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YoungMoversGlasgow



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YoMo NeLe

THE NEWSLETTER FOR YOUNG MOVERS

Welcome to the fourth edition of YoMo NeLe!

It's been over a year since lockdown first began, you'll see Connor's thoughts on that as well as one of the viewing habits he's gotten into during the year. And while holiday's come and gone, as Mhairi's debut piece about caring for them will show, rabbits aren't just for Easter!

Before we get to all that though, here's the second in YoMo staff profiles. This time: YoMo's Development Officer, Caitlin!

I started working at YoMo in 2013/2014 when I moved to Glasgow to go to university. I started by doing some admin and sessional work at just a few hours a week but slowly that started building up as I got more involved and excited about the different projects.

I then secured the role of the YouthBank Coordinator, which was a dream come true after being a Young Grant Maker myself when I was younger.

Since then, I've been involved in so many amazing projects with young people (too many to name them all) but some highlights have been participatory budgeting projects, countless amazing residentials and trips and also helping young people to develop resources or events they are passionate about!

I love working at YoMo as it is always evolving, and we always try to get involved in as many opportunities as we can.

My hopes for the future would be to continue with the amazing mental health projects created by young people and maybe even a second positive mental health event. Can't wait to see what we get up to this year and beyond as we continue to grow & develop.



Caitlin out delivering Winter Hardship Vouchers in January

NEXT

Mhairi busts rabbit myths

RABBIT MYTHBUSTERS

BY MHAIRI

There are a lot of myths about rabbits in the world. As an experienced owner/breeder, I have come across these myths over and over again. Since rabbits are becoming more common as pets, these myths need to be cleared up.

Short Life Spans

As rabbits are not as common pets unlike cats and dogs. People automatically think they don't live for long. Actual rabbits live longer than you think. Their average lifespan is 7-12 years.

Because it was Easter recently, my favorite saying is "I'm not an easter gift, I'm a 10 year commitment. And 3 months from now, when I am biting and spraying you with pee, you'll wish I was chocolate instead."

Taking Two Of The Same Gender

This might sound crazy but rabbits can change gender if kept in twos of the same gender from young to around 12 weeks old. This is an instinct from the wild to allow them to survive and reproduce.

I can promise it's happened to us and other breeds. We had two Doe's together from birth. We had them together while they were still 12 weeks old because my dad was still making a cage. By the time the cage was made, one of them was a Buck.

This is really common with pet shops, as they're in pairs from a younger age. If you head up with a litter after buying from a pet shop, just keep in mind the shop isn't always wrong with the gender of the rabbits.

Low Maintenance And Care

People think rabbits are low maintenance. Rabbits need a lot more time and care than people believe. They still need to go to the vet like any other animal, and the vet bills can be expensive, as they need to be neutered and vaccinated. At the moment rabbits need to get two lots of vaccinations.

The first one is for myxomatosis and VDH-RHD 1. Myxomatosis and VDH-RHD 1 are both flea borne viruses. Without the injections, rabbits can die within 2 weeks.

The second one is VDH-RHD 2. This is a strand from France which was carried over by a rabbit with the virus. Without the injection rabbits can pass away within only 48 hours of catching the virus.

Both of the VDH-RHD strands are contagious between rabbits.

Cages And Space

Cages really depend on the size of your rabbits. Having a cage for your rabbit is the main place where they will sleep and do the toilet. Cages need to be roomy but not too big. There are a lot of rabbit breeds who get scared in big spaces. Make sure you have a larger space than the cage for play time. If you think your area is big, have a house in it.



Drawing by Lyndsey



The writer with YoMo's Natalie (Left) and Monty (Right)

NEXT

Connor vs. Lockdown... & Sumo?!

LOCKDOWN SUCKS!!!!!!

BY CONNOR

It's been over a year now since we went into lockdown. There's specifications on tiers and restrictions that would mean we haven't technically been in lockdown this whole time, but to me that's pedantry. Ever since this country began taking the pandemic seriously, life has not been the same. It is hard to see it ever returning to a previous "normal", however one may define said normal.

For a lot of people the change their lives underwent was palpable. Jobs they couldn't do now; School they couldn't go to; Businesses they couldn't run; Plans for the future ruined. There was a lot of things to point to as collateral damage. For myself though, it was different. I was unemployed and I barely went out. The furthest I went from my house in the past year is probably Springburn because that's where the job centre is. I wasn't going to any gigs or clubs on a regular basis, all my friends were on the computer living somewhere else. On paper I had very little tangible change to my circumstances.

But it wasn't government mandated that I live that way before last year.

I remember seeing a few people who would classify themselves as shut-ins remark during the beginning of lockdown that they had always lived their life in lockdown. "Welcome to our world, normal people" sort of sentiment. I have this to say to those people -- Get real.

There is a big difference between not doing something because you don't feel like it and not doing something because you're not allowed to.

There's a lot of talk about things people have started over lockdown; things they found more time for. Personally, there's nothing I got into specifically with the incentive of the lockdown, but I suppose if we want to talk about stuff we've gotten more into during the past year....

SUMO RULES!!!!

2020 was the year where I got fully into Sumo wrestling. There's a tournament every two months that lasts 15 consecutive days and I watch each day on Youtube, usually with my friends. The Sumo Association's grappling with virus restrictions has been a rocky road, but a combo of testing wrestlers and keeping attendance at the Ryogoku Kokugikan venue at a limit allows them to run tournaments like the recently-finished Haru Bashi in March.

This tournament like all others was an emotional journey. Former Ozeki (second-best rank) Terunofuji regained his rank by winning the whole thing, ending a four year long journey of hardship and recovery all the way from the bottom.

For me though, I was pulling for another former Ozeki, Takayasu, to win it all. After years of looking broken down, he used his veteran guile in this tournament to rack up a lot of wins. Former Yokozuna Kisenosato has said that he's waiting for Takayasu to win one before he opens his own stable, so my friends and I got our hopes up.

On the final day though, the Bulgarian Aoiyama crushed him, along with those hopes.

This vivid feeling of pathos is one of the many reasons that Sumo has become something I love very dearly. I'm looking forward to the Natsu Bashi in May!

