



PETS' MEWS



The MewsPaper for Instagramming Pets, Plushies and their

In this special edition we have...

The House that 100 kcal built: A Ginger Ned Special

Learn how to make your very own gingerbread masterpiece!



Around the World in 10 Christmases

Join our plushie friends as they prepare for the big day.

Dušana bags a world-exclusive interview with a street artist extraordinaire



and, to add a bit more tinsel to the tree...

Voyage of the Beagle treats us to a FairyTale in New York

Plus, for the first time ever, you'll be able to read this in Russian thanks to the amazing [@doyka_supercow](#)

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year



Art by the amazing: [@tullia_art](#)

Dear All,

It is with great Christmassy joy that we bring you this very special issue of Pets' Mews. Christmas is such a lovely time of year. There are lots (and lots and lots and lots, please) of yummy things to eat and drink, and presents and sparkly stuff, but the best thing about it is that it's a time for family, friends, plushies and pets to get together and celebrate, and a great time of year to reach a paw out and help all those in need of an extra cuddle.

Very importantly, we would especially like to say a huge 'thanks' to all of you amazing pets who have contributed so wonderfully with

your articles and photos throughout the year, and thanks to all who have downloaded, read and encouraged us.

And so, here's, a big 'Happy Birthday' to baby Jesus from us, Happy Hanukkah to all those celebrating, Happy Winter Festivals and a Massive Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

Have a wonderful Christmas and here's to a super duper, amazing 2017.

With love, Topsy
Cat Bose xxx



Around the World in 10 Christmases



Charlie: Australia

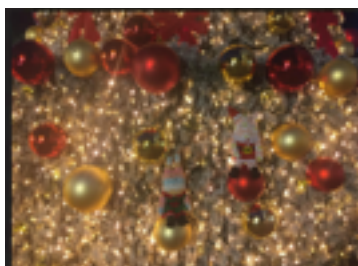
Hi I'm CHARLIE, a 13 year old Cocker Spaniel living in Sydney Australia. I was adopted from an animal shelter when I was 6 years old and enjoy my Christmas in the summertime with my family every December. On Christmas Eve I exchange gifts with my pawrents under the tree. On Christmas Day we visit extended family for lunch - seafood, salads and trifle for the humans- with treats and more gifts for me! [@anneke_d_p](#)

Rainbow & Coco: Singapore

Experience a Singapore-style Christmas in the tropics. Every year Singapore transforms its most popular tourist and shopping belt at Orchard Road into a Christmas wonderland.

Majestic arches, millions of glittering lights, interactive displays, Christmas tunes and mini-performances are set up to ramp up the festive mood.

Craftholic plushies, Rainbow and Koko, hope to share the magic of this Christmas mood through their stories as Santa's helpers. Check out their stories on Instagram [@whylikethat](#).



To celebrate their first Christmas on Instagram, Rainbow and Koko have a Christmas hashtag giveaway.

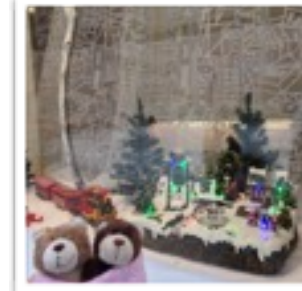
To enter, simply hashtag [#WLD_PlushieXMas2016](#) on your Christmas posts with your plushies from 20 Dec - 25 Dec. [@whylikedat](#)



Following

Boashki: Russia

Christmas and New Year for us are family holidays. We decorate a Christmas tree, we have many favourite toys. In our family there is a tradition: each New Year we buy a new toy for the Christmas tree, and each family member buys a small toy which they hide in the apartment, and then all of us look for the toy. For holidays we lay the table with favourite dishes: Russian salad, shrimp salad, chicken "in a bottle" (it is a preparation method) and others. How do you normally spend Christmas?
@boashki



Baki: A Greek / Serbian / Austrian Christmas in Serbia

Christmas and New Year is a time for sharing moments and memories that will be valuable for us for many years! For me, it is one of the most beautiful times of the year because I spend time with all my family and friends!

I am happy because I help my mommy to decorate the house and our Christmas tree! We bake cookies and Vasilopita (Greek pie which contains a hidden coin which gives luck for the new year to the receiver)! At this time of the year I become a little more flabby, but then I burn the calories in tennis, hehe!!! We go shopping and we buy gifts for our family and friends and we go to the theatre to watch my lovely ballerina sister dancing in the Nutcracker! We also sing Christmas and New Year carols, we go to church and we help people in need.

The funniest thing is the Christmas dinner because my big fat Greek family fights about politics and some minutes later everyone is happy and laughing again!!! Hehehe!!! My favourite moment is when I find my gift under the Christmas tree, but I can't understand how Santa comes inside the house because we do not have a fireplace!? I also like to watch Christmas movies and see my Instagram friends in their Christmas moods!!!

Finally, I want to thank my friend Tipsy Cat Bose for inviting me to write my Christmas story and I would like to wish everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Hohoho!!

@bakitheteddy



Loris: Czech Republic



Like every little monkey I also love Christmas! This magical festival starts for us with the Advent

Sunday. My mom makes or buys an Advent wreath and every Advent Sunday we light a candle. During the Advent period we prepare Christmas confectionery. I have the most important role! I garnish the confectionery, eat them and lick any extra topping from the whisk. With all modesty, nobody can do it as great as me!

On Christmas day I wake up early because I am very nervous. The Day with big a "D" is here! We fast all day so I try thinking of things other than food. It's very hard because in all my house there is the beautiful smell of confectionery and food which my mom has prepared for the Christmas dinner. I prefer going out and playing with friends. After that I go with Ushifuto for mistletoe. It's our tradition. Not so far from my village is a tree where there is mistletoe, so we go there every year for it. I am a very good climber, so this very dangerous work is on me. I

climb up the tree and chose the most beautiful mistletoe which will soon be decorating our living room. My second favourite tradition is feeding the birds. We have a big garden and every winter we put a few bowls with food and tallow balls. On Christmas day we give them something special – a secret family recipe with the birds' best yummys.

Then comes the night. All the family wear nice clothes, I take my festival bow. Together we meet for Christmas dinner. The table is festively decorated. All candles on Advent wreath are lit. Next to every plate is small spruce twig which symbolises the cross and repels all evil. Under every plate is small coin for getting money in the coming year. Our Christmas dinner has three dish. First is fish soup, second is fish schnitzel with potato salad and the last is cake with vanilla cream. Yummy! I love it all very much! Although I have not eaten all day I am not hungry at this moment. I want to go to the Christmas tree so much! I want to see the beautiful tree and lots of gifts under it! This is the best part of day! In a room playing carols and me, looking at all these beautiful things! I am with my family and enjoying time with them.

Merry Christmas everybody!

@[loris_the_monkey](#)

Keith: Italy

Hello! Nice to meet you. My name is Keith and I arrived in my new home last July. This will be my first Christmas and I'm very excited about it. The other plushies told me it's a beautiful period, with lots of love, light and, of course, food and presents! Mommy explained to me that we will have a big lunch with all the family (and also with my plushie friends), we will eat delicious things and open lots of gift. I just wrote a letter to Santa, because I would like to receive a guitar, in

fact, my name is in honour of Keith Richards, the famous guitar player. Maybe if I am a good dog, I will receive it. So far, I have put a Christmas hat on my head! Merry Christmas everybody dear friends all over the world!

@[theadventuresofkeith](#)



Tipsy Cat: UK

Christmas for us starts with Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, which is always nice, with pretty candles and carols. Then we visit our neighbours for a mince pie or two, before heading home for a glass of bubbles (or two or three) and to see what the lovely Saint Nico (Father Christmas / Santa Claus) has dropped off for us under the tree. In the morning, we put the turkey in the oven and go for a long walk, visiting more neighbours, before tucking in to a huge meal with family. In the evening, we go to visit more family, eat more, pull more crackers and watch TV.



Sunnymals: Germany

Based in Munich our human was born in a picturesque village in the Blackforest. Gengenbach is a fully preserved mediaeval treasure and even Hollywood was here to shoot a sequence of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, the movie with Johnny Depp.

In the festive season the town hall of Gengenbach turns into the world's biggest Advent calendar. Coincidentally, the town hall has 24 windows (here in Germany Christmas begins on Dec 24). One by one each they be opened in December and each of them reveals an illustration from a children's book or an artist. A Christmas Market accompanies the window's opening ceremony. There is a nice atmosphere and it's even more wonderful when it's snowing.

This is something rather special as Gengenbach is located in the warmest place of Germany. [@sunnymals](#)

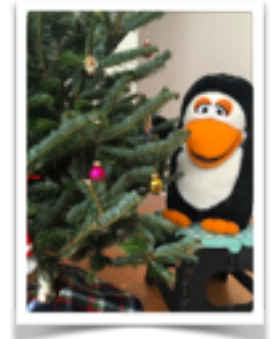


Tim: USA

I love the holidays for many reasons, but mainly because it's a time for family and friends to share in traditions and make new memories. I live in America now, but grew up on the coast of South Africa. My penguin family has many traditions that involve the Christmas holiday. Every year in December we spent a week in my house making cookies. I always enjoyed making cookies shaped like penguins, sharks, and polar bears. On Christmas Eve, we would sit around the fire and roast anchovies, round herrings, and squid. Christmas delicacies also included dipping shrimp into melted dark chocolate fondue. (In case you didn't know, penguins have a thing for chocolate). We also played a game called "Pass the Fish". In this game, a fish is tossed around from player to player while music plays and the last person to have the fish in his or her possession, when the music stops, has to sing a Christmas carol. I always ended up singing "Feliz Navidad", my absolute favorite. These are a few of the traditions that hold a special place in my heart. I hope you and your families enjoy your holidays and get some time

to take part in the traditions that mean the most to you! HAPPY HOLIDAYS-XOXO TIM the PENGUIN

[@the_precociouspenguin](#)



Elosokevin: Mexico



Here in Mexico we have a tradition 9 days before Christmas beginning December 16th and ending 24th on evenings. This tradition is known as "Posada" we re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus on their way of Bethlehem. Children break "Piñatas", drink "Ponche" and spend time together all the night before Christmas, we had dinner with the family too. [@elosokevin](#)

Recipe Tip

If you're making some gingerbread, why not take a leaf out of [@kawaiistationery](#)'s book and, "Try adding a pinch of cuteness to your gingerbread mixture, see what happens."





Interview with Dale Grimshaw: by @Altravebunny



I.

You're a famous street artist, tell us a little bit more about that....

I'm not sure I'd use the word famous just yet, but yes I've made a name for myself on the street/urban art scene. I was doing a lot of wood/lino cut prints & pasting them up around London; they could also be seen as far as France, Brazil, Holland, Germany. Sadly due to the small size of these paste-ups they were getting over shadowed by the mural scene that was developing so I decided to cross over to painting outdoors instead & the size increased naturally.

2. How did you begin down this career path?

I've been scribbling on things all my life. I've always liked drawing but when I discovered oil & acrylic paint at about age 11 (which I used to shoplift because we had no money) then that's when I got really excited. I also used to write my name on bus stops & everything else that didn't move. At first I didn't get the concept of anonymity & wrote 'Dale G' so everyone would know I existed in the world!... but then later I became 'Grimmy' when I got fed up of being caught & told off. I loved history book illustrations & punk record covers so these inspired me visually in the early days, but I would also do still-life paintings for my mum or Gran.

3. What inspires your artwork?

I've always been interested in figurative painting, however I try to avoid the obvious pouty, Loreal model approach to figurative art, which is so common. I like to capture something that I think will touch someones heart & stop them in their tracks. Something that is dynamic, theatrical &

powerful, but has an emotional presence too. I started photographing myself with facepaint on then did paintings based on these. I've always been interested in that punk/tribal/ body decoration angle & started painting colourful, indigenous people. That's how I came across the Free West Papua campaign & their struggle against illegal Indonesian occupation of their land.

4. Which materials do you use and do you have a favourite?

In the studio I tend to use mainly oils or acrylics. I love oil paint but it's not a flexible medium like acrylic, which can be used out of the tube or you can buy it in marker form or thinned for airbrushes. Although there's that rich, lusciousness that always draws me back to oils. Oil paint seems to have been made to paint human flesh. Outside I tend to roller the wall then use spraypaint for all the details.

5. How much travel does your artwork involve & do you travel to different countries to do it?

I have been travelling quite a bit this year, places like South of France, Sweden, Romania. I'm still building my international profile & next year I'm hoping to paint in the USA & Italy.

6. What goes into choosing a location to create on & gaining council permission?

I tend not to have a say on which walls get painted, the organisation & permission side tends to be done by other people. Once I have the dimensions of the wall I try to make sure the balance & layout of the design is right and will make the most impact.

7. Have you worked with other famous artists? Was that fun?

I used to own an art gallery so I've worked with many international artists. Us artists are strange creatures, our creative worlds can be so insular & there's often insecurity raising it's ugly head too. People don't like to talk about egos as everyone likes to appear "cool" but there's lots of big ones on the scene. I always love the idea of collaborating with other artists on outside walls, although my style is very painterly & tends not to work too well with others styles; although there's some amazing artists out there and I haven't given up on this idea yet.

8. If you could create an ice cream flavour, what would it be?

I would invent a flavour based on a cocktail, maybe a Margarita. Yum yum. However, in an ideal world I would make that final jump to being fully vegan & not eat ice cream.

PS. Topsy Cat says please don't do anything naughty like shop lift, or exercise your artistic graffiti talent without the express permission from the owner, as you don't want to upset anyone, especially when a certain Mr Claus is watching out for all good little pets and companions.

Photo Credits: @dale_grimshaw



A Fairytale of New York

by [@voyage_ofthe_beagle](#)



It was a dark and stormy night. Oh wait, that's my other project...

It was actually a clear and cold evening when we arrived in New York City, ready to take in all the sparkling and festive holiday mood. Everything in America is big and everything in New York is even bigger! New York is a wonderful place to visit during the holiday season especially when the big department stores and famous landmarks are beautifully decorated.



The holiday season is officially opened when Santa Claus comes into town in the last float of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. But long before that moment lots of stores have already set up elaborate window displays. On 5th Ave fancy stores like Harry Winston and Saks Fifth Ave. are so brightly lit I think you can even see the lights from the moon !! The windows are so big and many people come to see and admire them. Human was afraid she might lose me in the crowds so she didn't really take many pictures of me in front of the window displays.

It's not only window displays though, the NY Public Library near Bryant Park also gets in the holiday mood. The big lions that "guard" the entrance look less fierce with a christmas wreath around their neck. Inside many serious looking old statues (after all, it's still a library) are also decorated. And in Astor Hall there's a beautiful christmas tree.

The most famous christmas tree however is the one on Rockefeller Plaza. Unfortunately we were too early to see it in its full glory, it wasn't decorated yet so it really looked like a giant Charlie Brown Christmas tree !! The people skating on the ice rink in front of the tree didn't seem to mind though.

In the evening when it's dark it really looks like a magical world.

In some places in the city small winter fairs pop up with ice skating rinks, christmas trees and little stalls selling christmas ornaments, candy canes and hot chocolate.

Another NY holiday tradition is the Christmas Spectacular starring the Radio City Rockettes. The show is called The Christmas Spectacular and for once it wasn't exaggerated! Many families come and see this show every year. So what is it? Best way to describe this is to call it "Lord of the Dance meets Santa Claus" (and otherwise there's always good ole Youtube!)

Yes, New York City during the holiday season can really make you feel like being in a magic wonderland !





The house 100 kcal built*

by: [@ginger_ned](#)

*or thereabouts; these things tend to escalate!

It has been nearly 1 year since I set out on my adventures and started sharing them in insta-land. As much as I have enjoyed the hospitality of my human accomplice, her living space is a little large for my tastes and I have been contemplating a self-build for a while now. What better time than Christmas to build a gingerbread house?

The Perfect Prefab

I have learned from many an hour whiled away watching glorious design shows on the tellybox, that a self-builder on a budget and with a deadline can't go wrong with a reputedly made, prefabricated house. There certainly are plenty to choose from at this time of year.



Perusing the show homes at [John Lewis](#) I opted for and ordered a classic model from John Lewis, which came with some basic decorative elements, but still allowed plenty of scope for personalisation. John Lewis is a very respected company in the UK and I know its customer service to be excellent. However, its delivery service can sometimes be a little problematic, so I requested the 'deluxe delivery' with 'santa support'.



Shopping for Supplies

Whilst I eagerly awaited delivery of my new home, I turned my attention to fixtures and fittings. Sweet shops offer a fine variety of accessories. Shopping

for external and internal features can be a daunting affair. Here are some top tips I have picked up from the person programmes about house building:

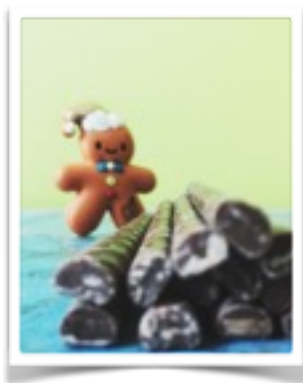
1. Think Outside the Box

A home needn't be anything less than spectacular just because funds are limited. It is important to be creative in one's use of ordinary and/or unexpected materials. For example, I sourced some inexpensive confectionery from [Tiger](#), not commonly seen in a domestic setting, to use as cladding.

2. Splash Out on Selective Statement Pieces

Spending a little extra on special finishes or accents can add a touch of personality and glamour. I have a fondness for retro foodstuffs and classy after eights were the perfect texture for my roof. I wanted to create a statement with this particular element of my project, so I was happy to spend more here.





3. *Creating Cohesion*

A clever trick for pulling a design scheme together is to use a single material throughout. I decided to utilise chocolate in several different forms and finishes.

Once the shell was erected, it was a simple enough job for me to apply the cladding. I did not require a specialist because the prefabricated panels come already weatherproofed. The cladding is simply an aesthetic addition.

If one has the time and the energy for such things, one can save an enormous amount of money by doing a lot of the work oneself. However, it is imperative to comply with building and safety regulations and one should employ professionals to undertake any specialist work. In my case, I already had an expert on hand to lay my roof tiles. this was not a job I felt competent doing myself and cutting corners is a false economy. I certainly didn't want to risk wasting any of my more expensive materials.

After the windows were fitted, accent pieces and finishing touches completed my home.

The Big Reveal

I am so pleased with the result. what do you think? I would very much like to landscape the garden next, but I think that is a job for the spring...

If you have completed a similar project, I would love to hear all about it. You can reach me in insta-land!

Ned

[@ginger_ned](#)

[#thehouseIookcalbuilt](#)

[#gingernedadventures](#)

Build Day

Come build day, I was thrilled when the shell of my home arrived on a sled, pulled by 2 chocolate reindeer straight from the north pole and delivered right to my accomplice's hallway.



Ruudolph sent his juniors, as he was preoccupied planning the grand annual tour.

It did not take long to assemble the prefabricated structure; an easy task for my buddies, Robbot and Bobbot, who happen to be engineers.



Thanks for reading everyone!
We're taking a break until February 2017, but we'll definitely see you then. And don't forget, if you want to feature, just let us know.
Till then, we wish you and yours a very, very Merry Christmas and a Wonderful 2017.

