

Animal Scene



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EAGLE

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animal lovers

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OUT

with the old year.

IN

with the
NEW YEAR tips

By **MARIELLE ALMARIO**

It's that time of year again: The end... of the year! Nothing doomsday-like, so don't worry.

At the end of the year, we humans like to literally ring in the New Year with the loudest and brightest things we can get our hands on. Unfortunately, our pets aren't as gang-bro about that and they tend to get about as stressed as a millennial without internet or a cellphone.

With help from some friendly human companions and the ever-reliable world of the interweb, we at Animal Scene have managed to compile a handy-dandy list of tips and tricks for keeping your New Year's Eve celebrations happy for everyone involved.



1 SAFE SPACE

Something to consider while preparing for any New Year activity when you have a pet is designating an area for them. Aside from keeping them indoors, of course, it's recommended to keep them in just one place instead of letting them roam around indoors and potentially get stuck in some odd hiding spot (I may or may not have had to extract scared pets from very tight spaces).

In 2012, The Philippine Animal Welfare Society

(PAWS) published an article regarding New Year activities and how this affects our animal companions. One thing they mentioned was that having a room away from the street side will help to protect them. Several human companions, when asked, also expressed the same sentiment that being in a room closer to the center of the house helps out a ton to minimize stress. It also helps that the farther from the street, the less noise could be heard from inside.



Cat owner James says that one main concern, outside of his cat knocking things over if she's left unattended, is being able to block out the noise coming from outside.

"My uncle would put his cats in their carriers and leave 'em in the most soundproof room in the house to ride out the cavalcade of booms," he says, giving an example. When asked about how to easily and quickly soundproof a room, he said that "thick blankets, carpets, towels are things" and that "taking the extra time to seal windows and doors, like adding a layer of rubber or foam over the seams, can definitely help." But remember to make sure not to completely block out air flow when trying to cover the seams of windows and doors.

2 NOT FUNNY



When your animal companion starts hiding or shaking, don't yell or laugh at them. In a 2015 article written by Aries Joseph Ilegina for Philippine Daily Inquirer, when groups PAWS and EcoWaste Coalition were asked about how to keep our animal companions safe, they had those words to share.

When our pets start to shake or hide, it's their natural instinct to feel fear that's making them act this way. Approach with caution (you don't want to accidentally aggravate your pet, do you?) and make sure they are calm before attempting to move them around your home.

4 CUDDLE IN MODERATION



Some times may be good, other times may be... not so good. This little bit of information varies from animal to animal. While some of our animal companions would be perfectly fine with having hugs, others become more panicked and slip away from you - as is the case with some of the human companions we asked.

Dog blankets or hug blankets simulate hugs and are supposed to calm an animal companion when used. It doesn't hurt to try if your pet needs hugs to feel calm during stressful moments. And if hugs are not the way, don't fret. There isn't just one way of helping stressed out animals.

THE PHILIPPINE SERPENT EAGLE

By ALEX BICHARA
Photos by JEFFREY C. LIM



It's coat, a majestic brown. Its eyes, a bright yellow. Its population, decreasing.

While the number of Philippine serpent eagles (*Spilornis holoptilus*) has been in decline the past few years, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has not categorized the species as vulnerable on their Red List.

The Philippine serpent eagles, meanwhile, remains powerless in the face of habitat destruction. Many serpent eagles have been rescued by good Samaritans, turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and released back into the wild. Some, like the Philippine serpent eagle in Patricia Nicolas' care, are taken care of and raised privately.

