

PETS' MEWS

The MewsPaper for Instagramming Pets, Plushies and their People



Over the last several months, so many plushies were commenting on the devastation happening in Australia. Many were finding ways to raise money and even more were helping to raise awareness. On January 5, @beancupsloth (bottom left) started the #yellowheartofhope initiative. Four days later, @knowthatitsdelicat asked a group of us what we thought about collecting money to send to Australia? Having seen so many yellow heart posts, many of us thought it would be really great to be able to do something as a community. @knowthatitsdelicat, @teddy.spaghetti_broosevelt, @bubithebear and @65shaw.bear felt particularly moved to make something happen - and on January 12 @plushieaid was born!

After extensive research we decided on a crowdfunding platform, and with the help of several Australian plushies we decided on a charity to support.



Plushie Aid

by: @plushieaid

We chose the [Adelaide Koala and Wildlife Hospital](#) because it met most of our criteria:

- * To help all of Australia
- * Release of animals back to the wild when possible
- * Extremely underfunded compared to more well known organisations

We must admit that their website photo - a koala with a plushie - may have helped a bit!

We are from two different continents with a variety of abilities and talents. Of course, we all know that one of us (Bubi with his beautiful artwork) is more talented than the rest! One thing is for sure though. We all want the same thing: To make a difference where it's needed.

We know that as a community we are strong and we hope to inspire every plushie to get involved in making a difference in the world! If you feel moved to join us, please visit @plushieaid for more information and the [link](#) to the Charity [GoFundMe](#) page!

Right now our efforts are 100% focused on [AKAWH](#), but we are looking forward to seeing where the Plushie Community takes us!



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the first issue of Pets' Mews for 2020. We are so happy to have you with us again!

To kick us off this year, we have a story of how, from tragedy and heartache, good things can grow - read all about the amazing @plushieaid effort to help wildlife in Australia. And then, a very important article from @over_the_hump_with_humphrey who wants to help us all stay safe and secure online.

If you have a brilliant idea for an article, or a #goodmews story or photo for us, just drop us a line - we would love to hear from you and who knows - perhaps you can feature in a future issue of Pets' Mews. We also want to do a quick shoutout on behalf of @percybunnyrabbit. If any of you have any experience of setting up a charity in the UK, can you please let us know? We would love your input on his [charitable foundation](#).

Many thanks and big hugs,

Tipsy xxx



Благодаря Доечке @doyka_and_hedge, газеты Pets' Mews теперь можно читать на <https://www.travelswithmycat.->

Staying Safe Online: Dealing with Bullying

by [@over the hump with humphrey](#)

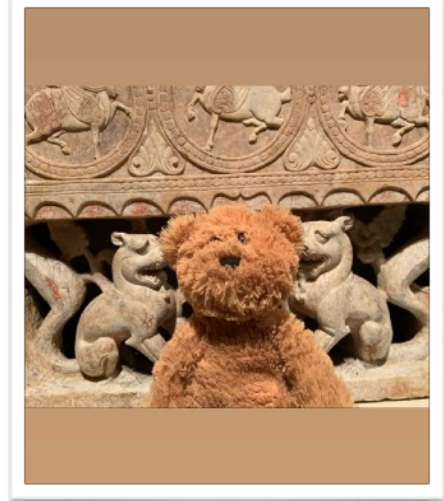




As a whole the plushie community is soft, loving and understanding. However, from time to time, even with the most kind and sincere of plushies there can be a misunderstanding or miscommunication, or even worse and far more rare is somebody who intends harm. How do we handle ourselves in situations where we feel bullied?

There is a variety of ways we can respond, some undoubtedly are more effective. Allow me to share a few ideas so the next time you or a plushie pal finds yourself in a sticky situation so you will feel more prepared. So what can you do if you find yourself being bullied?

1. Ignore the bully. We all hear this, and know this but it's hard to put into practice isn't it? Many bullies often are seeking attention and if you ignore them they will go away, or stop the behaviour.
2. Delete ugly comments. Try to not only delete comments from your page, but try to delete them from your mind too! This goes back to step 1 ignore! And I would even say replace that ugly thought with a beautiful thought.
3. If you really can't resist and feel it is necessary to respond keep communication limited; try using few words like "this is a positive platform" and let it rest - do not engage no matter how tempting! Above all do not say anything negative back! You are allowed to defend yourself but don't use language to hurt the bully or you will become the bully.
4. If you need a backup don't be afraid to ask for help. You can go to Plushie United Rescue Rangers (PURR) or any of its members if you are struggling with a bullying issue and need advice. If you are afraid to go to PURR ask a trusted friend, one who tends to be drama free or wise is best. You can find members by looking up the [#plushieSOS](#) hashbrown.
5. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe you can block!
6. Having a private account is a great way to monitor who is in your following if things get out of hand with a bully!
7. Don't forget, the bully is also a person with feelings too, just like you! There is a high possibility that the bully is hurting in some way to try to remove anger from their heart. It's hard to say what is happening with the bully

outside of Instagram.
8. Sometimes even just taking a break will help the situation smooth out naturally and give the bully time to regulate and realise behaviour especially if you don't respond negatively.



We encourage every plushie to be a SMART plushie! By focusing on the following guidelines:

Safety

Don't give out your address or private contact information to plushies you don't know.

Always trust your tummy feeling when it comes to your location and personal data

Bullying thankfully does not happen often in our small community, but it does happen, and we must be prepared. It's better to think about our emotions before they become elevated and think of an action plan. This will help us in an actual situation where we feel threatened or hurt.

If we feel hurt and cause hurt back, the cycle will continue. But if we can make an action plan for when somebody hurts us, a healthy way to respond it can stop the cycle of pain and hurt!