

# Tid Bits

By Michelle Padovan

## Italian beach dogs to the rescue

Leaping dogs are going to the rescue of struggling swimmers at some of Italy's busiest beaches. Specially trained Labradors and Newfoundland dogs have been trained to leap out of rescue helicopters and boats and use their strong swimming ability to reach swimmers in distress. The dogs bring a lifebuoy to the swimmer and then tow them to safety.

## Working dogs get retirement benefits

From rescue dogs in Italy to working police dogs in India. The regional government in Chennai, India has recognised the hard work and dedication of its canine officers and so has instigated a retirement fund that keeps the dogs in the best of health care. Previously, working dogs were auctioned off to the public but there had been concerns surrounding a couple of reported cruelty cases. The government has instead provided continued care in the kennel where they grew up and were trained. Instead of working, these dogs will have regular vet checks, morning and afternoon strolls and be mentors to the younger recruits.

## Time-share for pet lovers without the full-time commitment

As reported in the Associated Press, the latest in canine convenience is FlexPetz, a California based service that contracts dogs out by the day to urban dwellers without either the time or the space to have a full-time dog. Currently available to people in Los Angeles and San Diego, this service has a pool of 10 trained dogs that people can access for an annual membership of US\$100, a monthly fee of \$49.95 and a per visit charge of \$39.95. Membership covers the training and kennel-free housing of the dogs, home or office delivery, global positioning device, liability insurance and veterinary bills. Dogs come delivered with pre-measured food, bedding, bowls and leashes. These days people are cash rich and time poor so we're wondering when the service for a time-share partner becomes available. There is a serious side though as Animal Welfare organisations are concerned that shunting a dog from one person to another will cause behavioural problems caused by a lack of continuity and leadership.

## Amphibians are doing a disappearing act and it's alarming

Experts estimate that one-third of all amphibians—frogs, toads, salamanders and newts—are threatened with extinction. Habitat destruction, pesticide runoff and pollution in streams are all contributing factors to their disappearance. Zoos are helping the fight in breeding and helping to reintroduce the most endangered. Amphibians have long been considered a barometer to the health of habitat and the planet. But it's not all doom and gloom—out of the 293 known species in Canada and the US, only one has been reported to be extinct. The Vegas Valley Leopard frog was apparently a casualty of the post 1940s Vegas boom—see, gambling can affect your health.

## Flying foxes are falling like flies

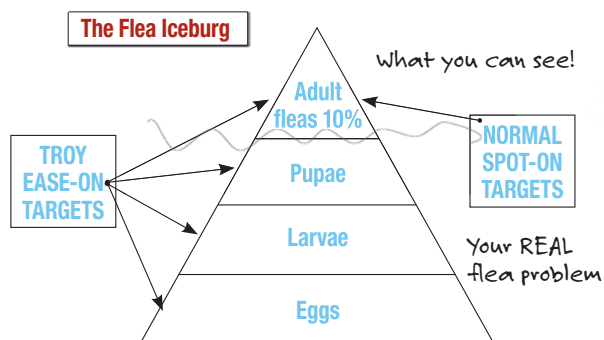
Closer to home, there is growing concern about last month's loss of a key flying fox habitat in northern New South Wales that may have contributed to a steep increase in injured and starving flying foxes arriving on the southern Gold Coast according to experts.

More than two hectares of remnant swamp sclerophyll forest at Dulguigan was cleared and set on fire in an act of ecological vandalism that enraged environmentalists, wildlife carers, civic leaders and other area locals. The land was not only a maternity colony for grey-headed and black flying-foxes, both of which are listed as vulnerable, but was also home to many species of native mammals, birds and reptiles. According to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Senior Veterinarian and Researcher, Dr Michael Pyne, a mere 100 flying foxes remain in the area from an original population of some 4000.

## NEW TROY EASE-ON

'A revolutionary flea treatment for dogs that targets the whole flea lifecycle - maximising protection for your pet'.

Most spot-on flea treatments only manage the tip of the flea iceberg. Only 10% of the total flea population are adult biting fleas (the one's you can see). The rest of the flea population (90%) are in either the egg, larvae or pupae stage.



Troy Ease-on contains Pyriproxifen, an insect growth inhibitor that stops eggs developing into larvae, larvae developing to pupae, and pupae developing into adult fleas. Adult fleas that come into contact with Troy Ease-on will also not be able to lay eggs.

The addition of Permethrin in Troy Ease-on kills adult fleas.

So the whole iceberg is targeted – not just the tip (adult flea population) you can see, providing a much more thorough and effective flea treatment.

Troy Ease on comes in packs of two for small dogs (2mL) medium dogs (4mL) and large dogs (8mL).



\*\* Not suitable for the treatment or control of the paralysis tick.



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