

PET CARE SPECIAL 2026

CATS



1st runner up
Sora



First Prize
Winner
Snowy



2nd runner up
Luna

DOGS



1st runner up
Skylar



First Prize
Winner
Luigi



2nd runner up
Betsie



For the Love of Pets

Welcome to another edition of our *Annual Pet Care Special*, released just in time for *World Animal Day* on October 4. Each year, this special gives us an opportunity to celebrate the animals that share our island, while also taking a closer look at the responsibilities that come with caring for them.

From pet care tips and local products and services to rescue initiatives, community events and the people working tirelessly for animal welfare, there is plenty to discover in these pages. And, as always, one message remains at the heart of it all – responsible ownership matters.

That means providing proper food, fresh water, medical care, attention and a safe environment – and understanding that different animals have different needs. Whether you share your home with a dog or cat, care for a tortoise, or simply look out for animals in your community, a little knowledge and compassion can go a long way.

We also return to an issue that cannot

be repeated often enough: Sterilise your pets. The island continues to face serious animal overpopulation, and preventing unwanted litters is one of the most effective ways each pet owner can help. With reduced-cost and community sterilisation programmes available, there are options for many budgets.

This year, we also look at the many ways people and businesses are supporting animal welfare, from rescue and adoption programmes to donations, fostering, volunteering and community initiatives – even something as simple as adding a bag of food to your shopping basket for an animal welfare organisation can make a difference.

And, of course, there is room for the lighter side of pet life too – with events, activities, helpful tips and plenty of animals to put a smile on your face. So celebrate our four-legged, feathered, shelled and otherwise wonderful companions!

Sincerely,
The Coordinators

LET'S TALK TURTLES

When we talk about pets, most of us think of cats and dogs – but here in the Caribbean, there are other animals that share our homes and gardens. Turtles and tortoises may move slowly, but they still need proper food, fresh water, shade and protection. First, know what species you have, because land tortoises and aquatic turtles have very different needs.

For land tortoises, the garden can provide grasses, weeds and suitable leafy plants, with small amounts of fruit, such as watermelon or banana, as occasional treats. Kitchen scraps can sometimes supplement their diet, but a tortoise is not a compost bin. Never assume every scrap is safe – avocado should not be fed, and food should be free of mould, salt, sauces and chemicals.

Some species also eat small amounts of animal protein, such as earthworms, snails or suitable insects, but this depends on the species.

Fresh water is essential. A shallow, sturdy container can be sunk into the ground so the tortoise can easily walk in and out. A few stable rocks can provide footing, and the water should be changed regularly.

Finally, remember the family dog. Many dogs and tortoises coexist peacefully, but an aggressive or curious dog can seriously injure a tortoise. If necessary, fence off a safe garden area. With the right food, water, shelter and protection, your slow-moving Caribbean companion can thrive for many years to come!



PET PICTURE CONTEST

Sponsored by Carrefour

The little stars gracing the front page of this *Pet Care Special* are the winners of the *Pet Picture Contest*, which has been proudly sponsored by Carrefour this year.

We are happy to share all of the contestants, displayed throughout this publication. The photo contest is a joyful highlight of the *Pet Care Special*, offering a healthy dose of cuteness and showing the personalities of pets (and their owners) across the island. We hope you enjoy them all.

Winners and runners-up were chosen by judges of the title sponsor: Carrefour. The pictures were sent to Carrefour without any identifiers such as names of pets or owners. This is worth mentioning, because the photogenic cat Luna has placed in the top three once again, and we're starting to think of her as an unofficial *Pet Care Special* mascot. The poses, the accessories, the personality – keep it coming, little Luna!

Winners and runners-up receive Purina brand pet food, kindly provided by Carrefour. The winning Dog- and Cat-entries will receive two bags of dry- and two cases of wet-food; first runners-up one bag of dry- and one case of wet-food; and second runners-up one bag of dry-food. Winners will be contacted within a week for arrangements.



Special congratulations to the following pets and their owners:

Cat category

- 1: Snowy – Jordan Asmoredjo
- 2: Sora – Tokyo Carbon
- 3: Luna – Lakshmi Hathiramani

Dog category

- 1: Luigi – Nina Judy Bernhardt
- 2: Skylar – Keianna Liburd
- 3: Betsie – Elodie Sylvester

New this year: YOU get to vote!

This Special has been gaining traction – and two additional companies are offering prizes this year for the pet photo contest. So, in addition to the six pets featured on the cover, our readers will be able to choose their favourite pet photos. Check them out, displayed throughout this special, and have your say! Snap a picture of your favourite pet photo and email it to martha@thedailyherald.sx. The top voted dog will win a full grooming session with Sandi's Zoom and Groom, and the top voted cat will win a dental treatment and short bloodwork panel from St. Maarten Veterinary Clinic.

Please respect graves

This article was unplanned and should not have been needed. While volunteers, along with vets, are basically the heroes in this special edition focused on animals, there is one volunteer (or animal lover in any case) that needs to be called out.

There is a person, of whom I do not know the identity, placing feeding and watering bowls on top of a

grave in the Simpson Bay Cemetery. I have removed them twice now, and so has a direct family member of the deceased who has confirmed that this action has nothing to do with them and is being done against the wishes of the family.

The most infantile amount of common sense and respect would tell a person not to do this. Continuing to do it after the bowls were moved makes it even more disrespectful. Whoever the

person is, please get a grip and respect the final resting place of people buried in the cemetery. Yes, animals will roam the site, but that does not mean you should attract strays and feed them on top of someone's grave. And for any readers wondering if this is the only quiet and shaded area on site; the answer is: No, it is not.

The Pet Care Special 2026 is a Special Publication of

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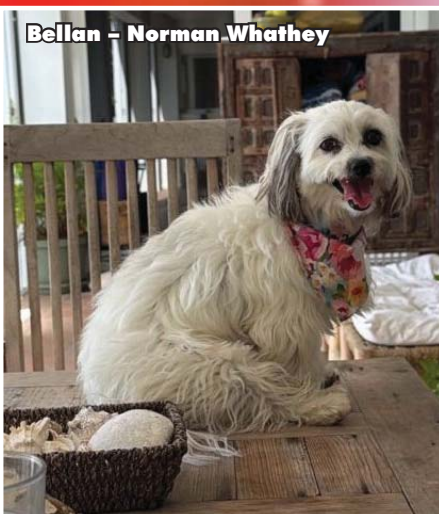
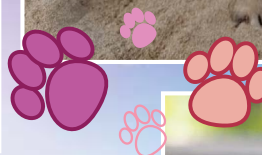
Goldie - Patti Maier Illidge



Boris - Jailene Lake



Roo - Niki Wozniak



Bellan - Norman Whathey



Bobby - Johan van Putten



Cinco - Charika



Something for every paw, all year round

~ Our Pet Community ~

If there's one thing Sint Maarten-Saint Martin's pet-loving community knows how to do, it's to keep the island's tails wagging! From fundraisers and wellness initiatives to rescue programs, social gatherings and fun outings with our four-legged friends, there is always something happening for pets and the people who love them. The months ahead are no exception.

Whether you're looking to meet fellow animal fans and parents, support a local rescue, get involved in an important community initiative, or simply enjoy some quality time with your pet, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and about together with your pets!

Things get started with **Yappy Hour at Dingy Dock SXM Paws on October 29**, held in conjunction with **Island Cat Rescue** as a lead-up to the organization's annual fundraising gala. This is a chance for pet lovers to come together, socialize and support the important work being done for animals on the island.

The **Paws for a Cause Annual Gala** is another highlight on the calendar. Now in its second year, the fundraiser brings the community together for an evening of food, drinks, music, games, raffle prizes and a silent auction, all in support of animal welfare. The event is scheduled for November at Kalatua Beach Restaurant with

limited seating, making it one to watch for anyone who wants to combine a night out with a good cause.

Meanwhile, the island's rescue efforts continue year-round through programs such as **Paws in Flight**, a collaboration involving **SXM Paws** and **Princess Juliana International Airport** that helps rescued dogs travel to adoptive families abroad. The initiative also gives the public an opportunity to learn more about adoption, fostering, volunteering, donations and becoming a flight companion. With rescued puppies regularly making appearances at the airport, it's a wonderful example of how the wider community can play a role in giving animals a second chance.

For those who prefer their pet activities with a little downward dog, **Puppy Yoga** is coming to **Joga on November 7**. Combining exercise, relaxation and plenty of puppy cuddles, it promises to be a fun addition to the island's growing line-up of pet-friendly experiences. And it's not all about social events. **4 Leaf Rover's FREE Spay & Neuter program** – running from October 12 to 16 – is another important initiative giving local pet owners an opportunity to help improve the health and wellbeing of their animals while contributing to the broader effort to reduce unwanted litters and the number of animals ending up on the streets.

Looking further ahead, there's also the ever-popular **Pet Sunset Sail**, traditionally held in April, offering animal lovers the chance to enjoy one of the island's beautiful sunsets with their furry companions. And as the year winds down, a **December Holiday Dog Walk** in Philipsburg will bring a festive touch to the pet calendar, giving owners and their dogs another opportunity to get together and celebrate the season. From puppy cuddles and sunset sails to fundraisers, wellness programs, rescue initiatives and holiday walks, Sint Maarten continues to show that there is a place for animals in island life – and plenty of ways for the community to get involved.

So whether you have two legs, four legs, or simply a big love for animals, keep your calendar handy. On Sint Maarten, there's always another pet event just around the corner!



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Care, sterilisation, and emergency prep With Dr. Ruth of The Island Vet

A key theme in the Pet Care Special every year remains the need for sterilisation and responsible pet ownership as the best way to combat the cruelty that comes along with the neglect and pet dumping that are a serious issue all over the island. This will always be at the centre of limiting the suffering of animals – stray or owned.

Dr. Ruth from The Island Vet has been featured regularly in this special. We

tions.

Pet dumping/overpopulation of animals remains an issue, with more than 200 dogs currently being available for adoption across the island's various charitable/rescue organisations. The pet overpopulation on the island remains in fact in a perpetual state of crisis, and while progress is being made – mostly on the backs of volunteers – this will always be counteracted by pet owners who simply neglect to sterilise their pets.

confronted by the desperate state of neglected animals, regularly ask the volunteers why they aren't doing anything to help. Volunteers typically feed and sterilise pets, helping those already in need while stemming the problem at the same time. They are not the ones fuelling the crisis or ignoring it.

Anyone infuriated by the situation can funnel that anger into public awareness about sterilisation, while practising what they preach, and do what is pos-



The Island Vet offers pet boarding services, with separate spaces for cats and dogs, and a large outdoor area. The clinic also offers all the above-mentioned services and products, along with food, toys, leashes and

other pet-related products. It is located at Tray Drive 2 on Cay Bay Road (second building to the right). It's easy to find once you spot the famous Jimmy Sheik mural. Opening hours: Weekdays from 8:00am to

12 noon, and from 1:30pm to 5:00pm; and Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. For more information, find The Island Vet on Facebook.



caught up with her this year to talk about issues affecting animals, and tips for owners. Since every aspect of pet care can't be recapped, note that The Island Vet, and all vet clinics, have booklets that pet owners can use to easily keep track of their pet's health and health needs.

In general, these can be summarised as sterilisation, vaccination, anti-parasitics (think of ticks, fleas, worms, and mites), and microchipping. Grooming is also an important consideration and depends somewhat on the breed of dog. Long-haired dogs in particular need regular grooming – and neglecting this leads to matting. In extreme cases of neglect – and a fate shared by long-haired strays – matting can get so bad that it causes restriction to movement, with faces completely covered, and painful skin infec-

Sterilisations typically cost between \$55 and \$165, depending on the type and sex of the pet – and a number of organisations help to offer heavily discounted or even free sterilisations for those who qualify (enquire at any clinic). Note that dogs and male cats can start to reproduce at just six months old, and female cats can start as early as four months old.

It's a heartbreaking yet regular occurrence that vets and other animal-based organisations are faced with continuously: Entire litters of puppies, with or without their mothers, being dumped. Without intervention, their fate is a life of disease, starvation, attacks and being injured by cars.

Volunteers take on the massive responsibility of counteracting the problem, Dr. Ruth points out, yet they are regularly screamed at and blamed for the situation. Concerned citizens, when

sible to help animal-based organisations: Donate. Volunteer. Foster.

Emergency Care

With an idea of the basics established, you'll also want to be prepared for emergencies. This is an especially good idea for hurricane season but is handy all year-round. With this in mind, The Island Vet has put together a First Aid Kit for pets. This includes all the basics that might be needed during an emergency – from items to treat cuts, to medication (to be taken on advice of the vet). When faced with an emergency, a pet owner calls in and describes the issue, and the vet will give guidance on what to do. Having the right tools and medication on hand will allow the pet owner to take action more quickly when needed.

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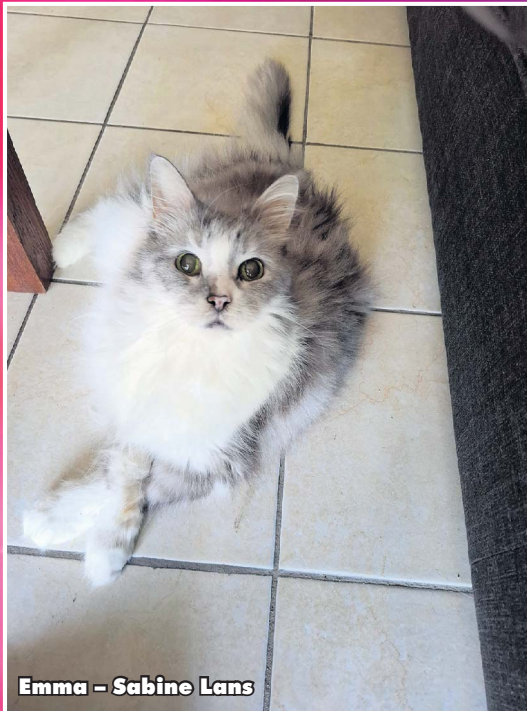
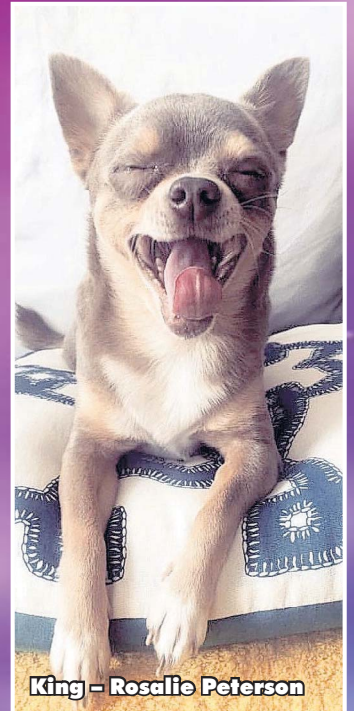
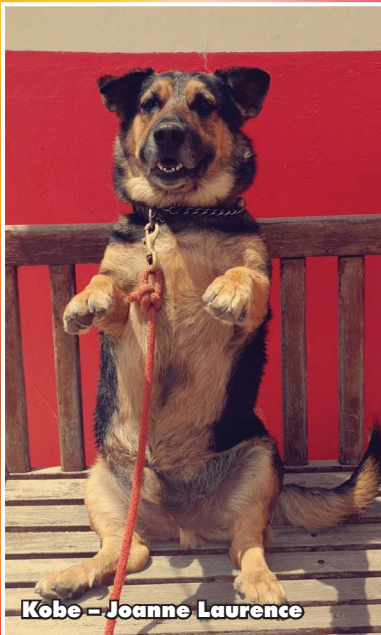
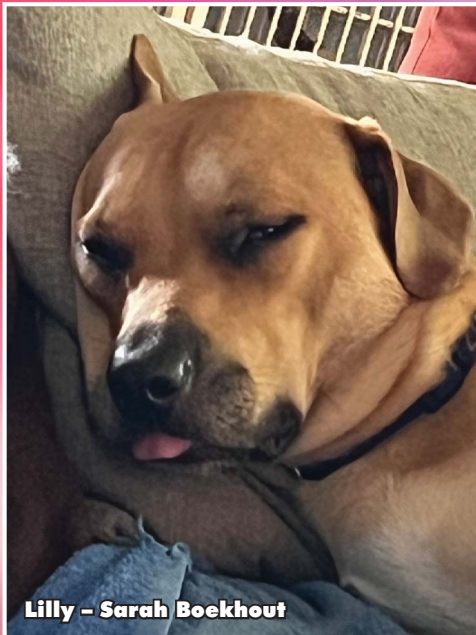
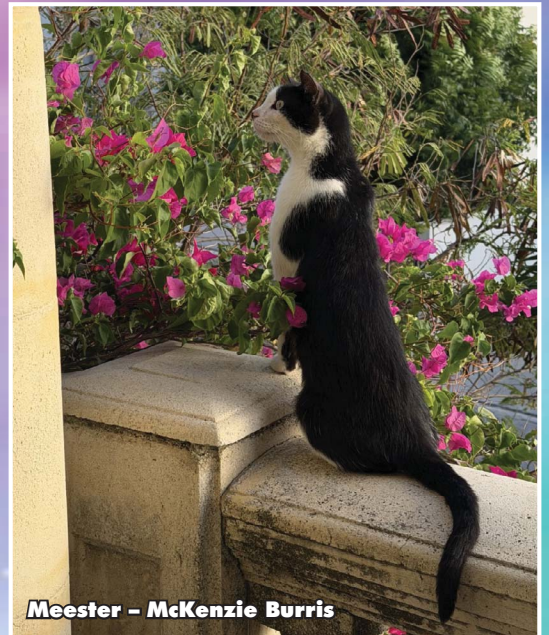
Offer valid for dogs and cats in the month of October.



Dr Ruth Wright

Cay Bay Road, Cay Bay
Clinic tel: +1 721 544 0963
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Where smart pets bring their people

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SUPPORTING ANIMAL WELFARE ACROSS OUR ISLAND

~ Nature Animal ~

Caring for animals is about more than providing food, shelter and everyday supplies. It is also about creating a community where people, businesses and animal welfare organizations can work together to make a meaningful difference. On St. Martin, Nature Animal is taking an active role in supporting that effort through programs designed to help animal welfare associations, encourage customer donations and make essential food and supplies more accessible.

With three locations across the island, Nature Animal makes it convenient for pet owners, animal lovers and organizations to participate. The stores are located in Marigot, across from Super U; in Philipsburg, next to Blue Point; and in Hope Estate. While the stores provide products for a wide variety of animals, Nature Animal's focus extends beyond retail through its growing involvement with animal welfare initiatives throughout the island.

One of the key programs introduced by Nature Animal is a 20 percent discount for animal welfare associations. Partner associations can receive 20 percent off their purchases at Nature Animal, helping them stretch their budgets and purchase more of the products they need to care for animals.

For organizations caring for rescued, abandoned or vulnerable animals, the cost of food and supplies can quickly become a significant part of their work.

By offering this discount, Nature Animal hopes to make it easier for these associations to purchase essential items such as food, treats, bedding, accessories and other necessary supplies. The program is intended to provide practical support to organizations that dedicate their time and resources to animal welfare.

Nature Animal is also giving individual customers an opportunity to become part of this effort. Customers can purchase products at the store and choose to donate them to one of the animal welfare associations supported through the program. This creates a simple way for members of the community to contribute, even if they are not directly involved with an animal welfare organization.

For customers, it can be as simple as adding an extra bag of food, a box of supplies or another needed product to their purchase and choosing to donate it. These individual contributions can become especially meaningful when many people participate. Nature Animal is already working with several animal welfare organizations and projects on the island, including SXM Paws, SXM Animal Defenders and The Three Little Birds Project. Through these relationships, the store is helping connect customers, who want to contribute, with organizations that are actively caring for animals in need.

The Three Little Birds Project is also supported through dedicated donation boxes placed at each Nature Animal location.

Customers can use these boxes to contribute products to the program, creating an ongoing opportunity for people to support the project when they visit any of the three stores. This approach reflects an important part of Nature Animal's philosophy: Animal welfare is a community effort. Not everyone has the ability to foster an animal, volunteer with an association or make a large donation, but there are many smaller ways to help. Purchasing an item for donation is one of them.

Nature Animal's commitment to animals also extends beyond household pets. The store provides food and feed for farm animals, recognizing that the island is home to a wide variety of animals with very different nutritional needs. Customers can find different types of feed depending on the animal they are caring for, including food for laying hens, chickens, pigs and other farm animals. This makes Nature Animal a practical resource for animal owners who may otherwise need to visit multiple locations to find the appropriate products.

The goal is to offer quality products for different types of animals and make it easier for animal owners to find the food and supplies they need in one place. Whether someone is caring for a family pet, a rescued animal or farm animals, having access to appropriate nutrition is an essential part of responsible animal care. The combination of retail services and community programs allows Nature Animal to serve a broader purpose.

Its stores provide everyday products for animal owners while also creating opportunities for customers to support organizations and projects working directly with animals in need.

As these programs continue to grow, Nature Animal hopes to strengthen its relationships with animal welfare associations and encourage more customers to participate. The 20 percent association discount, customer donation program and dedicated donation boxes provide several ways for the community to get involved. Ultimately, the initiative is about making support for animal welfare accessible. Whether it is an association purchasing food at a discounted price, a customer adding a donation to their shopping basket, or an animal owner finding the right feed for their chickens or pigs, each action contributes to a larger effort to improve



animal care on St. Martin.

With locations in Marigot, Philipsburg and Hope Estate, Nature Animal is making it easier for the island's animal community to find the products they need while also providing practical ways to give back. Through partnerships with organizations such as SXM Paws, SXM Animal Defenders and The



Three Little Birds Project, Nature Animal is helping build stronger connections between businesses, animal welfare groups and the wider community.

For more information about Nature Animal, its products and its animal welfare initiatives, follow Nature Animal on Facebook and Instagram at @natureanimalsxm.

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Everything your pet needs: All in one place at Super U

For many of us, pets are more than companions – they are part of the family. At Super U stores in Marigot and Hope Estate, pet owners can find a wide selection of products designed to make caring for their four-legged, feathered- and aquatic-friends easier and more convenient. From everyday essentials to treats, accessories, and specialized products, Super U aims to offer pet owners a practical selection while making it possible to take care of their regular grocery shopping at the same time.

A complete selection for everyday pet care

Super U's pet department offers a broad range of products, including dry and wet food, treats, litter, hygiene and grooming products, and a variety of accessories. Customers can find essentials such as food and water bowls, leashes, collars, toys, and other everyday pet-care items. The selection is designed to meet the needs of several types of household pets. Dogs and cats are particularly well represented, while products are also available for birds, fish and rodents.

Food for different needs

When it comes to nutrition, Super U offers a variety of products intended to meet the everyday dietary needs of pets, including products from the U brand as well as more specialized options for dogs and

cats. Pet owners looking to supplement their animals' diets may also find suitable cuts in the store's butchery section. Some customers choose organ meats, for example, as an addition to their pets' diets.

A well-established range

Super U's pet product selection is well established and remains relatively stable throughout the year. The stores aim to maintain a comprehensive range covering the everyday needs of dogs, cats, birds, fish, and rodents. At the same time, Super U continues to pay attention to customer expectations and market trends.

Promotions and benefits for pet owners

Pet owners can also take advantage of regular promotions on food and pet-care products. Super U encourages customers to check its promotional catalogues and in-store offers to discover current deals. Members of the Carte U loyalty program also receive an additional benefit: 5% of the value of U-brand purchases is credited to their Carte U account throughout the year.

Supporting the local community

As a business with a strong connection to Saint Martin, Super U remains attentive to local community initiatives, including projects related to animal welfare and protection. While there are currently no specific animal-related events or

sponsorships to announce for this edition, Super U remains open to supporting local initiatives and projects that contribute to the wellbeing of animals on the island. The company also remains attentive to opportunities to work with local and regional suppliers.

Keeping pet essentials available

Super U's pet selection is available year-round, and teams work to keep products in stock as consistently as possible. However, as with many products imported to Saint Martin, occasional shortages can occur because of shipping or supply delays.

A few simple tips for pet owners

Above all, Super U's message to pet owners is one of care and responsibility. A healthy and happy pet needs appropriate nutrition, regular care, attention, and plenty of fresh water. In Saint Martin's warm climate, particular attention should also be paid to the heat. Pets should always have access to fresh drinking water and a cool, shaded area.

For Super U, making life easier for pet owners is ultimately about convenience: Providing the food, care products, accessories, and everyday essentials they need in the same place they already do their regular shopping – because when pets are part of the family, taking care of them is part of everyday life.



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DIY Cat Scratchers

Either you already knew it, or found out the hard way: Cats innately love to scratch. Having a cat scratcher – DIY or bought – can help to save your furniture and sanity. It's also actually great for their health; it's not just an annoying habit that our feline pets have.

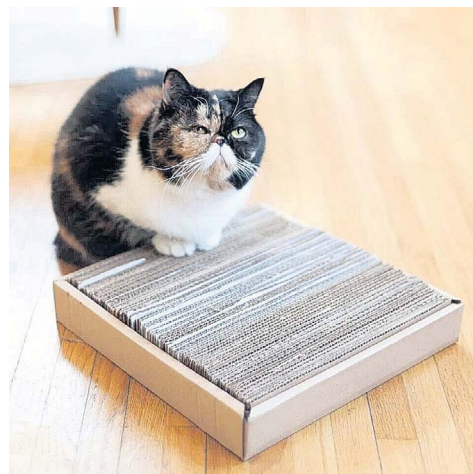
Scratching not only keeps your cat's claws in shape, it's also good exercise and stress relief. Having a space that your cat can scratch without worry is a good way to reduce stress for you both. You can lure a cat to the new post with treats, at first. If you have multiple cats, a scratcher also ends up being somewhere they can scratch and play together.

There are various ways to make a cat scratcher, but the main idea is to choose a base that is sturdy and will stay put during use, and attach a scratching surface with an appealing texture. This can be sisal rope, cardboard, or carpet. The base can be made of wood and/or PVC pipe, laid flat, built with an incline or standing as a straight post. Using a large photo/ mirror frame is also an option, as is strategically using part of some functional furniture as a base, such as a shelf, table leg, or railing.

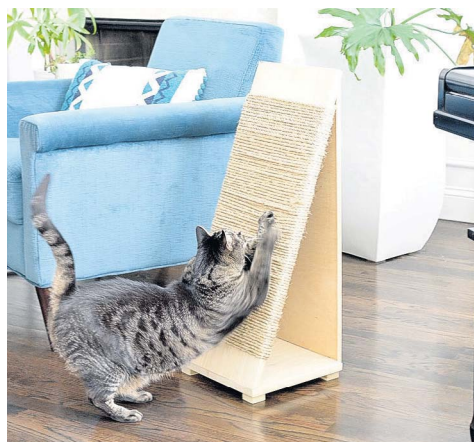
Clean it with mild soap, refresh and replace used-up surfaces as needed, and you'll be keeping your cat happy, healthy, and less inclined to rip your couch fabric apart.



Picture from: Hartz



Picture via Pinterest



Picture from: Centsational Style



Picture via Pinterest



Picture from: Dream A Little Bigger blog



World Animal Day From Animal Defenders Sint Maarten

Sunday, October 4, is World Animal Day. Wow! So many animals and they get only one day to celebrate. Animals are so important for us humans. We can do better and give them more days than only one. What about one day per month? Twelve days a year are still not many. By us at home, every day is a fun day, so every day is World Animal Day.

Animals bring joy and love, we learn so much from

them, they teach us to be kind. They also teach us compassion and ethics. It is also easy to learn more about animals by asking Google anything you wish to know. For instance, what to feed them; or even better, what not to feed them.

Read about how chocolate can be deadly; also seeds and raisins are a big no-no. Please become more alert for your best friend. Search why it is not good to feed them bones. Bones are not nutritional and can be fatal if they get stuck in the throat – bones belong in

the garbage. Also, search why to not use a harness continuously. It is a controversial topic, so please read both sides of the story and know what to look for to be able to make a decision if it is good or not for your furry family member. You want the best for your best friend.

The number of animal lovers in St. Maarten is growing and growing. It is amazing how kind they are, and work together for the animals. However, we can always use more volunteers, helpers, fosters,

adopters, sponsors and donations. It is amazing how many cats and dogs have been sterilized already but we still need to get their numbers under control.

There are many organized spay neuter campaigns, so call your vet to make an appointment to have your pet fixed at a strongly reduced prize. Maybe you can convince a neighbour, or give them a helping hand if they do not have the transportation. Be proud to be a responsible animal caretaker. Ask friends or family to help you. Call now and

make that appointment with your vet to fix your pet – do not wait until it is too late. The kindest thing you can do for your animal, for yourself, your neighbours and actually for the whole island is to have your cats and dogs sterilized. No birth is the first step to no kill.

Animals brighten up this planet. They bring smiles, colour, kindness, diversity, and unconditional love. They teach us compassion, and are an example to us humans how to treat our young with love. Can you

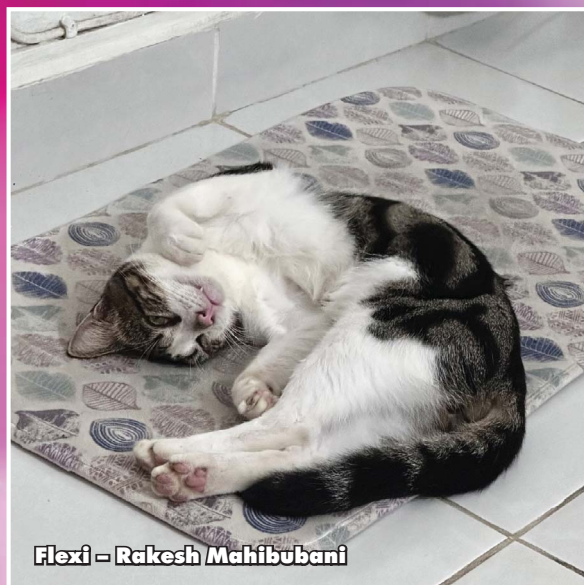
imagine a day without animals on this planet? Wouldn't it be an impossible, dull and depressing life without ANIMALS? Let's celebrate World Animal Day!

"Respect, thank and take good care of all animals every day." Remember that we have the same creator.





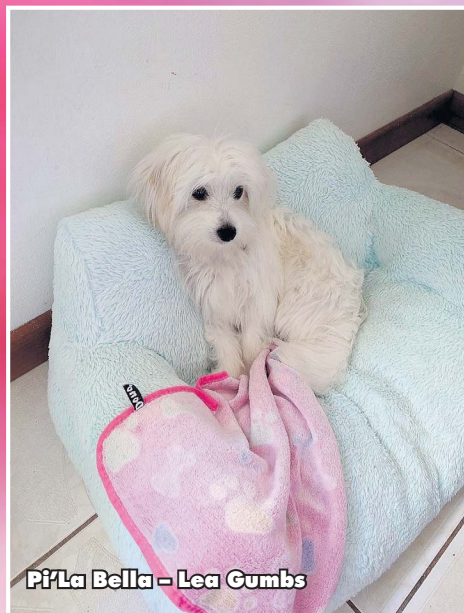
Nino Boy - Shasa D. Lake



Flexi - Rakesh Mahibubani



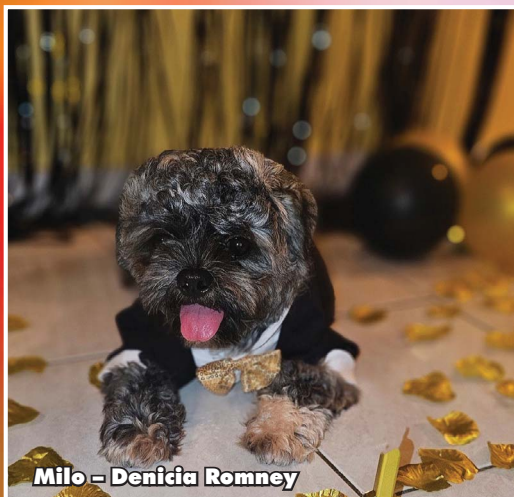
Princess Pheobe - Lisa Marshall



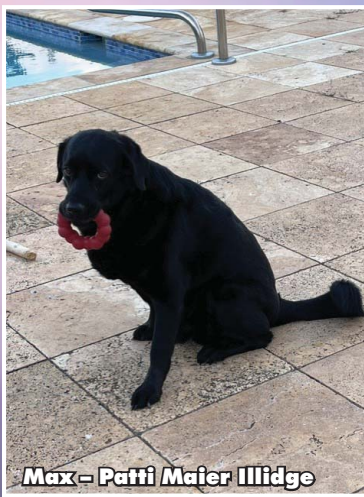
Pi'La Bella - Lea Gumbs



Rocket - Etienne Roger



Milo - Denicia Romney



Max - Patti Maier Illidge



Sophie - Perna Goklani





Furry friends & family of *The Daily Herald*

(Not eligible for the contest, but we still wanted to share.)



Blade, Teddy, Don, Hulk, Flora – Martha Marsden



Mia – Soleil Marcelle



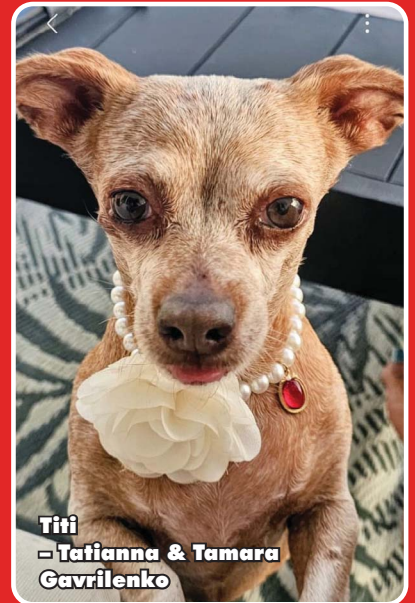
Sicily – Tiffany Ramnauth



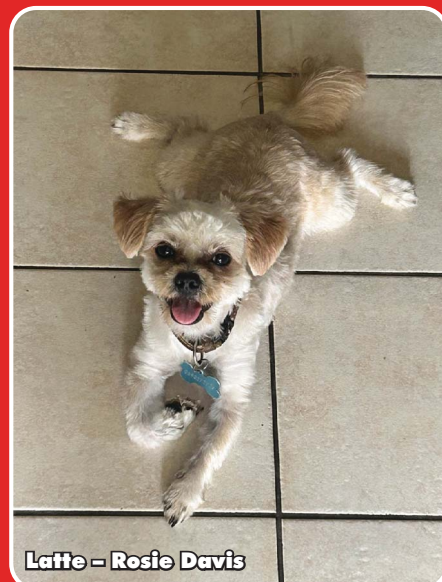
Diamond – Claudette Alexander



Ava – Tara Taylor



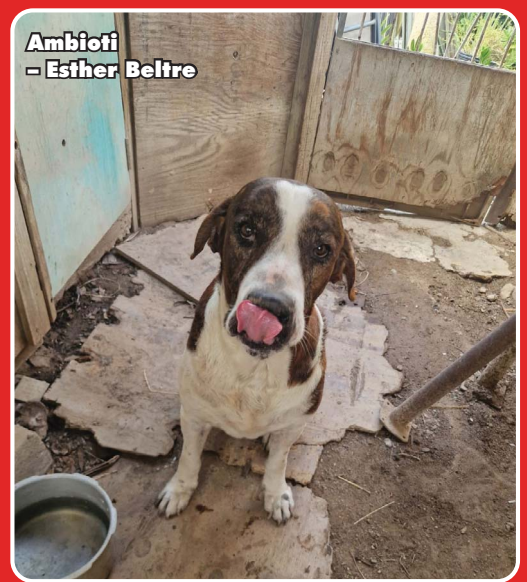
Titi – Tatianna & Tamara Gavrilenko



Latte – Rosie Davis



The Duke of Orange and Lady Freyja – Raj Chintaman & Alita Singh



Ambioti – Esther Beltre