

Pets' Mews

*The MewsPaper for Instagramming
Plushies, Pets, and their People.*

*Join us for this sea-
inspired special!*



Hello Everyone,

If you're like me and you've been through heatwave after heatwave this summer, then you'll definitely be ready for cooling down in the sea (errm, no thanks), or maybe, (far better) by the sea with an ice cream in paw!

More than ever, we should realise how important nature and our oceans are in helping us balance our ecosystems and protect our climate.

This issue of Pets' Mews is dedicated to the sea, and I may not want to go anywhere in it, but, I certainly love being by it and hearing it.

We hope you enjoy reading our issue.

Big Hugs,

Tipsy xx



THE ARABIC VERSION BY @_SALAON_
WILL BE BACK SOON!

AND DON'T FORGET, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR
FROM YOU IF YOU WANT TO FEATURE IN
PETS' MEWS :)

**BACK
SOON**

How aquariums teach us about ocean and aquatic life!



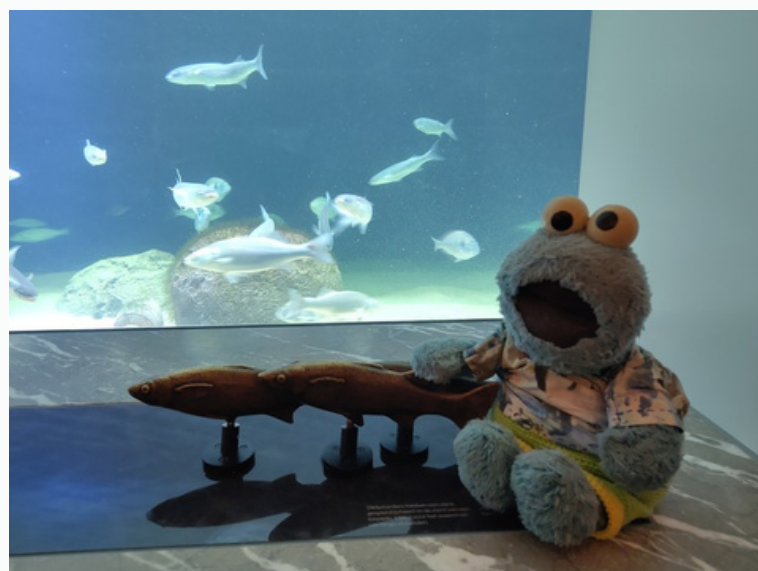
by @cookiemreport



The sea. It is one of me favourite places to be. No wonder me created me own Cookie Island full of beaches and ocean views. Me love the sound of the waves rolling up the beaches. Me love the salty smell in the air, the wind and even the always your food stealing and laughing at you seagulls. Living in The Netherlands means we have loads of coastline and two seas to enjoy. The first is the well-known North Sea, the other the Wadden Sea with its Wadden islands, like Texel. Dutch people like to go to the beach year-round. In the Summer for swimming, surfing and tanning, and the rest of the year for strolls, surfing and feeling the wind pull at your hair and fur. We go there with our dogs or our plushies for some well-deserved R&R.

Often, we forget the ocean is full of life. In the North Sea you have all kinds of fishies, like little sharks, rays and herring. We also have whales and dolphin passing through, there are shrimp, kelp, oysters, mussels and even crabs, little lobsters and of course me furry seal friends. It can be very busy under the sea, but most people are not aware of that because they do not go on dives. Me no dive either, too wet for me taste. That is why me love to visit aquariums. Just as zoos and museums we have plenty of aquariums in the Netherlands. There is Sea Life, Zeeaquarium, Burgers' Ocean (at the zoo), AquaZOO, Ecomare and even more.

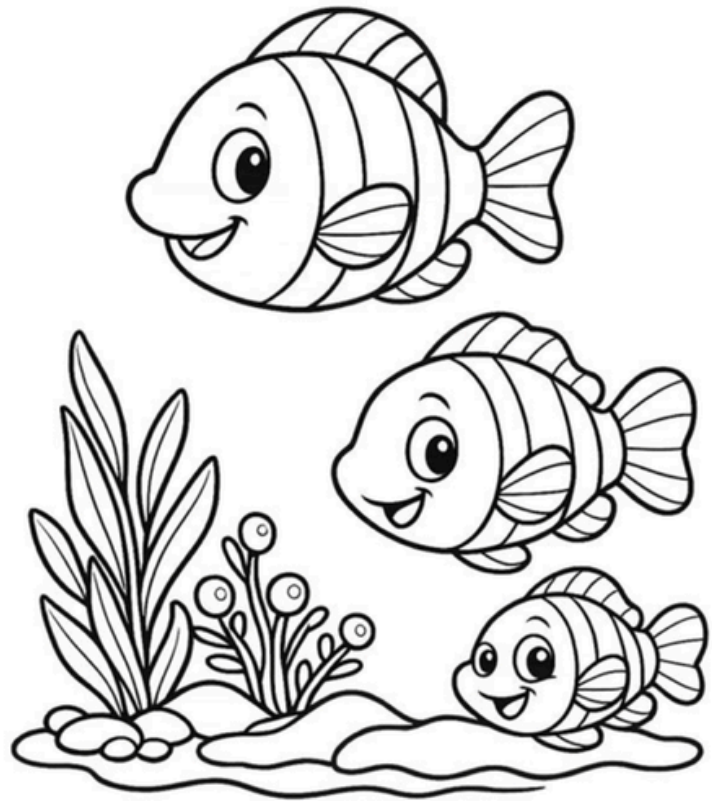
Most deepsea aquariums show us the tropical side of the ocean. Me love that! All those tropical, colourful fishies that peacefully swim by, it the best. With good educational displays we are told who lives in that particular tank, if they are threatened in the wild, if they are hunted by fishermen or not and of course where they live, what they eat and more. It is so fun to learn more about our fishie friends. What me also love is that some zoos or nature centres show us the life of the North Sea and Wadden Sea. Like Ecomare, Sea Life, the sea aquarium and ARTIS. They have fishie friends that you can also encounter in het oceans around the Netherlands. That is how me know about the little sharks and rays that inhabit the North Sea. We learn about the life in the lakes as well. Or, like in ARTIS, what is living at the canals of the city of Amsterdam. How cool is that!



Do you have aquariums with native life from your area in it too? It teaches us so much about life under the sea and how we can protect it by cleaning up our beaches and keep plastic out of the water.

So, if you ever want to learn more about the fish and animals living in the oceans, me can recommend that you visit a zoo with an aquarium or an aquarium on its own. It tells you so much and it is just soooo relaxing to sit at a window and admires the fishies! Me just love it.

Big hugs, Cookie



Reviews of Books about the Ocean

by @spybatmissions



Heading for the Storm - Marion Brunet (2021)

A few friends who live on the French west coast come from very different backgrounds, but they have one thing in common: sailing. When the book starts, the friends are on a sailing trip to Ireland. It is supposed to be the perfect end to a perfect summer, but tensions in the group make things complicated from the beginning. When the storm hits, disaster is inevitable. Not all of them will return alive.

This is a young adult psychological thriller where the sailboat and the storm are just as dangerous as the growing hostilities between the friends. Alternating with the present time story at sea, we learn what has happened in the past, which will lead to the dramatic ending of both the sailing trip and the bond between the friends.

Moominpappa at Sea - Tove Jansson (1965)

Moominpappa is unhappy at home in Moominvalley. He decides to take the whole family with him to look for another place to live. They go by boat to a small island in the middle of the sea. There is a lighthouse there, and Moominpappa tries to run it. He also takes on several other new projects on the island. Moominmamma and Moomintroll are not as comfortable in their new environment and try to escape in their minds in different ways, through paintings and exploring for example. They all start to feel lost and lonely, but eventually manage to find their way back to each other.

This is one of the last novels in the series about the Moomins, but it can be read separately. It explores themes such as identity, loneliness, longing, feelings of inadequacy, and relationships in Jansson's typically smooth and delicate prose.

Remarkably Bright Creatures - Shelby Van Pelt (2022)

This book is centered around an aquarium, in a town on the American west coast. One of the main characters is Marcellus, an octopus who lives in the aquarium. He is very clever, and knows many secrets about the people who visit the aquarium. Tova is retired and starts working as a cleaner at the aquarium, in the hopes of fighting off feeling lonely. When Tova has an accident, Cameron takes over her job. Cameron has come to town in search of his father. Maybe there is something more connecting Tova and Cameron than the work at the aquarium, and maybe Marcellus can help them figure it out?

This is a story of feeling lost in life and finding a way home in the most unexpected ways. It is about friendship and believing in oneself and others, all with a touch of magic from a remarkably bright octopus named Marcellus.



The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder - David Grann (2022)

In 1740, a ship called The Wager left the English shores to go on a secret mission. Life on board is hard, and after dangerous storms around Cape Horn, those of the crew who have not yet died from diseases end up shipwrecked. They do their best to survive in hostile uninhabited lands. Several years later, two groups of survivors turn up at home in England. Their stories about what happened differ greatly, and a military court is summoned to find out who is to blame for everything that has happened.

This book is based on research about real events. It tells the story of life at sea with both suffering and adventure, and about how several aspects of life were perceived at the time. It also offers explanations to sayings and expressions connected to shipping, which makes it extra interesting.

By the Sea - Abdulrazak Gurnah (2021) - reviewed by Topsy Cat Bose

There is so much in the news of stories and heartbreaking images of those who have fled their countries by sea to seek refuge in other places. Whatever their reasons and motivations are, and whatever politics there might be, it is too easy to lose sight of the fact that these images are of human beings.

This book follows the lives of two such men from Zanibar and as it unfolds, we find out how they end up in the UK. They haven't travelled by boat, but meet again, far away from the land of their birth in an English seaside town, and a story is unravelled. It is a story of love and betrayal, seduction and possession, and of a people desperately trying to find stability amidst the troubles of their times. By a Nobel Prize winning author, this book is both sad and beautiful.





Our "Ocean" in Swabia: the Swabian Sea!

by Gasbrick

Hello Dear Pets' Mews readers!

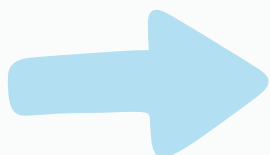
When we heard that the theme for this issue was "Ocean," our crew did a lot of collective head-scratching. We live deep in the south of Germany—in the cosy land of Spätzle, Maultaschen, and Black Forest Gateau. Real saltwater, crashing ocean waves, and endless seas are pretty far away from us. But then we remembered: we actually have our very own ocean right on our doorstep! The majestic Lake Constance, which we locals quite rightly call the Schwäbisches Meer (the "Swabian Sea"). For little paws, this giant body of water is a massive adventure, and today we're taking you on an expedition!

An Ice Age Giant with No Borders

When we stand on the shore and try to look across to the other side, we almost need a telescope. Our Swabian ocean is an incredible 63 kilometres long and 14 kilometers wide at its broadest point. This huge basin was formed over 10,000 years ago by a massive glacier from the Ice Age, and melting alpine water is still swept into the lake by the Rhine River today. But the absolute wildest thing about our sea is that it's a real no-man's-land! Lake Constance connects Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, but out on the open water of the main lake (Obersee), there are actually no fixed international borders. For us plushie pirates, that makes it the ultimate place to sail freely across the waves without any border controls!

Mysterious Monsters and Tasty Fish

A true ocean needs serious depth. At its deepest point, the lake plunges a dizzying 254 metres into the dark! Who knows what might be swimming down there? In fact, giant catfish reaching up to two metres in length roam the deep waters—to us little bears, those are real-life sea monsters! But don't worry, there are plenty of delicious underwater inhabitants too. The most famous fish in the lake is the Felchen (whitefish). Early in the morning, while the mist still hangs over the water, traditional fishermen head out in their flat wooden boats (Kähne) to pull in their nets. You couldn't ask for a fresher feast for a lakeside picnic!



Jungle Islands and Houses on Stilts

There's never a dull moment around our ocean. Because the huge volume of water acts like a gigantic heat radiator, the region enjoys a wonderfully mild climate. Palms and figs grow in the summer on the famous flower island of Mainau—it feels like a tropical jungle! If you prefer watching veggies grow, you can visit the lush island of Reichenau, while the island of Lindau features a majestic stone lighthouse guiding ships safely into port. But our absolute highlight is the prehistoric pile dwellings in Unteruhldingen. People built wooden houses on tall stilts right over the water there 4,000 years ago. You can wander from hut to hut along the wooden walkways without getting your paws wet at all!

A Giant Bathtub for Millions

Perhaps the coolest thing about our Swabian Sea is that it isn't made of salty ocean water—it's a colossal drinking water reservoir. Over five million people (and countlessly many plushies in their households) get their daily, crystal-clear freshwater pumped straight from our lake! And while the water gets delightfully warm in the summer, every once in a long while, the entire ocean freezes solid. The last time this rare phenomenon (called a Seegfrörne) happened was during the icy winter of 1963. The ice was so thick that people could walk all the way across from Germany to Switzerland!

Even though we might be missing the salty ocean air and the tides, for our family, Lake Constance is the absolute best ocean in the world. So if you ever find yourself in our neck of the woods, pack your swimsuits and come visit the Swabian Sea!

Seafaring hugs and waves,

The Gasbricki Family





Strange New Planet 13: Spicy Adventure in Bahrain

by @fluffys_fun_adventures and @_salaon_

Fluffy: : "I'm here with @_salaon_ in Bahrain. You gotta love a country that names itself after the dislike of water!"

Salaon: "You are warmly welcome, but, I'm sorry, what are you talking about?"

Fluffy: "The country is literally called "bah, rain"! That's so beautiful!" 🥰

Salaon: 😊 "It's actually an Arabic word that means 'the two seas'..."

Fluffy: 😱 "Noooooo!"

Salaon: "You don't like water, huh? I know the perfect place for us to visit: the 'Tree of Life', which is my favourite wonder in Bahrain. There is something majestic about seeing this massive tree standing all alone in the middle of the barren desert sand, with no clear water source around it."

Fluffy: "Amazing! No water anywhere around!" 😊

Salaon: "What amazes me is its silent strength; it's not just a tree, but a story of resilience itself."

Fluffy: "Speaking of resilience, we'll need our strength for the trip, so what's for lunch?"

Salaon: "The first thing that comes to mind is 'Machboos'. The smell is so rich and distinct, it pulls me in from miles away, and I just can't resist it. Honestly, I'm a bear who loves food and I won't hide it!. I'm always hanging around the dining table, not for any reason, but because good food is what truly makes me happy!"

Fluffy: "We are so alike! So what exactly is 'Machboos'?"

Salaon: "Machboos is our royal Gulf dish! It features long-grain basmati rice cooked in a rich meat or chicken broth packed with aromatic spices and dried black lime, giving it an irresistible flavour. It brings the whole family together around one table, and I guarantee you're going to love it!"



Fluffy: "Can we cook it?"

Salaon: "Oh, of course! We could go to the market 'Old Manama Souq' to get some spices for it. I love wandering through the souq, where scents, colours, and history blend together in every corner. These two places perfectly show the heart of Bahrain: its quiet endurance and its vibrant soul."

Fluffy: "Sounds great! I love exploring with my stomach! What are your favourite things?"

Salaon: "I am a little bear who loves simplicity and beauty, so I generally like observing nature, and I consider myself a witness to the beautiful moments in my family's life. I love gardening, and I believe the world is a more beautiful place when we fill it with kindness. Being a bear full of energy, football is a big favourite of mine, playing and watching matches. What else? I fell so sad for any stray cats I see, and I love helping them whenever I can. Most of all, I love the Christmas season, I am truly in love with its warm atmosphere and delightful details."

Fluffy: "Did I tell you about that time when I ran over Santa Clause in a stolen spaceshuttle?"

Salaon: 🤔



Fluffy: "Oh, don't worry, nobody got hurt and we had an epic adventure! Oh, that gives me an idea! Are flying carpets real? Can we find one on the souq?!" 🤔

Salaon: "A flying carpet?! Hahaha, my crazy friend, I'm afraid carpets here are only laid out on the floor for dining and coffee gatherings, not for soaring through galaxies! But who knows, maybe the corners of the old souq hide a different kind of magic!"

[Later, on the Old Manama Souq. The crowd is calm, and wonderful scents and spices fill the air. Salaon the bear walks along the vendors, enjoying the atmosphere]

Salaon: "Do you see, Fluffy? The true magic here is not in stories, but in the way the scent of cardamom blends with heritage... huh, where did he go?"

Fluffy: [suddenly appearing] "Look, I found some real magic!"

Salaon: "Huh? Where? Did you find a new shop for Karak tea?"

Fluffy: "Much better! Listen, I was looking for a spare parts shop for my spaceship, accidentally wandered into a back warehouse, and found..." [He opens his bag and pulls out a strange magic wand glowing with green neon lights] "...this!"

Salaon: [His eyes widening in horror] "Fluffy... where did you take that from? This belongs to my great uncle, and it's strictly meant for adjusting the central AC settings in his old house!"



Fluffy: "Don't worry, I made it much more exciting! I connected it to a taxi battery and a Bluetooth speaker!"

[Before Salaon can utter a single word, Fluffy presses the button]

[A powerful blue light beam shoots out of the wand, striking the roof of one of the historic spice shops directly]

[Suddenly, bags of spices, dried limes (loomi), and even tubs of henna start lifting off the ground, spinning in the air like a mini space vortex. Vendors scream and run for their lives, while bags of rice start hovering above shoppers' heads amidst screams mixed with laughter and panic.]

Salaon: [Clutching his head with both hands in a comical scream] "Oh god! The family restaurant! Our spices! The machboos is going to fly into outer space because of you, you lunatic!"

Fluffy: [Jumping into the air and grabbing one of the flying bags of cardamom as if riding a horse] "Yippee! This is the best cooking session in human history! Look, Salaon, I'm flying in the spice galaxy!"

Salaon: [Sighing in deep despair, then smiling against his will as he sees people laughing and taking pictures of the utter chaos] "I'm used to you... I swear you're neither a bear nor an alien, you're a walking natural disaster!"

Fluffy: [Landing quickly beside him, his face covered in yellow turmeric powder, smiling with complete innocence] "Thanks for the compliment! Now... is it time for machboos? Because I get hungry when I defy gravity!"

Salaon: [Looking at the souq turned into a flying carnival, then shaking his head, laughing, and reaching out to pull Fluffy by his spike]: "Come with me, and before you touch anything else, I'm going to make you eat spicy loomi until you shed tears that put out this fire you started!"

