

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

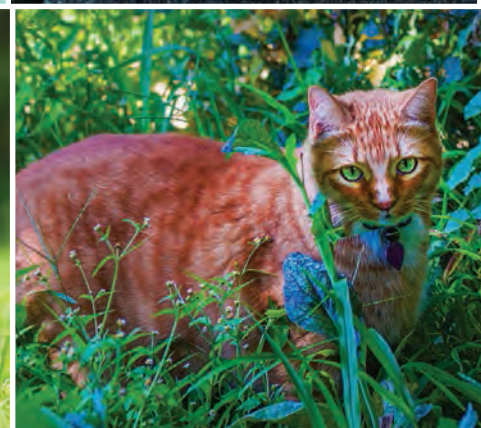
A supplement of the  
**Cortland Standard**

# Cute Companions

From paws and claws to scales and tails!

A special section celebrating our favorite pets

## Featuring Your Pets Photo Gallery



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# Celebrate our pets

Here at the *Cortland Standard*, we love our pets as much as you do.

That's why we're so excited to welcome you to the Cute Companions special section that our tails would be wagging (if we had tails). From paws and claws to scales and tails, we've got something for every animal lover.

In addition to all the helpful care tips and fun facts, check out the Your Pets photo gallery on pages 6-7. We asked our readers to submit pictures of their beloved companions, and they didn't disappoint — this publication is packed with pets!

So snuggle up with your favorite non-human and enjoy.

*Evan Geibel (and Sully)*  
 Publisher (and dog)



## Choosing the right boarding facility for your dog

Do you need to board your dog for the holidays? If so, you'll want to ensure the facility you choose offers quality care. Here are the criteria you should look at.

- ◆ The condition of the place. A good boarding facility should be clean, odor-free and relatively calm. Dogs should look content and stress-free. They should also have proper bedding and water.

- ◆ The amount of space provided. Find out whether the animals are kept in cages or large enclosed areas. You want your dog to be able to move around with ease.

- ◆ The activities offered. Ask about the daily routine, including the number of walks and opportunities for your dog to socialize and play.

- ◆ The food served. Some facilities ask you to bring food while others supply it. If it's the latter, make sure the food doesn't differ too much from what your dog usually eats.

- ◆ The emergency protocols in place. Find out how employees are trained to deal with injuries, illnesses and other urgent situations.

- ◆ The staff's training. Observe



how employees interact with various dogs when you visit the facility. They should also know how to recognize problematic situations before they deteriorate.

- ◆ The behavioral techniques used. Ask the staff about the methods they use to manage stress, discourage aggression and keep dogs in line at the facility.

- ◆ The permits. Depending on the number of dogs they board, the facility might require special certification from the government.

The best way to learn about a particular boarding facility is to arrange a tour. However, make sure you reserve a place sooner rather than later. Availability can be limited, especially around the holidays, and your dog may need to be vaccinated beforehand.

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Nobody delivers a more engaged audience than we do. Our growth online, combined with print, is impressive as more readers turn to us for local news.

# Bundling up your best friend

## Winter weather dog worries

All dogs need to spend plenty of time outdoors in order to get enough exercise, enjoy the fresh air, stimulate their senses and do their business. However, when the temperature drops, you may wonder if it's safe for your pup to be out in the frigid air.

It's important to note that, like humans, dogs can suffer from hypothermia. In fact, their ears, nose, tail and foot pads are susceptible to frostbite. Therefore, it's advisable to keep your pup's outings brief if the temperature drops well below freezing.

When you do take your

dog for a walk in the winter, you must make sure your canine companion is prepared for the weather. There are several factors that influence whether or not your dog should wear a winter coat and boots. You should consider:

◆ The temperature (is the cold tolerable or piercing?)

◆ The duration of the walk (will you be out for five minutes or an hour?)

◆ The planned activity (are you going for a hike or stroll around the block?)

◆ Your dog's breed (short-haired and short-legged dogs tend to get colder faster)

◆ Your pet's age (puppies and older dogs are more vulnerable to cold weather)

◆ Your dog's health (sick, injured or recovering pets should stay inside to keep warm)

If your dog needs to be bundled up for winter walks, visit a local pet shop to find boots and a quality coat that will keep them warm all season.



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# 5 fish for your first aquarium

If you want to set up your first aquarium, you might be wondering which species to adopt. Here are five colorful suggestions that are great for beginners:

## Cape Lopez lyretail



These speckled orange fish live in pairs, and a small aquarium with plenty of plants to hide among will suit them well. Just make sure the tank has a lid because they love to jump.

## Zebrafish



Also known as danio rerio, this is a robust species that lives in schools. Although they're content in room temperature water, zebrafish require a tank volume of at least 52 gallons.

## Betta



These fish come in a variety of colors and can thrive in a modest-sized bowl with warm water. Also known as Siamese fighting fish, you should only have one of this species in an aquarium.

## Cardinal tetra



These active and vibrant fish can live peacefully in a community aquarium. In fact, it's recommended to have at least 10 of this schooling species in a tank.

## Guppy



Commonly called rainbow fish because of their colorful scales, this species is easy to care for and reproduces quickly. To avoid aggressive behavior, a ratio of three females per male is recommended.

# GOING GREEN

5 reasons green-cheeked conures make great pets

Native to the forests and woodlands of South America, the green-cheeked conure has many attributes that make it a wonderful companion.

**1. They're small**

Adult green-cheeked conures are only about 10 inches long, but these small birds have the personality of a big parrot.

**2. They're intelligent**

These curious birds are fast learners and easy to train. While they're not big talkers, you can teach your conure to step up, somersault, wave, roll over and much more.

**3. They're playful**

Known for their acrobatics, conures love to climb, swing and flip. Keep in mind that these

outgoing birds need at least two to four hours of exercise outside their cage every day.

**4. They're affectionate**

Green-cheeked conures thrive on human interaction and love spending time with their owners. They enjoy being pet and might even snuggle up against your neck or cheek.

**5. They're relatively quiet**

While they do chirp, the green-cheeked conure doesn't chatter nearly as loud or as frequently as other parrot species.

With the proper care and diet, you can enjoy the company of a green-cheeked conure for up to 30 years. Visit a local pet shop or animal shelter to learn more about this delightful species.



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**Minnie**  
Kris Beard



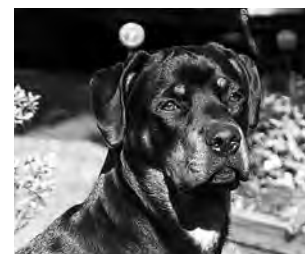
**Chunk**  
Ally Cash



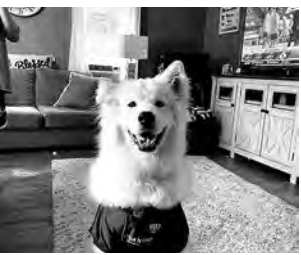
**April**  
Theresa Contento



**Topher**  
Tammy S. Barrows



**Caylee**  
Rebekah Williams



**Oliver**  
Ashley Lee



**Belle**  
Jennifer Hamm Greenfield



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**Murphy**  
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**Ziggy**  
Diane Dafoe



**Daisy**  
Tamara Wyant



**Remi**  
Michelle Rice Barrett



**Mr. Arlo Luis**  
Tonya Proulx



**Dozer**  
Brandy Strauf



**Romeo**  
Jaynee Howe



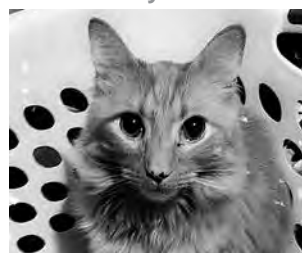
**Ruby**  
Melissa Renee



**Jolene**  
Stephanie Smith Schumacher



**Oliver**  
Stephanie Smith Schumacher



**Garfield**  
Bridget Freeman



**Penny**  
Maddy Schafer



**Chloe**  
Tayler Robins



**Fawny**  
Tayler Robins



**Jester**  
Tayler Robins



**Chloie**  
Diane Foote Gutches



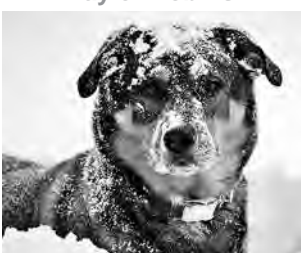
**Cosette**  
Kristina Bishop



**Fettucine**  
Tina Friscaro Brandel



**Rizzo**  
Tina Friscaro Brandel



**Lucca**  
Tina Friscaro Brandel



**Koko**  
Robin Neal



**Plague & Gertie**  
Paula Niederhofer



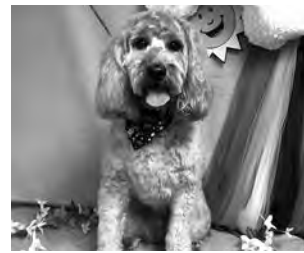
**Thor**  
Christina Cotterill



**Crystal & Bob**  
Kathy Switzer Reynolds



**Sadie & Sophie**  
Kathy Switzer Reynolds



**Charlie**  
Cindy Russell



**Brodie & Mackie**  
Debby Fiorentini



**Cooper**  
Savannah Williams



**Rogan**  
Jody Norris



**Eve**  
Danielle Slade



**Ellie**  
Danielle Slade



**Snickers & Shadow**  
Wilma McAlister



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Allyson Laura



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Denise Huntoon Fullerton



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Tina Bushnell Watkins



**Tiki**  
Tina Bushnell Watkins



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Doreen Hettich-Atkins



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Ricky Russo



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Amber Giamei



**Peyton & Duncan**  
Bridgette Bush



**Max**  
Lara Lieb Meade



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Jean Swisher



**Willie**  
Amanda Filkins



**Tabby**  
Joanna Cimini Tanaka



**Jack & Henry**  
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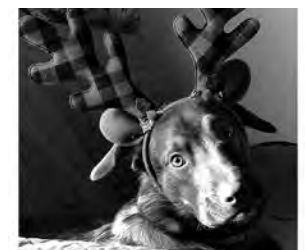
**Dream**  
Jennifer Wing Drake



**Nibs & Paisley**  
Lexa Lou



**Apollo & Ella**  
Margaret Estelle



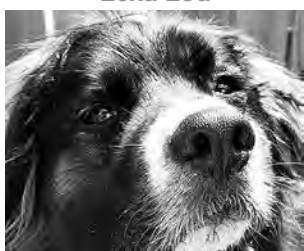
**Dunkin**  
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**Pie & Wilfred**  
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**Elsa & Olaf**  
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**Josie & Lucy**  
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# 4 purr-fectly fun toys for cats

Whether you want to encourage your cats to get more exercise or simply keep them occupied, here are four toys they're sure to love.

## 1. Treat Dispenser

A ball filled with kitty snacks can help keep cats entertained and active. This is a great toy if your feline friends need to lose some weight as they'll have to exert energy to free the treats.

## 2. Cardboard Box

Next time you receive a package, leave the empty box lying around. It won't be long before it becomes a hideout for your cats.

## 3. Laser Pointer

This simple device can keep cats entertained for hours. Your ferocious hunters will get plenty of exercise stalking the dot of light around the floor, over furniture and along



the walls.

## 4. Tunnel

Since cats love to be stealthy, buy them a pop-up tunnel to crawl through or simply tape a bunch of narrow boxes together.

In addition to these options, your local pet store will have an array of affordable cat toys such as a ball with a bell, a vibrating mouse or a feathered tube. Any of these can make great toys for your cats.



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