

2024 **ALL ABOUT PETS**



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Waukesha Newspapers

People and their Pets

WAUKESHA – Anyone with a pet is happy to share a photo or 30 of their furry best friend. The Freeman asked notable business owners, police and fire departments and local government officials to share a photo of their fur babies.



Courtesy of Mike Crowley

Waukesha County Board Supervisor and CEO at the National Kidney Foundation of WI Mike Crowley with dog Mazie.



Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow and his dogs, Schatzie (left) and Shaw (right).



Courtesy of Brandon Danowski

Waukesha Police Department Brandon Danowski and Douglas.



Courtesy of Susie Taylor

People's Park co-owner Susie Taylor with dogs Willie & Winnie Taylor.



Courtesy of Kimberly Fudali

City of Waukesha District 11 Alderwoman Alicia Halvensleben's cat Sylvie.



Courtesy of Dan Thompson

Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson with dogs Bella and Drake.

Signs your pet may be in pain



Pet owners go to great lengths to treat their animals well. When a pet is ill, the animal may exhibit signs of anxiety and upset. However, sometimes it is not so easy to detect that something is awry with a pet, even if the animal is in pain.

Companion animals descend from wild animals and it is important for wild animals' survival that they do not display signs of physical weakness. In a domestic setting, pets may hold onto some of these inherent traits, which can make it challenging for pet owners to know when the animal is feeling poorly. Cats are very stoic and it can be easy for humans to miss signs of discomfort or pain, according to Pam Johnson-Bennet, a cat behavior expert and author of several books on

cats. Even dogs may not exhibit signs of pain or illness.

By learning to pick up on some cues, pet owners can determine if it is time to make a vet appointment.

- **Lack of appetite:** A lack of appetite might be a sign of various medical conditions or that a pet is in pain. If the animal is normally a chowhound but suddenly he or she is skipping meals or turning up his or her nose at the bowl, be sure to alert the veterinarian, especially if this behavior continues for more than a few days, and especially if water is being refused as well.

- **Irritability:** Cats in pain may be uncharacteristically aggressive, even growling or hissing when other pets or people in the household approach. Dogs, too, may try to avoid contact or even

become aggressive. Any noticeable changes in normal behavior can be a cause for concern.

- **Increased sleep:** Pets in pain may sleep more as they try to heal or find it difficult to move around. Shifting positions, hunching and disinterest in chasing toys are other indicators that pets are in pain.

- **Vocalizations:** Both dogs and cats in pain may make be more vocal, either meowing, yelping, growling, or howling to indicate something is not right.

- **Excessive grooming:** The animal resource VetsNow says that if grooming seems excessive or centralized to a spot on the body, it may be the pet's attempt to soothe.

- **Panting or altered breathing:** A dog or cat who is breathing heavily while at rest may have an underlying illness and pain.

- **Potty changes:** Cats may miss the litter box or choose not to use it if they're in pain. Dogs that are ill may have accidents indoors or need to go out more frequently, even if they are house trained.

Those who suspect their pets may be in pain can consult with a veterinarian and monitor symptoms carefully. Do not attempt to offer pain medication without first receiving professional advice.

FAQ about pets and microchips

Pet owners generally want to do all they can to safeguard the well-being of their companion animals. This includes taking steps to ensure that pets can be returned safely should they get lost while outdoors. Utilizing collars with identification information on them is one option, but that does not offer peace of mind if the collar comes loose and falls off. However, microchipping is a permanent solution that is ideal for pets.

What is a microchip? A microchip is a small device that is injected under the pet's skin. It is about the size of a grain of rice. Unlike collars or tags that can fall off or become illegible, a microchip always contains the data that has your identification. Here are some common questions about microchips and answers collected from PetLink™, HomeAgain, The Humane Society, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Does the microchip have a battery or charge?

No, a microchip is simply an electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder. It is activated when a scanner sending out radio waves is passed over the chip, which then transmits the ID number to the scanner. The microchip is known as a transponder. You do not have to worry about replacing batteries or recharging. Typically microchips last for 24 years, well past the average life span of pets.



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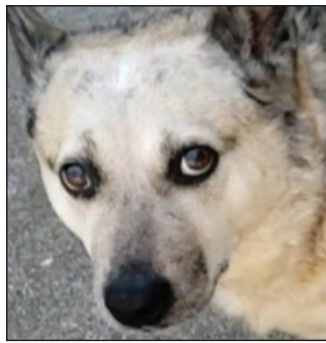
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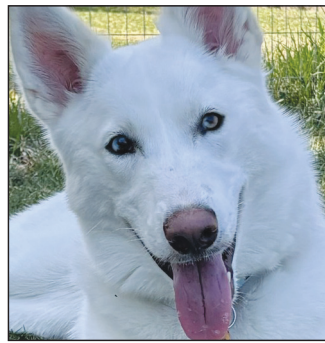
Abby



Baby
Waukesha



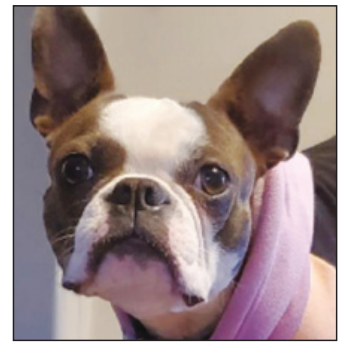
Beau
Sussex



Bon Bon
Oconomowoc



Boomer
Waukesha



Brutus
Waukesha



Burt
Princeton



Buster
Genesee



Chester
Waukesha



Coda
Waukesha



Cooper
Oconomowoc



Cosmo



Felix
Pewaukee



Frankie
Waukesha



Frannie
Waukesha



Hazel
Princeton



Jack Frost
Brookfield



Jewels
Pewaukee



Lenny
Pewaukee



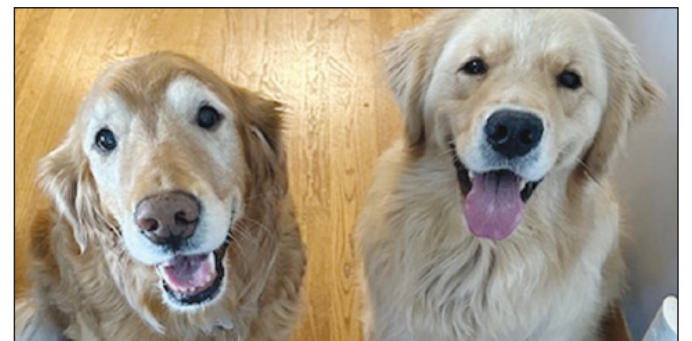
Lincoln
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Lucy Lu
Oconomowoc

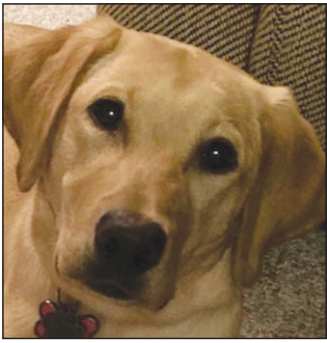


Lucy
Sussex



Major & Howie
Menomonee Falls

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Maya
Pewaukee



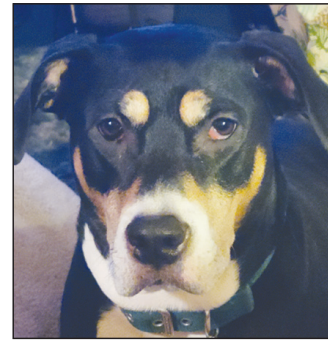
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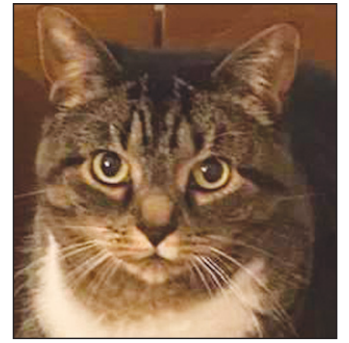
MooMoo
Waukesha



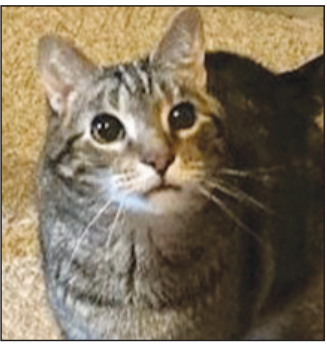
Murphy
Waukesha



Nugget
Genesee



Olivia
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Otto
Pewaukee



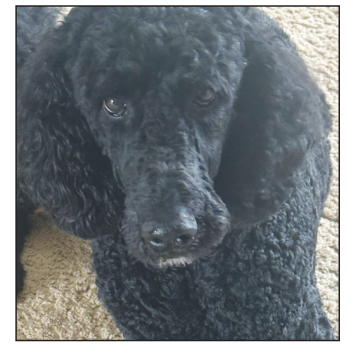
Pixie, Jose & Blaze
Princeton



Rhyleigh
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Rocky
Oconomowoc



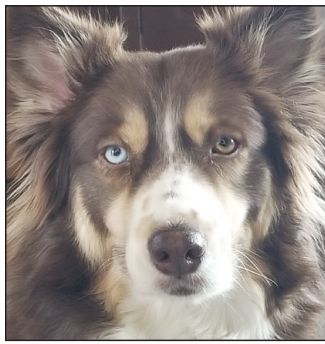
Sasha
Waukesha



Schatzi
Hartland



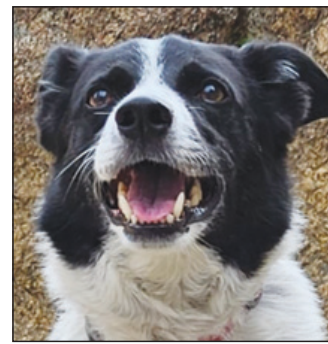
Shaggy
Waukesha



Shep
Oconomowoc



Sully
New Berlin



Sundae
West Allis



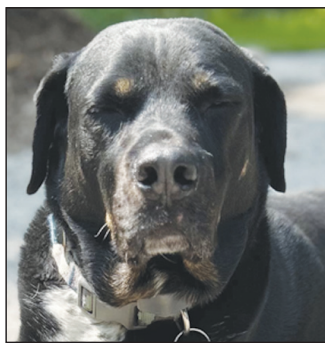
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Princeton



Violet Rose
Muskego



Winston
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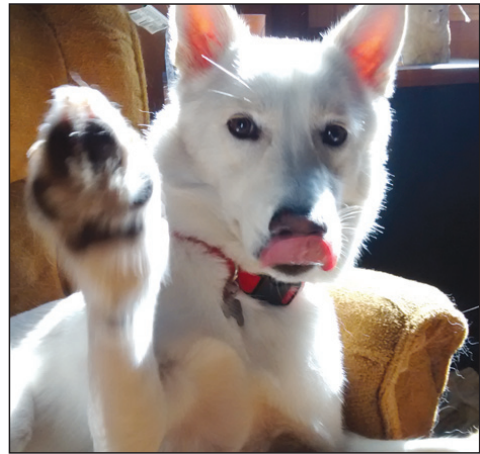
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*Thank you to all of our readers who
submitted photos for the "Wall of Fame"*

The various types of exotic pets



Cats and dogs may never be knocked off their perch as the most popular pets. And while it's impossible to argue the appeal of cats and dogs, some animal lovers are partial to exotic pets.

Exotic pets are unique and often fascinating creatures, which explains some of their appeal. That appeal grows even more after pet owners welcome an exotic pet into their families. Many different animals are categorized as exotic pets, and the following rundown can help prospective pet owners determine which one to bring home.

• **Amphibians:** The organization Amphibian Ark (AArk), which is dedicated to ensuring the survival and diversity of amphibian species, urges anyone considering an amphibian as a pet to first speak with their local wildlife agency to ensure it is legal to keep. AArk notes that cane toads, for example, are illegal in certain states. AArk also recommends asking for background health information on the animal, including how and where it was produced. Though amphibians are not considered high-maintenance pets, they will require a tank that provides access to both land and water, and that tank will require regular cleaning. AArk also notes the importance of not mixing species in a terrari-

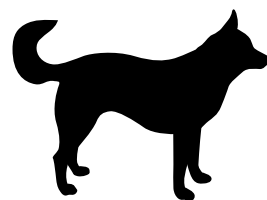
um if the animals don't live together in nature.

• **Birds:** Birds are a popular exotic species that make for undeniably beautiful pets. Prior to welcoming a bird into their homes, individuals should study up to learn some general things about birds and more specific characteristics of the particular species they want to adopt. The Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) notes that most birds are diurnal species, which means they awake at dawn and go to sleep at dusk. Prospective bird owners should be able to accommodate that sleep cycle, as a failure to do so can contribute to health problems for diurnal birds. In addition, birds thrive when they get ample interaction with their owners, so it's incorrect to presume birds are hands-off pets.

• **Insects:** Insects tend to be low-maintenance, particularly compared to other exotics. However, WebMD notes that certain insects, such as tarantulas, can live as long as a decade, so they require a potentially significant commitment of time that may surprise people who have never before kept an insect as a pet. The Smithsonian Institution notes that certain insects, including field crickets, ant lions and mealworms, make for practical pets.

• **Reptiles:** Reptiles are sometimes sought out by individuals with pet allergies because they don't have fur or feathers, which are triggers for many people's pet allergies. Reptiles also require little daily attention, though WebMD notes that this might actually turn some people off to reptiles as pets. Since they require little attention, reptiles are not meant to be cuddled or held. In addition, certain reptiles can gain considerable size over the course of their lifetimes. Prospective reptile owners are urged to ask about how big a reptile may become before adopting it so they can be certain they can accommodate it as it grows and reaches maturity. Though various reptiles do not prefer to be held or cuddled, some still require significant effort. For example, since reptiles are cold-blooded, most will require UV lighting to regulate their body temperature. In addition, the pet experts at Petco note that some reptiles require daily feeding, while others can thrive with a single weekly feeding.

Exotic pets can bring a lot of joy into a household. Anyone interested in owning such a pet should learn as much about a preferred species as possible prior to welcoming the animal into their homes.



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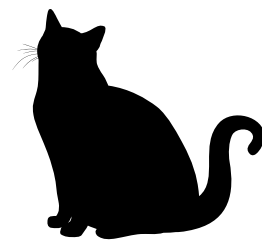
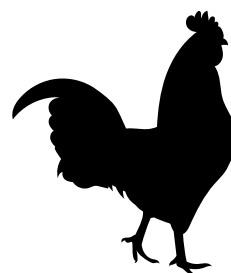
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