

Volume 19 / Issue 02 • APRIL 2019

# Animal Scene



**NO TURNING  
BACK  
FOR EXTINCT  
SPECIES**

**FIREFLIES  
TAKE  
FLIGHT**

**TRAVEL  
GOALS  
FOR  
ANIMALS**



# Candy Betta

APRIL 2019





# Animal Scene

April 2019  
Volume 19 • Number 02

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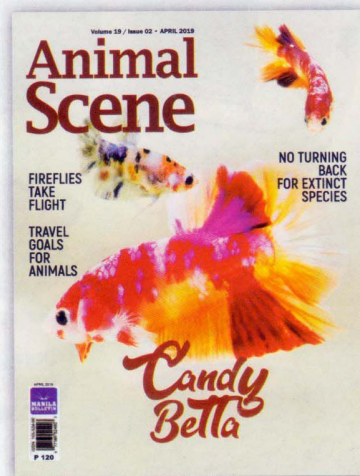
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Can these colorful fishes really breathe directly from the air? Find out on page 52.

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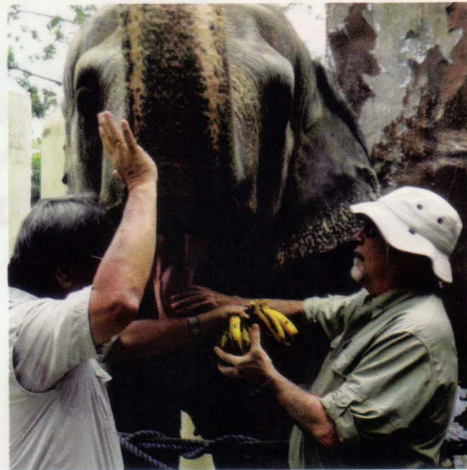
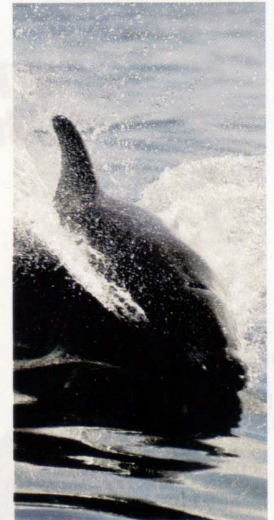


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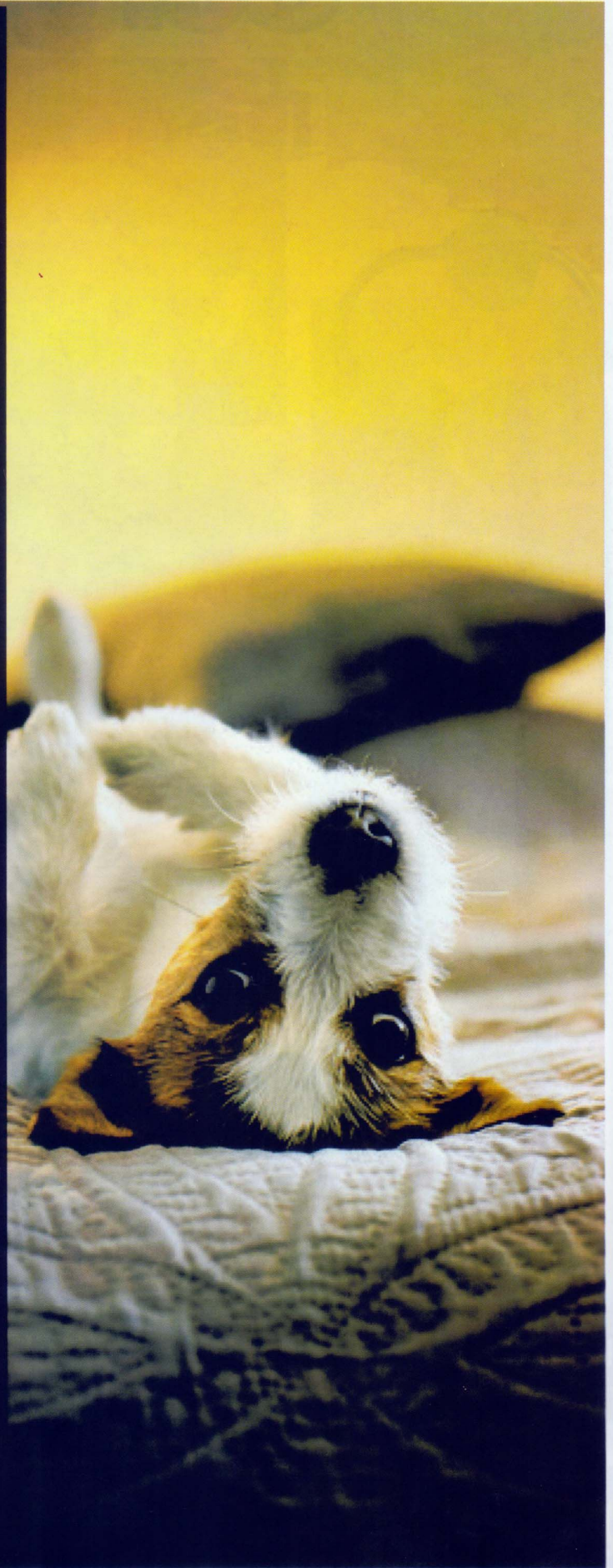
## TIPS TO KEEP ANIMAL COMPANIONS HAPPY THIS SUMMER

Leaving your companion animal  
behind on vacation?  
Make sure they have fun, too!

By AURUS FEAL SY

**T**is the season for road trips and out-of-town adventures again -- yep, summer's here! Aside from ironing out your island-hopping itinerary and shopping for new swimwear, there's another "impawtant" item that needs to be ticked off from your to-do list, and that is making sure your companion animal is safe and healthy while you're gone!

Whether you'll be chilling on the beach for a few days or venturing outside the country for a couple of weeks, it's your responsibility to make plans for your cat or dog, too. Follow these tips from the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, South Boston Animal Hospital, and Furbo to ensure that this summer will be pawsome for both you and your furry friend, even if you'll be spending some time apart!





# Advocate



## GET A PET SITTER TO WATCH YOUR FURBABY WHILE YOU'RE AWAY.

Ideally, this person would be a trusted family member, friend, or neighbor. For many dogs and cats, staying at home with someone they know is less stressful than spending time in a strange place.

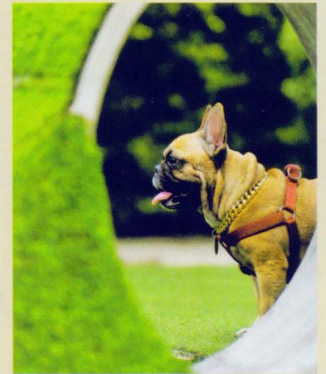


## INTRODUCE YOUR COMPANION ANIMAL TO THE PET SITTER.

Before you leave, let your cat or dog meet their caregiver at least once if it's someone they're not yet familiar with, so they won't feel scared when the pet sitter shows up at your house after you've left.

## SCHEDULE YOUR PET SITTER'S VISITS AROUND YOUR FURKID'S DAILY ROUTINE

Maintaining their regular schedule -- i.e., eating and going for walks at the usual times -- helps keep your companion animal's anxiety level down.

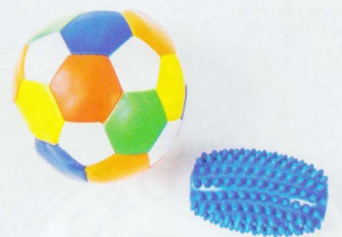


## BOOK YOUR FURRY PAL WITH A BOARDING FACILITY.

If you can't find a sitter, leaving your pet at a dog or cat hotel is another option. Or, you can take them to a family member's house for a staycation.

## LEAVE SMALL REMINDERS FOR YOUR FOUR-LEGGED BFF.

A favorite toy or old shirt that smells like you can help comfort your furbaby until your return.







## Advocate

# BOARDING YOUR FURBABY?

Here are a few tips for you, in case you're thinking of dropping of your furry friend off for boarding or at a pet hotel.

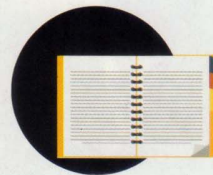


### DO YOUR RESEARCH.

Check the boarding facility's website and social media page to get an idea of what kind of experience to expect. Look for client reviews and testimonials as well!

### DROP BY THE PET HOTEL BEFOREHAND.

Doing so gives you a chance to personally inspect the facility and talk to the staff. Don't be shy about asking lots of questions, such as how much the boarding fee is, what the price includes, where your furbaby will sleep, how much time they'll have to socialize with other animals, and how many caregivers are available at any given time.



### PROVIDE DETAILED WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS.

Include your furry friend's diet, feeding times, walking schedule, any medical needs, and other things that the caregiver needs to know. Go over everything with them before you leave.



### KEEP IN TOUCH DAILY.

Make a video call to check in on your doggo or cat if pawssible. They'll love seeing you on the screen and hearing your voice! Otherwise, updates in the form of photos and text messages are also great in letting you know that your companion animal is doing OK.



### LEAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE PET SITTER OR BOARDING FACILITY.

It's also a good idea to include the details of an alternate contact person in case you can't be reached during an emergency.



### PROVIDE YOUR VET'S NAME, PHONE NUMBER, AND ADDRESS, TOO.

If your cat or dog is staying at home, post this information in a location that can be easily seen.



### MAKE SURE THERE IS EXTRA FOOD.

Always leave more than enough food with the boarding facility in case your return is delayed.



### BONUS TIP!

Have your animal microchipped!

If, god forbid, your cat or dog were to get lost, a microchip increases the likelihood that you will be reunited. If your canine or feline friend already has one, see to it that your contact information is up to date.





## HAWAIIAN TREE SNAIL

Hawaiian land snail *Achatinella apexfulva* was the first among their kind to be described in Western Science. Since then, more than 750 species of land snails from the Hawaiian Islands were discovered, according to a 2019 article by Russell McLendon for Mother Nature Network. *A. apexfulva* was driven to extinction by invasive predators including rats, Jackson's chameleons, and rose wolfsnails, a species originally from Central America that caused the extinction of eight other Hawaiian nail species, as reported by McLendon, and also by Jonathan Kantor in a 2019 piece for WhatCulture.com.

In 1997, 10 of these snails were brought to a laboratory in an attempt to breed and reintroduce them to the wild. Although several offspring were produced in the laboratory, none of them survived, except for George. Unfortunately, George, the last of his kind, died on New Year's Day of 2019.



media.com



## ALAOGAS FOLIAGE-GLEANER AND CRYPTIC TREEHUNTER

Alaogas foliage-gleaners and cryptic treehunters were songbirds found in the dense forests of northeastern Brazil, reported McLendon and also Drew MacFarlane in a 2019 article for The Weather Channel. Foliage-gleaners were discovered in 1975 but it took scientists decades to discern that cryptic treehunters were a species of their own.

When deforestation occurred across Brazil as forests were

replaced by plantations and pastures, many unique birds lost their home, to be placed in the "Critically Endangered" category, according to a 2018 article by Patrick Barkham published in The Guardian.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), cryptic treehunters were last seen in 2007 and foliage-gleaners in 2011. They were declared extinct in September 2018.