

Ellie's

# Pet Project

## Welcome to my Pet Project

*Welcome to my Pet Project newsletter! I love pets and I thought it would be fun to make a newsletter about them.*

*All your stories and pictures are great! Thank you so much for sending them in! I hope you have fun reading this newsletter and learning about different kinds of pets. They are all very interesting.*

*Some animals, like rats and spiders, may sound gross. But you'll find out that they're not. So read on and have fun!*

*Ellie*



**Editor:**  
**Ellie Willingham**

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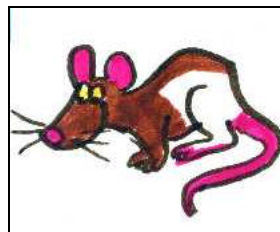
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## My Pet Rat, by Ellie

Some people think rats are yucky, but they're not. Whiskers is my pet rat and he is really friendly! We bought him from a pet shop when he was very young. He was also very tiny...about the size of a full-grown mouse. Whiskers is one year old now and he will be two in August.

He is 16 inches long from head to tail. It seems like a lot of people think rats bite. Whiskers has never bitten anybody. He didn't even bite when we first got him, and he didn't bite the vet when she had to handle him a little roughly a few weeks ago. Whiskers is a beige

hooded rat. That means he has a colored head and shoulders, with a stripe going down his back. He is really pretty, very affectionate and he is my best buddy.



## Cody the Wolf, by Gina Hunter

This is our wolf Cody. He is a Timber Wolf that was purchased by a family that could not handle him. They aren't trainable like dogs are. They have a mind of their own. That's why they don't make good pets!!

We have had him in our lives for about 5 yrs. now and our black shepherd does all the training for us.

A lot of children think wolves are bad because they read books like Li'l Red Riding Hood, but they are really just the opposite

I have taken him to different schools so the kids could see just how gentle they can be. I also take

I would not suggest this kind of pet to just anyone, but he has been a pleasure to us!

him to Anderson Park (a Tarpon Springs park) often so he can socialize, which is very important to a wolf (he loves other dogs!!). Where we live the neighborhood kids come by daily and give



him kind words of confidence, which tells him humans aren't so bad.

My family is his pack: Dakota 5 yrs, Chase 2 yrs, Heinz the Black Shepherd, my husband Jay and my-

self.. I would not suggest this kind of pet to just anyone but he has been a pleasure to us!!!

*Gina Hunter is a homeschooling mom in New Port Richey.*

## Wild World of Wolves, by Ellie



Wolves are wonderful and interesting creatures. I got these facts from a website called "Wild World of Wolves." Here are some facts:

- Baby wolves are born with blue

eyes. As they get older, their eyes turn yellow-gold or sometimes brown or even green.

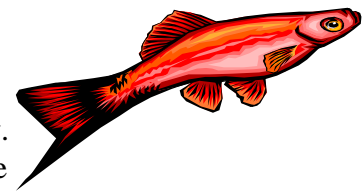
- Wolves can eat almost anything, from small mammals, fish and carrion to bison, elk and moose.
- Wolves can be all different colors such as pure white, yellowish,

brown, gray and blond.

- Wolves make lots of sounds other than howling. They bark, yip, growl and whine.

To learn more about wolves, check out books from the library or go to "Wild World of Wolves" on the web. Have fun!

## Mr. Fishey, by Brooke Williams, 4



I have a pet fish named Mr. Fishey. How we feed Mr. Fishey is we take his lid off and then we just drop the

food into the water, and he eats it real quick when he sees the food.

It was real hard choosing a fish, because we couldn't decide what fish to pick. We need a bigger home for Mr. Fishey, because I think he wants more space to swim around. We don't have any other pets. We just have a fish.

The End.

## Coco and Me, by Mom Willingham

I call my story “Coco and Me” because Coco and I have this interesting relationship....he drives me nuts and then gives me the look in the accompanying photo and melts my heart. He’s also completely bonded with me and I couldn’t get rid of him if I tried — and



I’ve tried! But never too hard.

Coco has been in our family for 28 years! He was my father-in-law’s constant companion for the first 22 years. After Dad passed away, Coco slowly worked his way into our home, both to my chagrin and delight. Coco is a living example of the word “dichotomy.” Go look it up!

Coco is a “White Fronted Amazon” from South America. He doesn’t talk — the small Amazons typically don’t. But he’s got a squawk that rivals Gideon’s trumpet!

Coco’s favorite pastimes are eating, having his

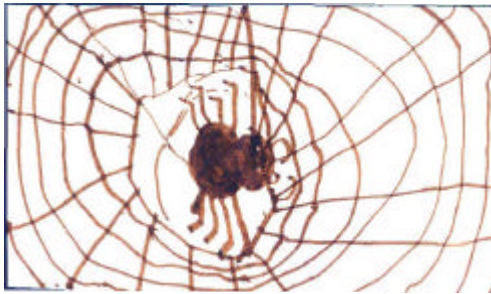
head scratched, eating, squawking, sleeping a little, eating, squawking, getting his head scratched some more — and eating. He doesn’t play much — he’s the only parrot I’ve ever seen that doesn’t. He just sits on his perch or my shoulder and casts disapproving looks at everyone. We’ve always thought of him as Walter Mathau with feathers.

That said, I wouldn’t trade the old feathery codger in for anything! Where else could you find so much love and devotion, wrapped up in such an enchanting — and enduring — little bundle!

## My Pet Jumping Spiders, by Chris Willingham, 7

My spider, John, always runs around when you tap the top of his box. Oh - and don’t forget! -I have two spiders. The other one’s name is Buttercup. But I want to tell you about John first.

John is a jumping spider. But John doesn’t jump that much. John eats love bugs and moths. But the months don’t want to be caught by John. John



is my favorite one, but I don’t hold him. John is brown with a stripe on his back. He is nice.

Buttercup looks very ugly. She has a stripe on her back too. She is a jumping spider like John. She always stays on the top of her cage, and never comes down except for her food. And she made a web in her cage.

My spiders are fun!

## The Scoop on Spiders, by Ellie

I got these facts about spiders from a book called, *The New Creepy Crawly Collection: Spiders*.

- Not all spiders eat bugs. Some eat lizards, frogs or even small birds.
- Some spiders live underwater.

- Some spiders have been around for more than 300 million years.
- It might take up to 12 years for a large type of spider to become an adult.

Spiders aren’t as gross as you think they are. In fact, they’re very in-

teresting!





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