

left to feed them and clean them out when their tank began to smell like old wee," he recalls. "One day we came back from school to find she had released them into a pool in a local park."

Sharon Comrie, a superintendent with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said: "I remember the effect the original Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles film had on our rehoming centres in 1990. There was a noticeable rise in numbers of terrapins coming into our care after the first film. People are often fooled into thinking they are easy to look after and don't fully consider the time and commitment required to care for them. There can also be a boredom factor because owners can't take them for a walk or cuddle and play with them. They can live for up to 60 years, so the decision to take one on shouldn't be made lightly."

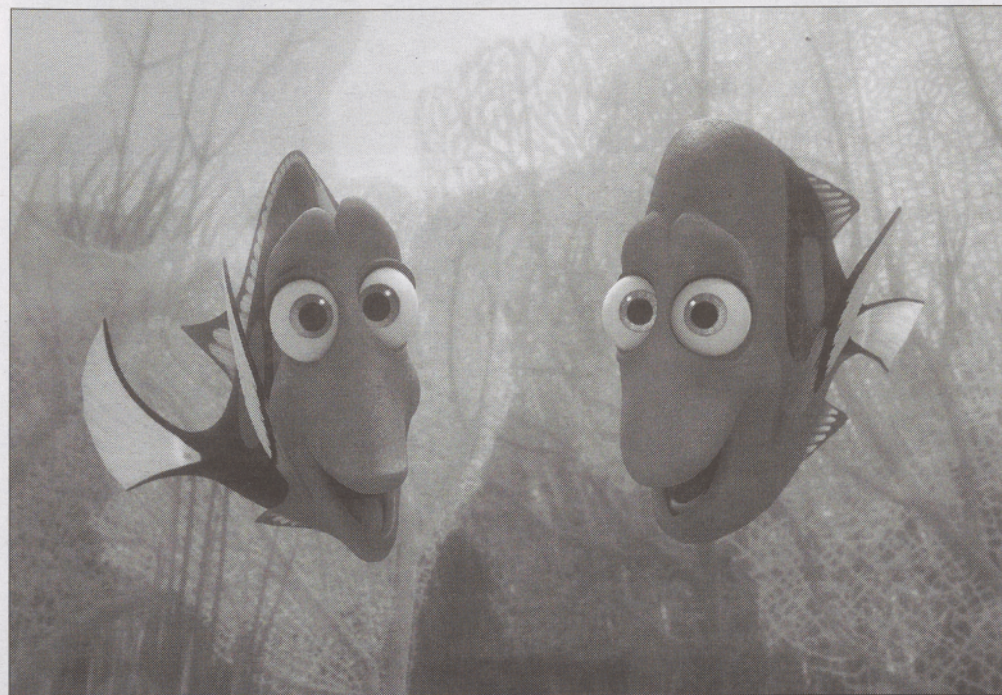
According to a 2014 study by the University of Bristol and the City University of New York, we're a bit more loyal to our furry friends. The fashion for certain breeds of dog can last up to 10 years after a film comes out. Figures from the Kennel Club of Great Britain chart Dalmatian ownership from 906 dogs in 1961, when Disney's 101 Dalmatians was first released, to 3,000 by the end of that decade. Far from dropping off, it remained steady until peaking in 1996 after the release of the live action remake.

So what does this mean for Street Cat Bob, who makes his screen debut this winter? The film, the uplifting true story of Big Issue seller James Bowen and the cat that saved his life, is sure to win the hearts of millions when it is released this winter. Will we see our back gardens overrun with ginger kittens in 2017?

"Famous felines like Street Cat Bob tug at the heartstrings and highlight important issues surrounding cats in need – and if that helps abandoned and stray cats find their forever families, it can't be a bad thing," said Caroline Cook from Your Cat magazine. "However, anyone who sees a film and wants to get a pet 'just like that one' needs to think carefully about whether they can make that commitment for the animal's lifetime, both financially and emotionally."

So when the kids start to pester for a Hollywood pet this summer, the safest bet might be to head to the shops and buy a cuddly plush version. No tanks to clean out for 60 years, no stinging blue tangs in the living room, no unexpected litters of puppies or kittens – and you'll protect the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystem, while saving animal rehoming charities a whale of work. It's a small price to pay. After all, everyone knows fish can't talk, Dalmatians don't get married, and turtles don't eat pizza.

Courtesy of INSP.ngo / The Big Issue UK bigissue.com @ BigIssue



Dory's parents, Jenny and Charlie, from the Pixar film "Finding Dory."

The man who's saving Dory

This summer, marine biologists at the University of Florida shared groundbreaking news: for the first time blue tang fish, AKA the star of Finding Dory, were successfully bred in captivity.

This is hugely significant. Every blue tang in an aquarium right now was taken from the wild, most illegally.

The breakthrough follows six years of research, funded by Rising Tide Conservation. The first positive signs appeared in late May, when one of the breeding team, Kevin Barden, was working with 50,000 eggs. "We were entering unknown territory," marvelled the Dory daddy. "It was a complete roller-coaster ride."

That number reduced drastically as eggs died off but on June 20 he discovered hundreds of blue tang larvae. On July 4 a group settled in the bottom of the tank, and one week later 27 were identifiably growing into 'baby Dorys'. Judy St. Leger, president of Rising Tide Conservation, described it as a "new chapter," offering for the first time a choice over where the fish come from.

Living mainly on coral reefs or rocky inshore waters, blue tang are found from east Africa to Japan, Australia to New York. It is estimated that a quarter of a million are sold globally each year, not counting those that die in transit.

Many are illegally harvested by divers squirting cyanide on the reef, stunning the fish, which are then scooped up. Effects of the poison include suffocation and central nervous system damage, while reefs suffer vast, long-lasting or terminal damage. The ability to breed them in captivity could drastically reduce damage to fish and reefs.



PHOTO BY JOE GLODE

Ukrainian soldier Leonid Maslov pins a medal on Michael Zaslavsky, who helped to send military and medical supplies to the front lines. Maslov visited Portland recently and awarded two men with civilian medals for their contributions to the effort from Portland.

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served as a consultant for ousted Ukrainian president Viktor F. Yanukovich. Slate recently described Manafort as a man who's "made a career out of stealthily reinventing the world's nastiest tyrants as noble defenders of freedom."

When crowds of Ukrainian protesters seized control of Yanukovich's property in 2014, it was revealed the corrupt politician was living in the lap of luxury in his opulent palace. According to The Telegraph, a logbook showed that for every day he was in office, he paid an average of \$1.4 million in bribes. He successfully sought asylum in Russia.

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Maryland), a ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, has called into question the Republican platform's alluded-to position that the U.S. should not provide military assistance to Ukraine.

"There is broad, bipartisan support for standing steadfast with Ukraine through political, economic and military support after Russia's invasion two years ago. Russia's aggression violated international law, robbed Ukraine of its sovereign territory, and killed and wounded thousands of people," he wrote in a letter he penned for The New York Times.

Locally, Mitkov-Baklanovsky said the Russian-speaking community is split politically by the annexation of Crimea and the war in Ukraine. He is a Russian descendent himself, but native to Ukraine.

"People who support Ukraine in this conflict will vote against Donald Trump," he said.

As Maslov flipped through his slide show that evening, he showed pictures of buildings that had been reduced to rubble, while sharing humorous stories from the battlefield. He told his audience about a close call by one of his fellow soldiers – he was nearly bombed when drunkenly making coffee in an attempt to sober up. And he laughed as he told them about the time he was "sofa fighting" at 4 a.m. with a pro-Russian man in Odessa through Facebook. He was threatening to kill him through online messages, but at the same time he was on night shift, listening to radio chatter with bullets flying all around him.

But right before ending his backyard presentation, Maslov's mood turned.

"I have to do necessary speeches," he said. He continued in Ukrainian, and Zaslavsky translated.

"Several of my friends perished in the war. Military friends. Some of them were very close friends. I had to put together parts of the bodies of some of them. I had to collect them and put into garbage bags," he said. Then he paused and turned away, taking a sip of his beer as he futilely attempted to hold back his tears.

"I hope they died for good purpose," he said.

"The longer you stay away from Ukraine, it fades with time. So when people describe the war, and that it's still going on and people still need help, they feel more connected and willing to help."

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