

Animal Scene



THE PHILIPPINE
Serpent
EAGLE

New Year
tips for
animal lovers

The **A** to
Z of pet
photography

The
problem
with **zoos**



8 FU Freedom Wall

10 Advocate
*Out with the old year,
in with the new: year tips*
by Marielle Almario

14 Animal Appeal
Animal stars on the internet
by Isonc Alis

20 Animal Appeal
Written in the stars
by Maxine Louise Lagman

24 Advocate
*Get me not: Animals who
touched the lives of 4 authors*
by Roxanne Libatique

32 Animal Appeal
*The A to Z of pet
photography*
by Gia Lara

34 Scene Zone
Zoos, then and now
by Maxine Louise Lagman

36 Advocate
The problem with zoos
by Alex Bichara

40 Cover Story
The Philippine serpent eagle
by Alex Bichara

50 Inehordate
Invertebrates of Antarctica
by Richard Leo Ramos

**54 Fins, Feathers,
and Fur**
Pet playpens
by Manuel Yap

60 Athletes of the Sky
From a family of winners
by Jaime Lim

64 The Wild Side
*African Rift Lake treasures
under threat*
by Gregg Yan

70 Animal Appeal
The Philippine tree squirrel
by Cliff Sawit

74 Scene Zone
*Felines strut their stuff
at the 2nd Manila Cat Show*
by Maxine Louise Lagman

78 Animal Appeal
*Endemic, enchanting...
endangered*
by Michiko Manalang

84 Sealy Special
*Tropidolaemus
subannulatus*
by Wally Suarez

90 Aqua Basics
*Cleaning the substrate
in your aquarium*
by Angel L. Ampil

94 Scene Zone
*New pet food brand
launches super-premium
cat, dog food in PH*

**100 Preview +
For Pet's Sake**
*Exotic geckos, pythons get
new life this yule*
by Ramon Francisco

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.



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).

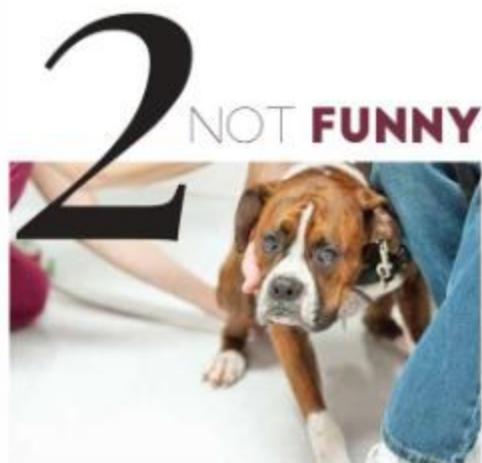
In 2012, The Philippine Animal Welfare Society

(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.



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.



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.

