

Pet Owners: Beware of Plotting Pets

By Allan Ross

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Look Out!

The digital pest of puppy spam, kittens, gerbils, parakeets, lizards and other aw-gee-cute creatures virtually clawing their way into your inbox is about to reach epidemic proportions. Experts are predicting people will soon be flooding social networking sites like Bebo, Spacelocker, and Facebook to share these images and videos more than ever.

Studies suggest the sight of a cute animal can stimulate the same neurological pleasure centers that are aroused by chocolate, sex, and psychoactive drugs. Humanity is wired up to make itself feel good, and social scientists say seeking out such images is becoming a matter of emotional survival as we slide deeper into the financial abyss.

<http://s499.photobucket.com/albums/rr351/AHspaceman/?action=view¤t=adopter1.jpg>

And if you think this is all just coincidence, think again. Instinctively, pets know this all too well, and they've begun using it to successfully promote their cause in cyberspace.

In a recent study, researchers at the Braunsquall Centre for Interspecies Communication in Lone Brow, North Dakota report finding that a variety of pets have the ability to communicate on sophisticated levels.

"It's uncanny," says Leonard O. Buckley, Principal Director of Research. "We've conducted a series of preliminary tests with household pets. Our findings clearly demonstrate that dogs, cats, and parakeets can communicate and execute strategic planning. They've developed effective methods of planting covert tripping hazards, and cleverly making them appear to be completely accidental."

Every day, about 240 Americans wind up in emergency rooms for sprains, fractures, or other injuries from a fall caused by a dog or cat, U.S. researchers say. Researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say dogs and cats account for 88 percent of all fall-related injuries in emergency departments.

Nearly 8 million people go to the emergency room each year to be treated for falls. The CDC researchers found that and an estimated 86,600 of those are caused by dogs or cats, according to its weekly report on death and disease.

Dogs and cats are in this together. The biggest risk, tripping, caused about 31 percent of dog-related and 66 percent of cat-related injuries. Additionally, people falling after being pushed or pulled by dogs accounted for 21 percent of dog-related injuries. Women are 2.1 times more likely to have a pet-related fall than men, researchers note.

The CDC advisory warns pet owners to be aware that their furry friends can cause accidents. Remain vigilant of lurking parakeets too, and consider pet obedience training to reduce fall-related injuries and their related medical bills.

And remember: it's not that it isn't not the truth; it is, after all, April Fool's Day.

<http://www.spacelocker.com>

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Spacelocker is the first school locker on the internet. It connects to friends from various social networks, interact with them in a multitude of ways, play games with them, and share music, pictures and videos with them; all from one place.

Category	Pets
Tags	cyberspace, emergency, falling, pets, tripping hazard
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