

PETS mag

the lifestyle magazine for
pet owners

NOVEMBER, 2017



**Top
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for You &
Your Pets**

***Feline Fine: We Meet the
Cat Vet***

**STORIES/LIFESTYLE/
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SOPHIE & NELL'S CHOICES

Premium pet products, destinations & activities for you & your pet chosen by Sophie & Nell, the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, assisted by Marie.



Perfect Pooches!

We absolutely adore these beautiful bespoke handmade keyrings. Lovingly crafted in felt, you can get one of your pooch or feline (pictured is Rufus, Pets Magazine's latest recruit!) or else there are several ready-made designs. They can be used as keyrings, accessories for your handbag, or else Christmas tree decorations. They're priced from £8.50 each.

Available to buy at www.misheleneous.co.uk

&
[Etsy](https://www.etsy.com/)

alongside a selection of other fantastic handmade gifts.

Treat Your Dog!

Our canine reviewers loved these health treats.

Made without cooking and free of preservatives, ACANA treats are gently freeze-dried to lock in natural goodness and taste. They come in a range of exciting flavours including Grass-fed Lamb, Free-run Duck, Pacific Pilchard and Yorkshire Pork

<http://www.acanapetfoods.co.uk/dog-food/singles-treats/>



SOPHIE & NELL'S CHOICES

Festive Gifts for Your Pets



Cat Hair Don't Care Cushion, £8



Dog Bone Toy, £5



Embrace the Dog Hair Cushion, £8



Fish Cat Toys, £5



Bone Shaped Toy Tidy, £15



Trophy Dog Toy, £6



Delicious Collection Three Bird Feast, 65p
Delicious Collection Turkey Dinner £1
Delicious Collection Turkey Mousse, £60p



Cat and Dog Treats, from 80p

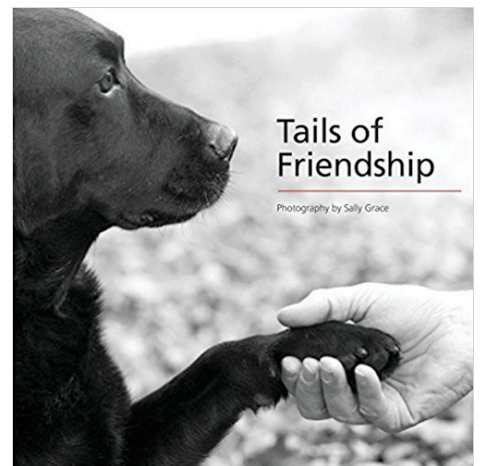


Sainsbury's Dog Treats Tin, £5

All available from [Sainsburys](https://www.sainsbury.com).

Tails of Friendship

Tails of Friendship by Sally Grace (published by Clink Street RRP £18.99 paperback) is a lovely heartwarming collection of photos depicting our relationship with our four-legged best friends. Accompanying each photo by professional photographer Grace, there is a meaningful quote.



PS!

We're always looking for premium products & services to review for both pets and people!

Please get in touch with the boss at

editor@petsmag.co.uk.

Love, *Sophie + Nell* xxx



The *Cat* Vet

A male veterinarian with short brown hair and glasses, wearing blue scrubs, is smiling warmly while holding a small ginger cat. He is looking down at the cat with a gentle expression. In the background, a computer monitor displays a website with a teal and white color scheme. The website has a navigation bar at the top with links like 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'SERVICES', 'CONTACT'. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled 'WHAT IS CATS' with a paw print icon and a button that says 'Book an appointment'. Another section below has a cat icon and a button that says 'We're here to help you'. The overall setting appears to be a veterinary clinic.

We visit London-based feline vet Dr. Jeremy Campbell of the [London Cat Clinic](#) whose self-confessed mission is to make a visit to the vets a far less stressful experience for felines.



By MARIE CARTER

If you're a decent cat owner, chances are that you've seen the inside of a veterinary practice before, probably on many occasions. Chances are also that you've been worried that your beloved cat finds the whole experience horribly stressful. Not only because he's ill or injured, or even just waiting for their annual health assessment, and about to see the vet, but because, for cats, the average vet practice can be a terrifying place. The cacophony of canine noise, barking,

whining and clawing, can send a cat's cortisol stress hormones soaring through the roof.

This is why many cat owners resist taking their beloved cat to the vets in the first place, preferring to see if they get better, rather than putting their poor puss through such a stressful ordeal. That approach is clearly not in the cat's best interests.

Sitting in his carrier in a busy waiting room, Felix the tortoiseshell Moggy cat, was on hyper alert. Two large dogs were eyeballing him only yards away and, normally, he'd be

running now, if not confined to his temporary bed, left leg immobile due to a road accident a week ago. His owner Pam is uncomfortably aware that Felix is stressed, but figures that this is the vets and he should now be used to being surrounded by curious canines. She's unaware that just down the road there's a cat-only clinic that could be much better for her puss, and her own peace of mind as a cat carer. It's the [London Cat Clinic](#), based in Bermondsey, which opened its doors in May this year as a response to the concerns of Pam, and other cat owners like her, who are deterred from bringing their pets to the vets

because the average practice you encounter on every high street just seems way too dog-centric.

I was delighted to catch up with its owner Dr. Jeremy Campbell BVSc, MANZCVS (Feline Med)

RCVS Advanced Practitioner (Feline Medicine) MRCVS, an eminent cat expert, who was moved to launch the London Cat Clinic to cater for this real need among the cat-owning population.

Dr. Campbell is passionate about cats and has dedicated the latter part of his career to learning about, and providing expert medical care to felines. His experience over the years has taught him that cats respond better when cared for in an environment designed and built around their specific needs.

Dr. Campbell's love of cats first took off when he moved to London 20 years ago from his native New Zealand to run a

small animal practice which turned out to be 75% cats. The

which puts their self-preservation mode in

overdrive,” explains Dr. Campbell.

“Cats are exquisitely sensitive to changes in their environment, so following on from the trauma of the carrier and trip they are greeted by a

lovely friendly Labrador. Unfortunately, while the dog's owner think the dog is being 'friendly' the cat and the cat owner don't feel the same way. Imagine that being hyper-stressed out already then, a large potential predator comes up to your only route of escape and tries to 'eat' you. Self-defence now at Defcon 3!

“Our clinic is quiet, we release a synthetic calming pheromone into the air. This is the same as the pheromone that cats release from the glands around their mouth, neck and tail when they are 'bunting' or rubbing up against objects that mark their home territory. It sends the olfactory signal that 'there is no need to be anxious this place is fine.'”



The London Cat Clinic

rewards and challenges of caring for and healing such a subtle animal saw his professional and personal feline

“Cats are exquisitely sensitive to changes in their environment...”

interest become a driving focus.

He says that a simple observation alone by anyone visiting a typical vets practice will show that it's a terrifying place for cats.

“Simply put, cats like to control their home environment and being taken out of this without any preparation or consideration makes them nervous and increases anxiety



Dr. Campbell and his team are acutely aware of the issues involved in the stressful business of transporting a cat to the clinic, so they will first give the cat owner advice over the phone, email, website, or even via video link to help make the trip to the vet's calmer and more reassuring for both them and their pet.

Dr. Campbell says: *"A less stressed or anxious owner has a positive effect on their cat, making them calmer. If we have a cat that is relaxed they are more amenable to a complete examination with appropriate responses to our tests and manipulations.*

"A stressed cat will be tense, be more likely to hide pain responses or resort to fear-aggression responses which can stop the examination completely requiring sedation or general anaesthesia which does mean we don't get the conscious responses and is not without risks despite the up-to-date techniques we use."

Not only does the cat-only environment help a cat (and owner) settle and be less stressed, but a clinic that deals only with the one species has time and resource to be even better at what they do. A feline vet like Jeremy has done extensive years of additional

training and exams in feline medicine, supplemented by advanced courses in ultrasonography, radiography, endoscopy and laparoscopy.

Dr. Campbell explains: *"A feline-only practice is aware that cats are not small dogs their biology is different. Cats have different specific dietary requirements, they react and metabolise drugs differently, we are aware of what combination works and what don't.*

"The veterinarian that deals only with cats is aware of the subtler signs of disease like sleeping in an unusual place,

sleeping more or less, altered interactions with the owners and other cats. These changes are often so small that owners haven't considered them an issue until they are raised by the vet."

He adds: "Our staff are all cat-owners and know there are specific, gentle ways that we can handle our patients to ensure we are able to do as much with them - it involves a lot of large fluffy towels sprayed with the pheromone above - and quiet, unhurried movements. A cat that is manhandled out of the carrier and scruffed to the table is not going to be compliant now or next time – negative reinforcement complete and Defcon 2."

Due to their small body size, cats are very prone to lose a lot of heat when they are anaesthetised which can significantly delay their recovery on the day and also the resultant wound healing if surgery was performed. Dr. Campbell, and his team, use circulated warm air blankets to



cover our patients throughout surgery, intravenous fluids heated to a suitable temperature, and monitor their vital signs including blood pressure to ensure any abnormalities are detected immediately and corrected.

The clinic's equipment, where appropriate, is developed for the size of our patients and their metabolic requirements. The clinic also swears by its longer 20-minute appointment times (the average vets is 10 minutes) that helps to calm the patient by taking things more slowly.

This concept of keeping the patient's warm and calm is continued into the clinic's wards where the cages are made of a continuously moulded high quality polypropylene with tinted glass doors. These have the benefits of being warm, as they insulate heat, and quiet, as there's no banging metal cages, and the nurses can observe their charges without disturbing them. Here too, there are pheromone diffusers to calm the patients.

What more could the average cat owner, and cat to be frank, want?

One senses that Dr. Campbell's mission is not quite complete. His ultimate ambition is to revolutionise a visit to the vets for all cats by advocating some simple changes. Even the average inner city, hard-pressed practice, he says, can help stressed cats by having a separate seating area for cat owners, a separate cat ward, pheromone diffusers, and, most of all, he says, an improved understanding of a cat's needs.

Playing with *Fire...*



Retired vet and author of 'Pets Aplenty' MALCOLM D.
WELSHMAN on a rather fearsome new patient.

By MALCOLM D. WELSHMAN “Well, whatever,” said Eric

ignoring her.

That November morning, Beryl, our receptionist, perched on her stool over the practice computer, looked across at me and declared, “I’ve booked you in to see a dragon.”



Malcolm and Dora

“Have a box of matches to hand just in case.”

With that, he smartly backed out of reception and retreated down the

corridor whistling the tune from Light My Fire.

“Some people never grow up,” seethed Beryl, turning to furiously stab her red-painted talons at the tabs on her keyboard.

“What on earth do you mean?” I exclaimed, immediately conjuring up an image of some fire-belching monster thundering into my consulting room.

“Dragon? What’s this about a dragon?” queried Eric, the senior vet, popping his head round the reception door.

“It’s an appointment I’ve booked in,” said Beryl, glowering at him with her good eye.

“My... My... Sounds fun. Who’s bringing it in. St George?”

Beryl began to smoulder.

“What’s wrong with it. Burnt itself out? Eric caught my eye and winked. Careful Eric. Forget dragons, you’re playing with fire here.

“Very funny, I don’t think,” snapped Beryl.

So, none the wiser, I awaited with baited, if not fiery breath, the arrival of said dragon.

I would like to say it landed with a thump on my consulting table in a cloud of smoke. In reality it slid on to my table in a small wooden box with a mesh-gridded door panel, secured in place with a catch.

So, I surmised it wasn’t going to be a very big dragon. Two

lads around twelve years of age brought it in. Both wore Harry Potter T shirts emblazoned with Hogwarts’ characters though I couldn’t spot a dragon amongst them. I wondered from where they had conjured up this creature and asked them.

“It was on a bus,” said one freckle-faced boy, pushing black-framed spectacles up the bridge of his nose.

“A bus?”

“The number ten,” said the other lad, shoving a lock of lank fair hair back from his forehead.

My puzzled look, prompted him to add, “The one that goes down to Westcott Pier,” as if that would make it clearer. It didn’t.

Further probing revealed the creature had been left on the bus in this carrying crate. The two lads had discovered it. They told the driver they’d bring it here so that the owner, once realising it had been left onboard, could phone us to come and collect it. I did wonder whether that would happen, rather suspecting the creature had more likely been abandoned.

I peered in through the mesh door and could just make out a lizard-like reptile, sandy coloured, with a flat body and broad triangular head, at the back of which was a row of spiny scales.

"It's a bearded dragon," piped up the bespectacled lad.

"Really?" I remarked, impressed by his knowledge.



A bearded dragon

"Yes," added his mate. *"Says so on the back here."* He spun the crate round and pointed to the label stuck on the other end.

It stated: *"Dino. I'm a bearded lizard."*

The boys informed me they wouldn't be allowed to keep it. Hence that lunch time, I found myself down in the office, Dino on my shoulder, nibbling a piece of watercress I'd extracted from my baguette.

Beryl had been about to join me but shuddered to a halt at the doorway, a thunderous black look on her face. Clearly, she had no desire to share her lunch with a dragon. The feeling seemed to be mutual as

Dino bobbed his head up and down and the skin on his throat turned black. Something that occurs when stressed or when these lizards see a potential

rival.

"Dragon meets dragon, eh?" said Eric breezing into the office just as Beryl disappeared down the corridor to no doubt to have her customary lunch-time fag out in the back garden.

"You keeping him?"

"No way," I replied, shaking my head vigorously. *"My place is already bulging at the seams with rescue animals. Besides which the cats would just see Dino as a tasty snack."*

"Mr Hargreaves then?"

Eric and I had operated on one of Mr Hargreaves many reptiles, a skink. He was a keen

herpetologist and keeper of all things reptilian. As suspected, Dino was never claimed, so Mr Hargreaves welcomed him with open arms.

"Splendid specimen of a Pogona vitticeps," he declared enthusiastically.

Dino responded by waving a front leg at him - another mannerism of bearded lizards.

Clearly these

two were going to be brothers-in-arms.

Malcolm D. Welshman is author of Pets Aplenty published by Austin Macauley Publishers 0207 038 8312 at £7.99 Kindle version 99p www.malcolmwelshman.co.uk.

LARS B. ANDERSEN, CEO of Arty Lobster

On 3D Pet Sculptures

Click [this link](#) to watch the video.



And here's two examples of Arty Lobster's fantastic 3D sculptures. Visit their website at www.artylobster.com to order a 3D sculpture of YOUR pet!

