

PETS' MEWS

The MewsPaper for Instagramming Pets, Plushies and their People

Tigger's Twelve Days of Christmas



On the 12th day of Christmas dear Tigger gave to me... 12 bells a-jingling, 11 typers typing, 10 teddies boopin', 9 reindeers prancing, 8 balls a-dangling, 7 monkeys swinging, 6 plushies playing, 5 SCOT-TISH DRIIINKS, 4 calling bears, 3 French fries, 2 purple spiders and a crystal figure from Swarovski.



A lot of you have been following and participating in darling @tiggertheretrotiger's 12 days of Christmas song.

It's traditionally a song we sing at Christmas and each day, 'my truelove' sends me funnier and funnier things. You repeat these every day as as you go along, and add the new day's gift to the end.

You can see the original version to the left, and up above is what you lovely lot came up with. Many thanks to all the brilliantly funny entrants - you made our job as judges very hard indeed. Thanks to my fellow judges @gnme_rudy_jennie (most especially for the great tutorials),

@ginger_ned, @honeygrovebears, and to dear @tiggertheretrotiger for organising such a fun competition.

The winners, in a very particular order (to match the days of the song) are: @cornishelmo, @molly_monrad_co, @ellythetravellingelly, @marysteabears, @cookiemreport, @cornishelmo (again!), @ellythetravellingelly (again), @voyage_ofthe_beagle, @ms.ter.egghead, @troublethebear, @ms.ter.egghead, @piggycoquette



Ho Ho Ho

Hello Everyone,

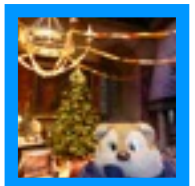
Merry Christmas, Happy Chanuka, and Happy Festivities. We know you are all very busy at this time of year, so thanks for stopping by. There's been so much going on - here's a round up of some of all the celebrations going on in our wonderful Plushie world.

Thanks for all your wonderful articles, photos, and comments this year. I sincerely believe that #plushiesbuildbridges and together we can spread love and positivity across the globe. A big thank you to dear Doyka for translating everything into Russian for you all, unfailingly, each month, and lovely Dušana for her gorgeous Eye on Style. If you've got an idea for an article or want to share a photo with us, just get in touch. Pets' Mews is having a break in January, so see you all in February.

Whatever you are up to, we wish you and your family a very merry, peaceful, magical time.

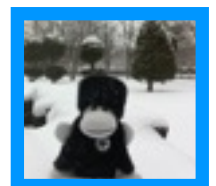
Lots of love,

Tipsy Cat Bose and her Pets xxx



Благодаря

@doyka_supercow газеты Pets' Mews теперь можно читать на русском -





Happy Chanukah

By [@foxy.foxenberg](#)

To remember this time in our history we light candles for eight nights in a candelabra called a Menorah or Chanukiah. It has nine candles in total: one for each night of the festival and one called the Shamash (leader) used to light the others. My little Menorah is very special – it once belonged to the Girl Person's great-grandmother and lucky for me it perfectly fox-sized!

Oh hi! My name is Foxy Foxenberg and I am a young Jewish fox living in Canada.

It is that time of year again, and I am getting ready celebrate Chanukah – The Festival of Lights. Topsy Cat Bose has invited me to share a little bit about the festival, and how I celebrate it.

Although Chanukah is considered a “minor” Jewish festival, it is certainly one of my favourites. Here is the story behind it:

In the year 168 B.C.E., the Syrian tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes sent his soldiers to Jerusalem. The soldiers took over and desecrated the temple, the holiest place for Jews at that time. Antiochus also abolished Judaism, and he offered Jews two options: conversion or death. A Jewish resistance movement, led by Judah Macabee and his brothers developed. The small army miraculously won two major battles and was able to regain control of the temple.

Chanukah is the festival that commemorates the purification and rededication of the Temple after the defilement during occupation. The word itself means “rededication”. When the Maccabees entered the Temple to reclaim it, they lit the “ner tamid” (the “eternal light”), but only had just enough oil to last for one day. Miraculously, this oil lasted for eight day and nights, enough time to obtain more.

During the festival it is traditional to eat foods cooked in oil such as potato latkes, usually served with applesauce and sour cream or souf ganyiot (jelly donuts). I enjoy it all!

During Chanukah children (and young foxes!) play a game betting for candies or chocolate coins. It is called Dreidel (in Yiddish drei means to spin). A dreidel is a four-sided a spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side symbolizing the phrase: “A great miracle happened there”. In Israel they say: “A great miracle happened here”, and call it a Sivivon in Hebrew.

Although Chanukah usually falls in the month of December on the Western calendar, don't mistake it for a “Jewish Christmas”, as Chanukah is a Jewish holiday, unique and totally separate. For us it is a time to celebrate our heritage, family, love and spread a little light into the world!

Oh, and if you are wondering what is the right way to spell this festival (Chanukah, Chanukkah, Hannukah, Hanukkah, ...?!), take your pick! It is a Hebrew word so however you spell it in English is OK with me, as long as you save me a latke!

Wishing all my fluffy and human friends a season filled with peace, love and light!



Festive Fun: Find the Bunny & Mouse

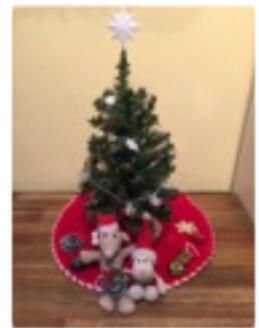
by @waikikibunny



In Germany we celebrate Christmas on the 24th of December and also on the next 2 following days which are public holidays. The little Christ Child brings gifts, not Santa. We build up our tree around the 1st of Advent, but some do it on Christmas Day. Advent time is also important in Germany. The Kids and plushies get an Advents Calendar with 24 doors. The family is most important. We eat together, play Christmas music

together and read Christmas stories out of books. We also sing together and in the evening we go to church. After that we have dinner together and right after we check what gifts the Christ Child delivered. 1000 bunny hugs and plenty of mouse kisses *giggle*
Ho Ho Hoooo! Merry Christmas!

Find Waikiki and MouseMouse - they really are there, in the tree above, somewhere!



Spectacular Spekulatius

By: [@pinkpenguin](#) [cuddlypolarbear](#)

The speculaas or Spekulatius, as we call them in Germany are a type of spiced shortcrust biscuit, originating from the Netherlands. But they are also very popular in Belgium and in Germany. In our region, we traditionally bake these yummy cookies for December 6th, in order to celebrate St. Nicholas' day. The name is said to be a derivation of the Latin word "speculum", which means mirror. It refers to the images that are moulded from a wooden stamp to decorate the cookies. The thin and crunchy biscuits therefore have some images or figures stamped on their front side, that is often related to the traditional stories about St Nicholas.

We hope that you will all enjoy our recipe!

Ingredients:

225 g butter
 210 g brown sugar
 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
 1/4 teaspoon of ginger
 1/4 teaspoon of clove
 1/8 teaspoon of nutmeg
 1/4 teaspoon of salt
 a few drops of almond extract
 3 tablespoons of milk
 480 g flour
 1/4 teaspoon of baking powder

1. Mix together the soft butter with the brown sugar and all the spices till the mixture gets creamy. Next, put in the almond extract and the milk and stir it well. Finally, add the flour and the baking powder and mix everything until you have a nice and homogenous dough.
2. Let it cool in the fridge for a minimum of three hours.
3. Pre-heat the oven to 180 Celsius. Split the dough and roll it (ca. 5mm) so you can put it into the spekulatius forms (you can also use normal cookie cutters). If you want you can decorate the backside with some sliced almonds. Bake them for 10-15 minutes until they are slightly brown and crunchy.

We love to serve these delicious cookies with some tea or hot chocolate! They are the perfect treat for a nice and cosy Advent tea party!

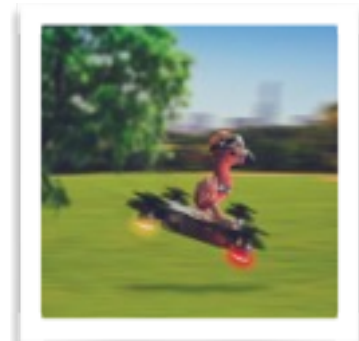
Lots of hugs from Cologne! Pingu & Cuddles



Flango's Christmas

By @pinkflango

Hey, my name is Flango. I am a pink two-year-old small flamingo who lives in Santiago, the capital of my country, Chile. First of all, I want to thank my dear friend Topsy for giving me the opportunity to participate in this issue. I feel so flattered! I would love to tell you a little bit about my life. I arrived to my human's life as a gift from an airport gift shop and since then, we have been inseparable. I go on travels, to work, to social events, really everywhere my human goes I go with her, and it is really fun for me to always be in her purse, so I sneak out to get a quick view of human's lives. Flamingos have a huge appetite, yes, it is absolutely true. I am tiny but my appetite is not, so I eat many times a day. I really love hamburgers... more than anything in the world! All hamburgers, I mean, I cannot live without them. I usually go to different restaurants around Santiago to try new recipes, new kinds of burgers with my family. Another free activity I am trying lately is flying on my human's drone. You can check my pictures on my Instagram account to see my adventures. Adrenaline is essential for a little bird like me. Some of my friends say I am brave and adventurous, and I guess it is so cool to experience things like these and get the chance to share my life and adventures with my friends on Instagram. It is something I love doing, reading their stories and places they travel with their humans.



For Christmas we plan several activities so we start the celebration with many fun things to do together as a family. For example, we decorate our Christmas tree with elements we find from different places here in the city, fabric, cotton, wool, cardboard figures, etcetera. Other members of my family join us too for this holiday, like Casimiro, my cousin, and Cecilio, another cousin who arrived from Florida to live with us. We prepare a lovely dinner and spend as much time as we can at home and enjoying our free time watching movies like Peanuts, my favourite! In Chile, Christmas is a family holiday, children expect gifts from Santa Claus and play with their toys with kids from their neighbourhoods. It is a quiet and relaxing holiday. I am anxious expecting for another Christmas with my family. I hope you enjoyed my story.

xoxo
Flango



Festive Eye on Style

By @altravelbunny



With this month being a festive season, Plushies' Eye on Style has been following the trends taking place while getting ready to celebrate. Here are a few of our favourites so far.



Top Left; @lotso_the_teddy models the comfy yet respectable shopping attire, while thinking of the hungry crowds arriving soon. Top Right; @lotso_the_teddy is dressed & ready to welcome all the young plushies turning up at his castle.

Top Right; @monchhichi_travels is sporting the latest work 'Christmas Do' attire & enjoying their very own Oreo shake in the progress.

Middle Right; @bhcc_siblingsaust demonstrate the correct 'home outfit' while decorating the family Christmas tree (& possibly sneaking a few crackers in the progress~ this has not been confirmed)

Bottom Right; @tatonki.tatonka is modelling the most fashionable festive scarf, while out for a stroll in the autumn colours



Plushie Service Announcement

We wanted to do a shoutout (not sponsored!) for some of our buddies on Instagram and support them in their enterprises to support their human pets. Did you know that @jeffreylefante, for example, sells his cute and funny cards on Etsy? @frecklethefoxcub does great custom artwork (and did one of my pet's friend's birthday). @waikikibunny has lots of cool stuff on his website. @malishkoala has his own stickers on iTunes, and lovely Hope puts together lovely boxes of treats. Check out their profiles for

more info. My own pet, and our buddies too, have also had a paw at enterprise, and have put together a plushie-eye-view guide about New York for all travel mascots wanting to go there. We're going to do more guides in the future, so if you've got any ideas for guides you'd like to see, do get in touch.



Some of your lovely Photos

Here we see [@banditoandlea](#) (top right) and the first snow of the season. [@yegor_mcsnegoff](#) (middle right and top left) is enjoying the snow. As are [@harrymudmudd](#) (bottom left) and [@janpol_basik](#) (and bottom right).



[@just_zebra](#) is preparing for Christmas (left, top and bottom). [@tweetykweelapis](#) (top right) Tweety and Joducus are spreading love with [Hope's #redthreadoflove](#) - don't forget to join in and make the world's longest thread! And [@therealyetiman](#) (bottom right) has just the BEST outfit ever. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!