

 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pigeons in Paradise

It was encouraging to read the article regarding contraceptives curtailing the pigeon population in Waikiki ("Planned Pigeonhood," March/April 2013). This humane means to control animal overpopulation should be used more often. Baiting tasty food laced with potent contraceptives can reduce rat and mice populations, too. There is no excuse to inhumanely poison and kill animals when more ethical and nonlethal alternatives can decrease their numbers.

— BRIEN COMERFORD, GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS



A Sliver of His Former Self

In a story on feline obesity, we profiled Otto the cat's herculean effort to lose weight ("Junk in the Trunk," July/August 2012). His permanent foster mom recently wrote to update us on his progress.

Otto is doing fabulous! He has gone from a whopping 34 pounds down to his current weight of 17. He now can jump on and off the sofa all by himself. Of course his favorite thing to do is eat, but he is on a strict schedule. He is very happy, though, because since he has lost so much weight, he is now allowed a little bit extra. Otto's favorite toys are his catnip fish and his sock monkey. The more weight he loses, the more he plays, which is fantastic. If he isn't following me around or cuddling, he's in his favorite place: his fluffy bed right in front of the fireplace. He has become the king of the castle.

I am so thankful to the Clementon Animal Hospital staff for getting him on the right track and allowing me to assist in his ultimate weight loss challenge. It is because of them that he has a second chance at a great life.

— STACY FRANEK, COLLINGSWOOD, NEW JERSEY



Pleas for Parrots

"No-Fly Zone" (March/April 2013) was spot on. I've been with my cockatoo companion for about 15 years now, and although she has never been confined to her cage, the guilt I feel about the unnatural and undoubtedly unfulfilling life she lives now outweighs the positive aspects I initially felt. Not to mention the underlying stress of wondering what will happen to her when I am no longer here to take care of her and love her. "No-Fly Zone" should be widely published and read by anyone considering bringing a bird of any kind into the home.

— JIMMY CANNON, VALLEY VILLAGE, CALIFORNIA

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