

Pets and their People

In association with

pets
at home

Who is he? Lewi, a West Highland terrier who is seven years old.
Rates? His bed, car rides, meeting up with doggy pals.
Hates? Having his teeth brushed, showers, postmen.
Owner Luke Marsden, Wigan, Greater Manchester.



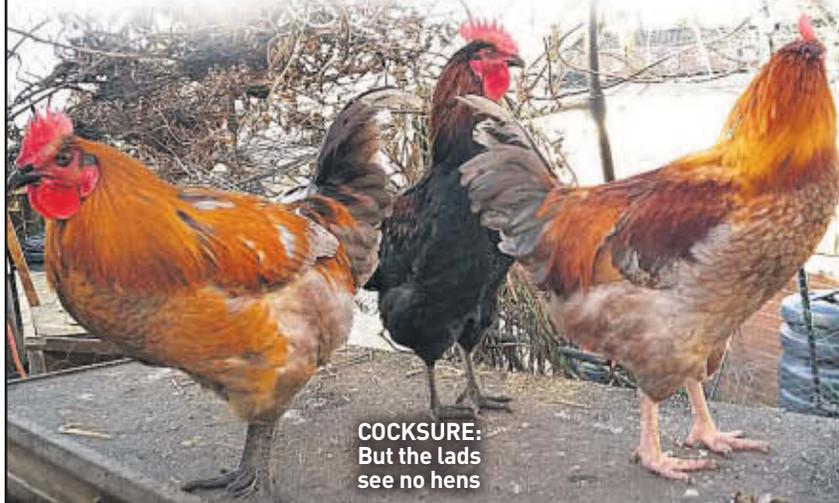
CHEWY: Lewi

Pet of the WEEK

To nominate your Pet of the Week, email or write to us with details and a photo. We can't return pictures, so if it is precious send a copy. Send to **Pet of the Week**, PO Box 4016, London, E14 5BH. Or email pets@people.co.uk and mark it Pet of the Week.

A CHICK MAGNET

Website for lovelorn cockerels



COCKSURE: But the lads see no hens

by Emma Donnan

IT'S not just humans in need of romance this Valentine's Day.

Unlucky-in-love cockerels are being offered hope through a website that aims to match them with hens.

The British Hen Welfare Trust has set up the lonely hearts-style site to find homes for sad cockerels.

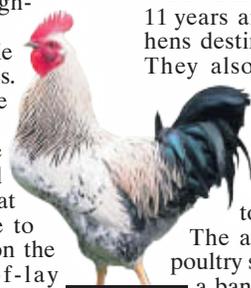
These chaps are already the chosen few. Repeated mating can exhaust females so only one male is allowed to survive for every eight to ten hens.

Cyril, a four-month-old in Yorkshire, is crowing about himself on the site.

He is described as: "Handsome good looks, sporty, enjoys early mornings and kitchen treats, among other animal passions. Dislikes offers to become Sunday dinner and neighbours who like quiet."

Valder, Silver and Goldie are also looking for homes. At 17 weeks old they have started fighting

BHWT founder Jane Howorth said: "We love all poultry here and know that many cockerels struggle to find a home. We focus on the rehoming of end-of-lay commercial hens but felt it might



LONELY: Solo bird

be helpful to try to find chaps somewhere so they can live with a flock of hens, as nature intended."

For many cockerels the website offers a last chance. Failing to find a home can mean they are culled.

Cockerels are less popular as pets than hens because they don't lay eggs and crowing can be an annoyance.

Table

Some make hardly any noise at all but others can be crowing with all their lung power from the early hours.

Backyard chicken keeping is on the rise but in more urban areas the noise can attract complaints from neighbours. Owners can even be charged over the noise by environmental health officers.

The BHWT has been running for 11 years and has rehomed 552,000 hens destined for the dinner table. They also provide education on welfare.

To see if you can rehome a cockerel, visit bhwt.org.uk/cockerels.

But love birds will have to wait until March to meet. The avian flu outbreak means poultry should not be shifted until a ban on moving them is lifted on February 28.

Predators not fair game

TOUGHER rules are needed to protect birds of prey from gamekeepers, the RSPB has said.

The charity believes the predators are killed to protect grouse reared for game shoots.

It received 246 reports of birds of prey being shot, trapped or

poisoned in 2015, including peregrines, hen harriers, red kites and buzzards. But the RSPB fears this is only a fraction of the total.

RSPB conservation boss Martin Harper said: "There is public support to reform driven grouse shooting. People care deeply."



First Hello
The FREE and fun way to learn all about pets

Throughout the school holidays, our FREE pet workshops give your children the chance to meet furry, scaled and finned friends, and find out how to keep them happy and healthy. Most of all, your kids will have fun – and it'll keep them occupied for an hour!

Book your child's FREE place at petsathome.com/workshops

ASK the VET

OUR vet **Brian Faulkner**, from Petplan, has 16 years of experience and is a freelance working all over the country. Send your questions to Brian at: **Petplan, Great West House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9DX** or via Petplan's Facebook page [facebook.com/PetplanUK](https://www.facebook.com/PetplanUK).

Q OUR dog, who is six, has had three urinary tract infections in the past 18 months. They clear up with antibiotics – but why is she getting so many?



BRIAN replies: The most common cause of recurrent UTIs is urinary calculi. Calculi are small crystals or stones that form in the urine and grind the bladder wall, damaging the lining so it gets infected. It is common in middle-aged dogs. Antibiotics will treat the infection but not the primary cause. This will require a special diet, depending on the type of crystal.

If you have a story about wildlife email us at pets@people.co.uk

my **PetPals** at
FREE WORKSHOPS

pets at home

Dequ workshop, Ashton store