

**Pets in
focus:**
creating the
perfect photo

**Take
Rover to
the office!**

The legal lowdown:
How to plan for your
pet's future

Competition

Win a set of cabling solutions
for your home!



PETS in focus...

Pets magazine editor Marie Carter meets acclaimed pet photographer Sue Westwood-Ruttledge. Sue shares her tips on creating the perfect photo.



Summer time means time to get active. The extra hours of sunlight don't just provide a natural energy boost for us: our pets feel perky too. So grab your camera and take advantage of the spring in their step to capture some fabulous outdoor action shots.

Photographing animals can be tricky in the unpredictable environment of the great outdoors. It certainly takes practice, says professional photographer Sue Westwood-Ruttledge, but the results can be very rewarding.

Dogs

Wear some old clothes, lie on the floor and get a helper to throw a ball away from you so you can capture the dog chasing the ball.

Then get the helper to throw the ball towards you. Try to capture the dog's expression and maybe all four feet off the ground as he runs towards you.

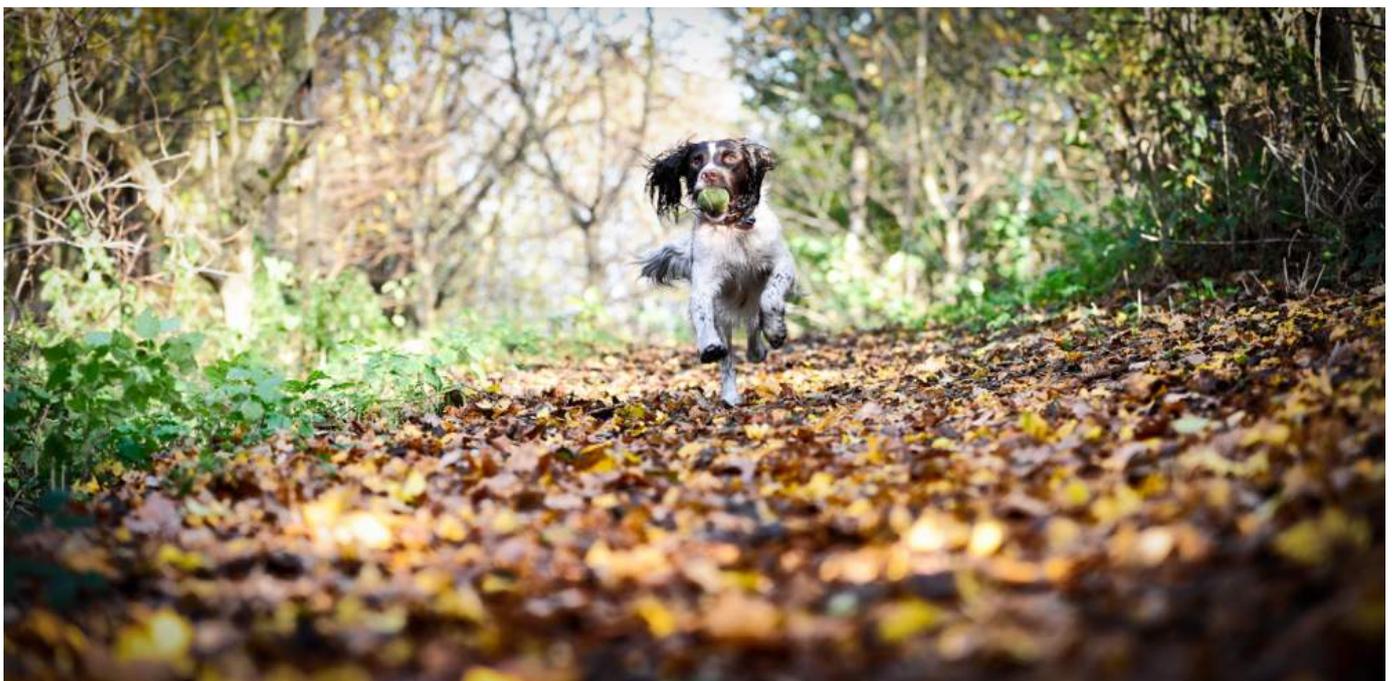
For point and shoot cameras use the sport mode. If you have a DSLR you can either use "P" mode then the camera will alter the settings as required by the scene or use a fast shutter speed 1000/1250s to freeze the action.

Many dogs like to swim and will provide you with many interesting picture options: jumping in and out the water, swimming, chasing sticks and of course shaking all the excess water off all over you when they climb out. Just watch your camera!



Throw a ball up into the air and try to take some action shots of your dog leaping up to catch it.

Experiment with blowing bubbles. Many dogs love to catch them.



Rabbits and guinea pigs

When experimenting with outdoor photography with smaller pets, look for interesting colours and textures as backgrounds for your pictures. It doesn't always have to be green. Be creative.

If photographing a rabbit outside make sure it is in an enclosed space as rabbits have the habit of hopping off. Crouch down, keep still and quiet and move slowly so you don't startle the rabbit.

Put some tunnels and objects in the enclosure for the rabbit to go through or play with to make it more interesting for the rabbit and you.

Don't use flash as this may frighten small pets as well as possibly giving them unattractive "red eye".

Guinea pigs are generally docile creatures and tend to keep quite still. But you still need someone nearby just in case piggy decides he's had enough.

Make sure the ground is dry. Piggies don't like getting wet.

Lie down if you can so your subject is on the same level as you.

Cats

Summer is a great time for taking photos of dozing cats, but ideally you want to make sure



they are not in direct sun. Look for shade. Have the sun behind your subject, off to the side, to get some beautiful natural back lighting. Direct sun on their faces will make them squint, plus you will get lots of harsh shadows.

Photographing in the summer is better in the late afternoon/early evening when the light is much softer.

Cats, especially kittens, love to play. Try introducing feather dusters, a stick with string attached, or a ball of wool to create some interesting pictures. Try to capture the cat just before it pounces. Find someone to help you with your props, so you can be ready

with your camera.

Horses

Taking action shots of horses is not easy to perfect. It takes a lot of practice.

Understanding leg positioning is important. Ideally you want the front leg stretched out and the ears forward. Make sure there is plenty of space in front of the horse to give it room to "breathe". It makes for a much more pleasing composition.

Sue Westwood-Ruttledge is now franchising her Dog Photographer UK and Horse Photographer UK businesses. To find out more visit www.dogphotographeruk.com and www.horsephotographeruk.co.uk All photos featured in this article & cover image: ©Sue Westwood-Ruttledge.



Why it's not *barking* to allow pets in the workplace...

Pets magazine is celebrating the UK's first [Bring Your Dog To Work Day](#) on June 27. Businesses from across the UK will welcome dog-loving employees into the workplace along with their loyal four-legged companions.

Businesses and individuals can make online donations of £50 and £2 respectively to participate, with all proceeds being split between [All Dogs Matter](#), [Animals Asia](#) and [Pup Aid](#) - three organisations that make a huge difference to the welfare of animals.

Pets magazine visits one workplace where a regular canine employee more than earns his treats.

Ted is a four-year old West Highland Terrier who has been coming



into work with his owner Steph Boulton, director of teacher supply agency [First Class Supply](#) since she adopted him as a rescue dog at nine months. Everyone loves him and Ted loves the attention (and treats!) he gets from staff and clients.

“Having a dog in the office definitely makes for a better atmosphere. It's hard to be stressed when a dog is smiling at you,” Steph says.

As a nation of animal lovers with 13 million households or 45% of the UK population now owning a pet, why not take your well-behaved dog or chilled out cat to work?

A study of 3,000 office workers by digital marketing agency the Bio Agency revealed that 16% have an office pet with the top five being fish, dogs, cats, tortoises and birds. As many as 55% of those questioned admitted they would feel more

motivated if they had a pet in the office.

David Cliff, a leading therapist, business consultant and MD of [Gedanken](#), explained: “When sensitively and fairly introduced, pets in appropriate workplaces can help people to relax, reduce stress and offer a more humane, meaningful work environment for staff. This may contribute to a decrease in absenteeism and also improve staff morale.”

David cautions: “There are however clearly some workplace situations where this will not work. Other areas to consider are health and safety and hygiene critical issues such as food handling and also incompatible species such as exotics.”

Cute and friendly Ted is loved by all who meet him. Owner Steph says: “Ted’s fantastic for office morale and when you’re having a busy day he really helps with motivation. Not with any great insights of course but by giving a paw, a waggy tail or a lick on the hand. It’s hard not to smile and to let any worries of the day fall away.

“Clients – who range from supply teachers to partner schools – love him as well.”

There are people who are allergic to, or anxious around dogs, however, and so Steph and co-director Lesley Robinson always check

before introducing Ted to new people.

“Some people ask whether he’s friendly, and I always say he might lick them to death! Most people love that we’ve a real office dogsbody, but it’s important to ask first before introducing him.

“He can really help with nerves as well. Many supply teaching applicants can be slightly anxious when they come in for their interviews, but when they see Ted they often say the butterflies just go away, and they’re at ease,” Steph says.

“Ted’s a fantastic stress therapist for everyone and I’d recommend that every office has their own version of Ted. They’d never be without a pet at work again.”

Here are five ways having a workplace pet can be good news:

Increased trust and collaboration

Aside from being man’s best friend, it turns out that dogs can be mediators, bridge builders, and productivity coaches, too!

Employees are more trusting and collaborative with one another when a dog is present during group meetings, according to a study by Central Michigan University.

Improved Attendance

It’s not scientifically proven, but many employees themselves believe that allowing pets in the workplace helps reduce absenteeism.

Enhanced wellbeing

The benefits of a “walking meeting,” where people conduct their regular or impromptu meetings while taking a stroll, have been touted since



Office dogsbody Ted

the days of Aristotle. Walking meetings can help creativity, collaboration, teamwork and also boost employee morale.

Reduced stress

According to a Virginia Commonwealth University study, pets at work help lower cortisol levels and raise productivity, something which all workplaces can benefit from.

So, the experts say it’s good for you and your dog thinks it’s a great idea too. Now you just have to persuade the boss!

Safeguarding your pets' future: The legal lowdown...

By Rachael Tinniswood

They are just as much a part of the family as a partner or children. And for many of those without either, their pets are their family. Yet for some reason, planning for our pets' future should we no longer be able to care for them is rarely at the top of our 'to do' lists.

But, according to Kirwans' law firm, more and more people are recognising the need to safeguard their pets' welfare with legal agreements setting out every aspect of their care in the event that they are no longer able to look after them.

"There are a number of everyday situations in which pets can find themselves at risk," explains Claire Currie, a Partner at Kirwans. "These can include their owner unexpectedly finding themselves in hospital, relationship splits or divorces, or the owner dying or having to move into a care home."



Dog welfare legal agreements are growing in popularity in the USA, with half of the accredited law schools in the USA, such as Harvard and Yale, offering courses in Animal Law that include pet custody.

And there's increasing evidence to support the argument that they should be used here in the UK, with a 2011 survey by The Co-operative Pet Insurance revealing that 20% of separating couples with pets have fought for custody of their animal.

In fact, a number of high profile couples have hit the headlines in recent years over 'peternity' battles, including Drew Barrymore and Tom Green, Hugh Hefner and Chrissy Harris, Britney Spears and Kevin Federline, and Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren.

Here, Claire Currie and Family solicitor Paul Hunt look at some of the different stages in life at which issues over pet welfare can occur, and offer advice on how to troubleshoot problems before they begin.

Partnership or marital splits

While in pet owners' eyes our pets are worth far more than material possessions, that is exactly how they are dealt with by the courts. There is no specific legal framework for dealing with the future arrangement for pets following a divorce or relationship breakdown as there is for children.

Paul Hunt, Family lawyer at Kirwans says: "If a dispute cannot be resolved, the courts can only regard pets as another form of personal property. There are no special rules or procedures concerning how they are to be dealt with, which means that pets' futures can only be resolved within the scope of an overall application for 'financial remedies'.

"However, there is nothing to stop pet owners making advance arrangements around who pets will live with if their owners separate. This can be incorporated with a pre-nuptial agreement, or, after the relationship or the marriage begins, a separation agreement.

"Although not yet legally binding, the courts are giving greater and greater weight to agreements made outside the

court as long as they are backed up with proper legal advice and where appropriate, financial disclosure."

Owner being taken into hospital or a care home

If you're in the situation where you have to enter a hospital or a care home, it's likely that you're already in a vulnerable state, and may not be thinking clearly," says Claire. "However, by planning for that situation in advance, you can also discuss and decide who will take care of your pet's wellbeing.

"In a situation such as this, a solicitor could draw up a Health and Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) through which you could do one of two things. You could include a condition that states you could only go to a care home that accepts pets, but it's important to remember that this may be very restrictive to your care as there aren't many care homes that actually take pets.

"Alternatively, you could use the guidance box in an LPA to explain that you would prefer to go to a home where pets could be taken, and in the event that that was not practical, you would wish for your pet to go to a named person. However,

anything written in the guidance box is only treated as a guide, so there is no legal obligation for attorneys to follow this."

Death of owner

"The best, if not the only way to safeguard your pet in the event of your death, is to make a will," says Claire. "I recently drew up a will for a client who was concerned that if she died, no-one would realise that her pet needed to be looked after. In order to safeguard its welfare, she stated that the executors of the will (who are actually us, her solicitors) must take the pet to a nominated place as soon as possible after her death where it will be cared for for the rest of its days.

"Other clients have chosen to include a clause in wills whereby a recipient is left a monetary gift on the basis that they will look after the deceased person's pet. There are a number of ways that pets' welfare can be ensured through wills."

For more information on safeguarding your pets future, call Claire Currie on 0151 641 8505 or email her on ccurrie@kirwanssolicitors.co.uk.

Why tortoises make the perfect pets...



By David Cliff

It's a fatal mistake to buy a 14 year old a tortoise, worse still to get two. Two males just fight and two

females are rare. Male and female mate, and we had a number of eggs, only one of which has hatched.

Of course, the problem with a single tortoise hatchling is one, or rather one's partner gets attached and so we now have three. My daughter's interest lasted about two weeks.

I guess we were in the position that many parents find themselves when a child wants to have an animal in their lives. The problem is, having assumed the responsibility for Echo, Cleo and Tony, the enormity of the commitment has come home and runs right down the timeline.

A typical breed of Horsefield or Herman's tortoise can live for 100 years. Many of them are bred by European mainland and Eastern Europe breeders and one needs appropriate certification for a tortoise bred in captivity, as they are now a protected species.

It pains me to think of the number of tortoise hatchlings simply picked up and put into hand luggage when people visit abroad to this day. It pains me also to think of the hundreds of thousands of tortoises that we imported every year during the 50`s, 60`s and 70`s to be domestic

'Horrible pictures exist on the Internet of tortoises being fed dog food'

pets, ill equipped for our climate and with owners with little insight into their care.

Horrible pictures exist on the Internet of tortoises fed dog food or excessive protein where they effectively outgrow their shells.

Stories peers tell me about the tortoise that used to live in their garden year after year when they were children make my toes curl. They recall fond memories of effectively leaving an exothermic - or one that doesn't generate its own heat - creature in an ill-suited climate, with such longevity in their genes that one can easily wipe 50-70 years off their life.



Some dealers are very happy to sell you a whole tortoise habitation unit that often has inadequate heating and lighting. An hour under a typical ultra violet emitting tube is the equivalent to 1/14 of the time a Mediterranean tortoise would spend in sunshine so therefore, in captivity and in vivarium's they are always playing catch up.

Summer gives a real opportunity to get tortoises out in the garden, but it is rare that they can be left out. Tortoises are escape artists and find their way out of the smallest apertures and therefore tortoise proofing ones garden is a major undertaking.

They are not comfortable below 18 degrees, which typically limits the number of days they can go out although they will remain functional down to 10 degrees before they start to get ready for hibernation. If they go to ground with real camouflage, you won't find them during a cool summer.

Veterinary care is quite challenging as well as few vets specialise in this area and we found ourselves having to travel between 25 and 35 miles to find a decent one.

Getting a tortoise's diet right is important. They can eat some salad vegetables but not others, which throws their potassium and other levels. We have taken to deliberately cultivating a large patch of weeds in our garden with a mix of tortoise seed that gives them a balanced diet. This is healthier and fresher for them, and also a far cheaper way of providing a good diet for them.

It's amazing how many people think that tortoises are still semi desert like animals that do not require much liquid. In fact a lukewarm bath a couple of times a week is important for their hydration as without this they will go into water retention mode and this results in their kidneys being placed under strain as uric acid crystals build up.

So please do not think a tortoise is a low maintenance pet. We have even had to make provision in our will to ensure that the tortoises are cared for in the event of our eventual demise and assuming our own

offspring are disinterested in them.

Their specialist needs, their inability to signal distress and their sheer longevity means that a tortoise is probably covertly one of the most challenging creatures to have as a pet.



'The elder couple can always be found settled down together at the end of the day shell to shell nose to nose.'

So what's the upside you might ask? Well, each one has its own character. The elder couple, you can always find settled down together at the end of the day shell to shell nose to nose.

The young offspring loves to make a beeline for the cat bowl when he can, much to the chagrin of our small cat Lola. Cleo, our elder female tortoise is the gentlest and most placid of creatures who is completely undemanding compared to her male counterparts and seems to exude tranquility.

We know from poor diet and poor early care with the breeder she has a touch of meta-static bone disease and this must cause her feelings similar to that of arthritis. Despite that, she loves a walk particularly promenading around the garden in summer.

Sadly, cavalier attitudes to these animals and their rights and the need for a sensible habit have resulted in them being an endangered species.

I feel a strong sense of responsibility to ensure that these little companions have the support and care they need throughout their life cycle.

Tortoises are amongst some of the most ancient reptiles on the planet; in Jurassic times some tortoise breeds were as large as 15 feet in diameter. Nothing could be nicer on a

summer's day than to sit and eat in the garden, with these three ancient creatures poddling around enjoying the sunshine and foraging for dandelions and other weeds in our now natural garden that is devoid of weed killer. They appear completely content with life.

David Cliff is MD of Gedanken, a company specialising in coaching-based support and personal development.

A Pet's Fancy

Here's our selection of the best products for your pet to enjoy this summer



🍷 Summer feast?

An English Garden Party, designed to blow away those winter cobwebs, is a brand new recipe brimming with freshly prepared free-run chicken, summery strawberries and the allotment's choice of English garden vegetables. It is grain-free too and boasts an impressive 65% fresh meat content. Our tester Sophie the Cavalier certainly enjoyed tucking in!

An English Garden Party comes in 400g tins at £2.49 RSP. Available in Waitrose, Ocado, pet shops and online at www.lilyskitchen.co.uk.

🐕 Doodlebone padded dog harness

Brand-new to Muddy Paws, the [Doodlebone padded harness](#) offers unrivalled comfort for your dog.

Features:-

- Soft padded airmesh design
- Fully adjustable straps
- Available in seven stylish colours

Currently on offer at £12.74.



🐕 Pooch and Mutt premium dog treats

Pooch & Mutt's range of premium treats and supplements come in a range of recipes including calm & relaxed and fresh breath.

The treats are all natural, ethically made, hand baked, and low in calories. They are also wheat-gluten free, as they can be suitable for many dogs with allergies.

<http://poochandmutt.co.uk/>

Review of the Cat Hampurr by Lola the cat

Hello my name is Lola and I am a small moggie who lives with my two humans. After my recent celebrity appearance in Pets magazine where I wowed the world on how to travel safely in a motorhome with my humans, I was delighted to receive the Cat Hampurr to evaluate from the editors.



I was over the moon with the Catnip based toy that was safe, made out of cloth and was just ohhh so nice on the senses. After a good long play with this toy I had some tasty heart shaped treats and some fishy dried food that was also in the Hampurr.

I like fishy dried food as the dried food is good for my teeth unlike the wet packet food that my humans give me less often. My humans are now sprinkling some pre biotic food onto my food now which is excellent. I am a house cat, so I am not allowed out very much. My humans are protective of me, I am surrounded by dogs where I live and not everybody is very nice to cats when they're out and about. Whilst I lust to go outside sometimes, I know it is safer at home. The prebiotic is marvellous for my digestion and overall health. Now being a cat, I don't like water. So it was really nice to have what was one of the few baths I have ever had using the foam shampoo that came with the cat Hampurr. It's a small little pump action thing and the foam produced smells of Manuka honey. There is no nasty chemicals in it and it's all natural.

So go on humans, treat my fellow cats to a [Cat Hampurr](#). It's a steal at £11.95 on a subscription basis or £15.95 for a one off purchase.

COMPETITION: Pet proof your home!

At [D-Line](#) we found that pet owners love what we make. Our cable management products keep pets out of the harm's way. Most recently, we launched D-Line Flooring Trim. Not simply a run-of-the-mill flooring trim, we added an innovative dimension. The Flooring Trim opens up so that cables from surround sound systems, broadband, TVs - or anything with cables - can be hidden inside. So while cables are multiplying around the home, the hazards for your pets need not!

Pets magazine readers can win a selection of D-Line products by answering the following question:

D-Line's new product range is designed to fit with which part of the house?

- **Ceilings**
- **Flooring**
- **Wardrobes**

Answers to: Editor@petsmag by July 1st.