

CLICK HERE



Under the Influence

With Terry O'Reilly

Saturdays at 11:30AM



News

Sports

Music

Radio

TV

My Region

More

Watch

Listen

Search



CBCnews | Community

IN THE NEWS

- House hunting woes
- Interest rate tips
- Ebola crisis
- Snowy owl epidemic

- Home
- World
- Canada
- Politics
- Business
- Health
- Arts & Entertainment
- Technology & Science
- Community
- Weather
- Video

- Community
- Community Blog

Your Community Blog

Man spends over \$500 on surgery for constipated pet goldfish

by Lauren O'Neil Posted: January 5, 2015 3:47 PM | Last Updated: January 5, 2015 3:53 PM

Categories: Community



It's not unusual to hear of pet owners spending [hundreds](#) — if not [thousands](#) — of dollars at the veterinarian's office to help their cats and dogs recover from illness.

When faced with an ailing goldfish, on the other hand, most people seem content to let their finned-friends flounder until it's time to hit the toilet bowl express.

For a pet that costs as little as [20 cents to replace](#) (and usually lacks the ability to form any sort of emotional bond with humans) this is often the most viable solution for goldfish owners.

It's not the only solution, however, as a widely-circulated story from the U.K. is showing many online this week.



Constipated goldfish operated on

A goldfish lover from Norfolk paid hundreds of pounds in vets' fees when his pet became constipated. The owner took his ailing fish to Toll Barn Veterinary Centre in North Walsham where vets told him it was constipated and an operation would cost about £300.

BBC

6064 shares



More Stories under Community

- '90s kids rejoice as Internet Archive releases 2,300 MS-DOS games for free
- Political cartoonists react to Charlie Hebdo shooting deaths
- Facebook privacy hoax dupes users into sharing bogus 'copyright' notice

More entries for category: Community

ADVERTISEMENT

BE PART OF THE

Figure Skating

STORY ON CBC SPORTS

CLICK HERE TO SHARE YOUR STORIES & PICS

Stay Connected with CBC News

- Mobile
- Facebook
- Podcasts
- Twitter
- Alerts
- Newsletter

Meet the Community Team



CBC News Community team, from left to right: Andrew Yates, Lauren O'Neil, John Bowman

If you're part of the CBC News community, you're likely to meet one of us: we're the folks working to produce and promote your stories. [Read more about us.](#)

Other Your Community Entries

Most Recent

- 'Bae' is even less cool now, thanks to brands on Twitter
- Man spends over \$500 on surgery for constipated pet goldfish
- CBC readers question whether Dalhousie went far enough with suspensions
- Play-Doh freaks parents out with penis-shaped 'extruder tool'
- INTERACTIVE VIDEO: 5 times Canada won the internet in 2014

Tag Cloud

According to [BBC News](#), a man from Norfolk, England recently paid £300 (about \$540 Cdn) to have his sick goldfish treated a local

veterinarian's office.

Vet Faye Bethell of Toll Barn Veterinary Centre in North Walsham, England, examined the fish when it was brought in and determined that constipation was the problem.

After consulting with the pet's owner to be sure he wanted to shell out for the procedure, Bethell performed an hour-long surgery on the fish to remove "a lump blocking its bottom" with the help of two veterinary nurses.

"We've got one nurse who bubbles anaesthetic gas through a tube that goes in through its mouth and over its gills, and then we have a second nurse to monitor with a probe to check the heart rate," Bethell told the BBC. "Obviously, we discussed all the options [with its owner] and he made the decision to go for surgery."



Bethell [told The Telegraph](#) that the three-inch-long fish (whose name has not been revealed) made a full recovery after the life-saving operation — which involved removing the blockages with a scalpel, stitching the fish shut, and covering its scales with a special waterproof glue.

"The issue was the fish couldn't poo and it would have eventually become toxic and it would have died," she explained. ""There was nothing special about the fish. He just liked it a lot. People love their pets - but that was an expensive little goldfish."

Being that goldfish in captivity can have a lifespan of up to 30 years in captivity, the almost 3-year-old fish's owner may actually have gotten *some* bang for his buck... though not everyone online agrees with his decision.

- 'Bae' is even less cool now, thanks to brands on Twitter
- Man spends over \$500 on surgery for constipated pet goldfish
- CBC readers question whether Dalhousie went far enough with suspensions

Arts & Entertainment Business
Canada Community
Community Reaction Health law
Photo Contest Politics POV
Science & Technology
social media Sports Storify
storify Technology Top 5 at 5
Twitter U.S. World

Categories

Add category (2)
Arts & Entertainment (590)
Ask CBC News (12)
Ask Dr. Karl (8)
Business (367)
Canada (2405)
Community (4235)
Features (106)
Health (433)
Interview
News Promo (497)
Politics (770)
Science & Technology (747)
Sports (193)
Transparency (55)
World (1546)

Archives »

2015 (3)
▼ January (3)
'Bae' is even less cool now, thanks to brands on Twitter
Man spends over \$500 on surgery for constipated pet goldfish
CBC readers question whether Dalhousie went far enough with suspensions



Liz
@eliz_heath

Follow

My fish are my oldest friends but I wouldn't pay any money for surgery

5:14 PM - 2 Jan 2015

1 FAVORITE

← ↻ ★



Mukhatshelwa Nzama

Follow



As crazy as the Norfolk pet owner's actions may seem to some, it's worth noting that his goldfish is not the first to make headlines for undergoing complicated surgery.

Just a few months back, veterinarians in Melbourne, Australia [removed a tumour from the head](#) of a 10-year-old goldfish named George.

George's owners — who reportedly own 39 other goldfish — were happy to shell out S200 AUS (about \$190 Cdn) for the procedure.

"We love pulling up a chair and just sitting next to the pond, it's so relaxing just to watch them," they said at the time. "They're not just things in the water ... they're characters."

How much would you pay to save a pet's life? Weigh in with your own stories and thoughts below.

Related stories



Constipated goldfish operated on
(TheGeorgeHotel)

Constipated goldfish's life saved with \$465... (Samwills)

Tags: storify

[Back to Your Community Home](#)

Previous Post

CBC readers question whether Dalhousie went far enough with suspensions

Next Post

'Bae' is even less cool now, thanks to brands on Twitter

Comments on this story are moderated according to our [Submission Guidelines](#). Comments are welcome while open. We reserve the right to close comments at any time.

[Login](#) | [Signup](#)

96 Comments

Commenting is now closed for this story.
[Follow](#)

Newest



VetWhoLovesFish

To all those who say he should have flushed the fish, here are some questions to ponder.

1) Is it humane to kill an animal this way? No, it is not. What do you think happens to the poor fish once it is sucked down the toilet?

2) Is a fish worthy of less love than a cat or dog? How about a snake? Or a bird? Or a hamster? The Human-Animal bond is complex and can be quite strong. The size or species of animal doesn't matter. And the arbitrary price put on it by someone at a pet store doesn't... » more

1 day ago 1 Like

[Like](#) [Share](#)



unclebuck10

@VetWhoLovesFish

Has a gold fish got a brain???

1 day ago 0 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



eduardoscalazi

Hard to know when you've crossed the line

1 day ago 0 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



winoforlife

That problem could have been easily solved with one flush, I flushed my kid's fish down the pooper just for having a bad attitude. That \$500 could have gone to the local food bank and fed hungry children for week. Just a little perspective on that mater.

2 days ago 2 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



Jilly Baker

@winoforlife

I'm curious as to how the fish demonstrated the bad attitude. Would you please explain?

1 day ago 2 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



unclebuck10

@winoforlife

I suggested the same thing and got pinked for the comment go figure!

1 day ago 0 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



badconduct

Are you sure that's a goldfish, and not a Koi?

2 days ago 1 Like

[Like](#) [Share](#)



MASSEY JONES

@badconduct

Exactly.

There's a world of difference in price.
Especially if the owner is knowledgeable about fishes (as a hobby)

1 day ago 0 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



SeniorsRule

Toss it on the barbie and cut your losses.

2 days ago 1 Like

[Like](#) [Share](#)



Big Bad Wolf

Too hilarious! Constipated Gold fish!May I suggest putting raw bran in their food pellets or having someone perform a delicate enema on the little rascals.

2 days ago 0 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



Just a Name

Sorry, we don't spend big money on pets. We do have a couple kids over seas who we spend dollars to support. Do you know for the price of caring for 1 dog you could help two starving kids in Africa get educated?

2 days ago 0 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



I pay your taxes.

@JimBob59

But in my defense, Jim, I really like my cat and barely know your kids.

2 days ago 4 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



I9ftcoast

@JimBob59

Would you still be helping those kids if you weren't allowed to brag about it?

2 days ago 3 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



Creekfarm58

People can spend their money on pets as they please. I am thankful for any compassionate person in this world, where typically greed rules. People with love in their hearts are precious. Thanks to all of them!

2 days ago 5 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



Macanta

I ended up paying \$1100 on my constipated cat. I was lead along a path of increasing veterinary costs starting from an estimate of \$300 to an ever-increasing bill. It can be a slippery slope. That was a couple of years ago and we still have the cat. The whole family loves this cat, but he has now expended his lifetime budget for medical intervention. I hope that he has a few more years to enjoy.

2 days ago 5 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



I pay your taxes.

@Macanta

Hee hee. I told my story earlier in the comment thread. Suffice to say 3 months after spending a small fortune removing wool from my cat, the little weasel ate some more. My wife and I looked at his stupid, goofy face, and the two ends of drooly yarn on either side of him. I said to his royal dumbness "The first one was on me, this one is all you."

Thankfully he's still kicking. And biting. And scratching.

2 days ago 3 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)



TalktotheHand

I think its great he cared enough about his pet to save it.

2 days ago 8 Likes

[Like](#) [Share](#)

Show More

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. By submitting your comments, you acknowledge that CBC has the right to reproduce, broadcast and publicize those comments or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever. Please note that comments are moderated and published according to our [submission guidelines](#).

CBC.ca

[Aboriginal](#)
[Books](#)
[Contests](#)
[Digital Archives](#)
[Documentaries](#)
[Kids](#)
[Kids' CBC Preschool](#)

[Kids' CBC Wonder World](#)
[Music](#)
[News](#)
[Parents](#)
[Program Guide](#)
[Radio](#)
[Sports](#)
[Television](#)

[Subscriptions](#)
[CBC Player](#)
[CBC Shop](#)

CORPORATE

[About CBC](#)
[Transparency and Accountability](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Production Facilities](#)
[Mobile Production Rentals](#)
[Ombudsman](#)
[CBC: Get the Facts](#)
[Independent Producers](#)

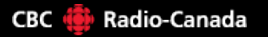
[Public Appearances](#)
[Pitch a Radio or Audio Program](#)
[Program and Content Sales](#)
[Archive Sales](#)
[Educational Sales](#)
[Image Research Library & Still Photos](#)
[Consumer Recordings](#)
[Digital TV](#)

STAY CONNECTED

[MOBILE](#) | [RSS](#) | [PODCASTS](#) | [MEMBER SERVICES: NEWSLETTERS & ALERTS](#)

[Terms Of Use](#) [Reuse & Permissions](#) [Advertise](#) [Privacy](#) [Site Map](#) [Help](#) [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © CBC 2015



cbc.radio-canada.ca cbc.ca radio-canada.ca