



# AWARE NEWS

ANIMAL NEWS FOR YOU!

JULY 2020 • TERM 3 • 2020



## AWARE

**BY RSPCA**   
for all creatures great & small

## DOGS: A STORY OF OUR BEST FRIEND

I was lucky enough to visit SA Museum's exhibition 'Dogs: A story of our best friend' last week. As a self confessed dog lover it was well worth a visit and was full of fascinating info. For example, did you know:

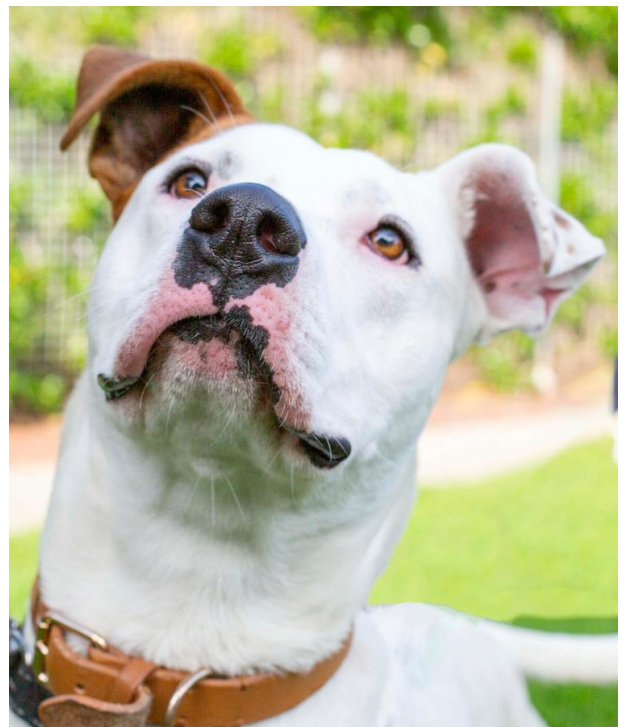
- The first dogs were domesticated over 10,000 years ago
- Your four-legged friend has three eyelids? The third lid is responsible for keeping the eye protected and lubricated.
- Have you ever wondered why your dog curls up in a ball when they sleep? It's actually an age-old instinct to keep themselves warm and to protect vital organs while they sleep.
- Dogs have wet noses because it helps them to absorb scent chemicals.
- Your dog's sense of smell is approximately 100,000 times better than yours.
- Dogs have a sense of time. It's been proven that they know the difference between a hour and five. If conditioned to, they can predict future events, such as regular walk times.

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# Freedom to express normal behaviour



ALL ANIMALS SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR NORMAL BEHAVIOURS. A NORMAL BEHAVIOUR IS THE WAY AN ANIMAL ACTS IN THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. ENOUGH SPACE, PROPER SHELTER AND HOUSING, AS WELL AS COMPANY OF THE ANIMALS OWN KIND ENCOURAGES THE EXPRESSION OF NORMAL BEHAVIOURS.

**Exercise:** Exercise keeps animals healthy and alert, just like it does for you. Blood flow is increased during exercise, clearing arteries and veins and transporting oxygen and nutrients around the body. Exercise keeps muscles strong, allows better digestion of food and heightens an animal's senses. Energy that has been stored as fat can also be used up during exercise - this helps to prevent animals from becoming overweight. Freedom to express normal behaviour is not only about an animal exercising their body, it also includes an animal's freedom to exercise their mind. During exercise, new sights, sounds, smells and tastes can be discovered; unknown paths, trees and tunnels can be explored and new animals may be encountered - these experiences are very important for an animal's physical and mental well-being.

**Enrichment:** Animal enrichment is about designing and creating interesting enclosures, and providing activities that create a more stimulating environment for an animal. Enrichment should enable them to express as many of their natural behaviours, such as exploration, foraging, locomotion, social interaction, manipulating objects or simply playing, as often as they choose. Good enrichment is safe, fun, challenging and time consuming.

Check out the animal care page for your companion animal to see what advice we have that is specific to your animal.



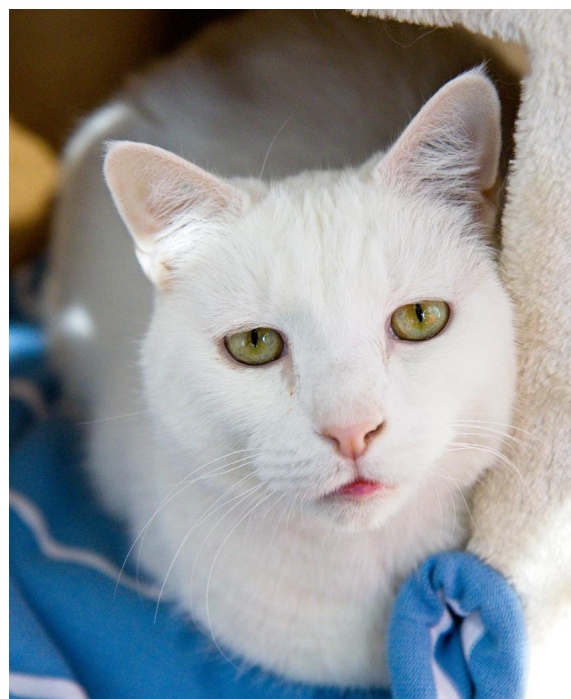
# Ask an Expert

Emma is RSPCA's education manager. She knows a lot about animals, and if she can't answer, she knows someone who can!

So if you have a question, just email it through to [education@rspcasa.org.au](mailto:education@rspcasa.org.au) with the subject 'Ask Emma' (please include your name, age, and contact information when you email us).

Amy from Mount Barker asked about how best to look after her new cat that she adopted from RSPCA Lonsdale. As you can see, Jo-Jo is a white cat and special care needs to be taken with white cats.

Most importantly Amy, you need to keep Jo-Jo out of the sun, she really does need to be an inside cat. If you provide lots of enrichment, Jo-Jo will be happy inside and safe from those UV rays. If Jo-Jo does go outside, it is very important that she wears sunscreen on her nose, belly, groin areas, tips of the ears and any area where the fur is thin or non-existent. You can also buy a range of hats and caps online to protect Jo-Jo, but not all animals like wearing these, and it is important to not force her into anything she is not comfortable with.



Cupcake Day is back on **26th October 2020**! Are you ready to get your bake on? Head to <https://www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au/> to register and get baking for your friends and family.

