



Your pet is pretty special



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Chloe Long

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Pet News

## PetStreet member's providing stories and articles

A few days ago I asked if members might like to help run the site - help moderate forums, welcome new members, and even help write some editorial like saying something with a point of view or a perspective. It could be about any pet-related subject.

Here's something from Chloe Long.



Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

Pets come in all breeds, shapes and sizes- us owners know that it's not just looks that make our pets appealing but also their individual quirks and charm. However, many owners wouldn't necessarily stop to think about an animal's insides when choosing a new pet, and quite often it's the animals that look a bit different that catch our eye. A very good example of this is the coat colour and pattern of our furry friends. Wild animals, such as rabbits, have a very uniform coat colour which helps to camouflage them- you most likely won't see a black and white bunny when you go for a walk in the countryside- but pet rabbits come in a vast array of colours, patterns and coat types that you'd never see in the wild. This is because we humans have selectively bred for these unusual coat colours over many generations to find the patterns that are most appealing to us and are a bit different from the norm. However, the genes that we pick when selecting things like coat colour aren't always the only thing that we end up changing when these new colour varieties are produced, and often we can inadvertently end up affecting the health of the animal in a negative way. Take degus, for example, which have until very recently only come in their natural agouti (brown) colour. Over the last few years more and more degus with 'blue' coats have been bred, but this colour variety is found to live for a much shorter time than the agouti variety, due in large part to the inbreeding that was needed to produce the original blue stock. We should try to consider whether the outward appearance of our pets is more important to us than their inner health and quality of life, something which, I'm sure you'll agree, most pet owners value above all else.

Article by Chloe Long  
Founder of Degutopia  
Photo: viëtor

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So you can take care of your pet



### Comments

Write a comment to this story

Post



Sue\*End BSL\*  
03 Aug 2010 15:42  
Excellent post , well done x



Chloe  
03 Aug 2010 15:32  
very good article, definitely agree should breed for health not certain colours

Report



paula kewin  
02 Aug 2010 21:58  
I agree with the others it is a very good article . well done

Report



Jacqui \*END B.S.L.\*  
02 Aug 2010 20:59  
Can only agree with previous posters.

Report



sophie  
02 Aug 2010 20:15  
A very intelligent posting and love the picture too.

Report



Tina Knowles  
02 Aug 2010 19:47  
brilliant post Chloe x

Report



Vena \*End BSL\*  
02 Aug 2010 13:59  
Great Post, and i agree that of late to much emphasis is being put on colour rather than the animal itself, trouble is they are messing around with genes/genetics that will alter the animals character as well as health.

Report



Noo aka MMF \*END B.S.L.\*  
02 Aug 2010 13:36  
GREAT POST

Report



Mary \* End B.S.L.\*  
02 Aug 2010 13:32  
Brilliant post.....very well written and put together and very interesting.

A great read and certainly something to think about.....I especially liked this bit [Quote: We should try to consider whether the outward appearance of our pets is more important to us than their inner health and quality of life, something which, I'm sure you'll agree, most pet owners value above all else.]

How right you are, often look's/external appearances far outweigh the true workings and natural life blood within (look at many of the breeds of dogs and cats for example, seen today, bred for appearance over anything else !!!!) - I often think that oneday, we will ruin a many good thing by our constant pursuit of bettering something that is already naturally unique through Mother Nature!.

Report