pools, organised activities, and structured socialisation sessions.

- Make sure the facility has a dedicated toilet area that is available routinely for toilet breaks during the day, so your dog doesn't get used to having to go to the toilet indoors.
- Check that the play areas have non-slip surfaces. Legs and spines can get damaged on slippery surfaces.
- Be confident that there's enough qualified and trained handlers to ensure your dog is supervised throughout the day — and especially overnight.
- Insist on being able to see detailed records of weight changes, bathroom habits, feeding and general behaviour during each stay.
- If you want your dog in its own room, make sure it happens — especially at mealtimes.
- And insist on being able to watch your dog in its room on CCTV wherever and whenever you choose.

ADVERTISER'S CONTENT

MY SECOND HOME

## Group dog training classes are back — with the focus on owners

BY SEAN PARKER  
Group General Manager,  
My Second Home

Having studied animal behaviour for 25 years, not much surprises me these days. But I still get twitchy when I see and hear outdated tactics being used to control and punish dogs who just want to be dogs. Thankfully, the days of rolled-up newspapers, pepper on carpets and a gentle slap started becoming outdated when attitudes and techniques began to prioritise dogs' well-being and psychological states.

Our My Second Home Training Academy is all about teaching humans how to communicate effectively with their dogs. It's about learning a language for both parties and bridging the communication divide between the human and fur friend.

Now more than ever, we need to learn the art of two-way communication. Training is no longer about telling your dog what to do,



but rather responding appropriately to the communication your dog is sending out into the world.

When we commit to meeting all our dog's needs, we can use this relationship to steer our pups in the behavioural directions we would prefer over those we don't, and dramatically improve cooperative behaviour in our homes.

In our Group Classes, our humans learn that the more they respond to the perceived reactive or uncooperative things our dogs do, the more our dogs will believe these are what they are supposed to do.

What we need to remember is that dogs have their own way of communicating and what we

sometimes see as wholly inappropriate, is perfectly acceptable and healthy. Our dogs don't say 'please stop' or 'would you please not approach me'. Instead, they give us other dog body language cues such as growling, barking, baring teeth, snarling or air snapping. Although these are all perfectly suitable ways for them to communicate, our interruptive feedback loop sadly causes them to believe that this is the way they must always communicate, even when it is not appropriate.

Having our help with all these aspects of understanding, improving two-way communication, and enabling an environment of cooperation, will give you the tools to make the correct inputs — instead of the wrong ones.

Try to remember that your dog will never be 'trained'. Behaviour is constantly changing to find function. It is how we respond in each moment that will create the dog of either our dreams or nightmares.

See you in Group Class!