

DOG FANCY

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

DOG FANCY

THE WORLD'S MOST WIDELY READ DOG MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2010

DO YOU NEED A PET CAM?

Tillman takes to the slopes p. 8

OUCH! STOP THE PAIN OF DYSPLASIA p. 36

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DOG BREEDING DIRECTOR

Are you a tech phobe?



Mobile CamViewer

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE LIVE ON YOUR CELL PHONE

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...the sun moved to the other side of the house, the dog jumped down and got out of the room

...live in time... says Gloria Moccione, CEO and...
...the Vue...
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...r dogs...
...are...
...are allowed to visit them in person. Dog breeders even use them so you can watch your new puppy before he's old enough to go home

■ **Wi-Fi capability.** Those that aren't wireless require an Ethernet cable, so they have to be located near your computer or router.

■ **iPhone or cell phone access.** Most camera systems we tested allow you to view the video feed from your iPhone, and some work with other mobile phones that have web-browsing capabilities. One subscription service, MobileCamViewer by mobiDEOS, doesn't come with a camera, but allows you to check your own web cam on about 95 percent of the cell phones on the market today.

■ **Social networking capabilities.** If your dog is particularly amusing, you can capture his



A pet cam can help you keep an eye on your dog — and home — while you're away.

Are you a techno-phobe?

Despite fancy features and highfalutin technology, all the pet cameras we tried were surprisingly easy to set up, taking just minutes from unpacking to viewing the video stream. Although some were easier to operate than others, setups generally seemed to be designed for the technologically challenged. Advanced features, like setting e-mail alarms or routing videos to YouTube and Twitter, were more complicated, but most pet camera companies have troubleshooting guides, online help, and technical help lines to assist you in getting your camera up and running.

THE DOG FANCY ONLINE POLL

Would you set up a pet cam in your home?

- Yes, I already have one.
- Maybe, I've thought about it.
- No, I don't think it's necessary.

dog jumped on and basked all day. "When the sun moved to the other side of the house, the dog jumped down and got out of the room just in time," says Gioia Messinger, CEO and founder of Avaak, manufacturer of the Vue.

Pet cams can do more than offer a glimpse into your dog's home-alone life. Doggie day-care centers sometimes use pet cams so their clients can check on their dogs. Some veterinarians use them so people can see their dogs recovering from surgery before they are allowed to visit them in person. Dog breeders even use them so you can watch your new puppy before he's old enough to go home with you.

Pet cameras can be fun, too. "You can catch your dog doing some pretty hilarious things, which you can record and send to your friends via e-mail, YouTube, or Twitter," Koyama says.

Inspect these gadgets

Pet cameras come in a wide range of prices — about \$99 to \$299 — with a variety of features. In general, most work by connecting a camera to a computer or your network router. Using a software or web-based interface, you can view the video stream over the Internet from another location.

The camera you should buy depends on the features that matter to you. Some of the features we discovered include:

- **Video quality.** More expensive cameras tend to have larger, clearer images. Grainier videos are still interesting to watch, however. Some cameras, like Panasonic's pet cams, also let you adjust resolution and choose whether to favor clarity or motion.
- **Audio.** Do you want to hear your pet barking, or plug in a speaker and talk to him through a microphone? You can with the Mole by Astak.
- **Motion detection.** The Mole and Panasonic pet cams can be set to snap a photo or record

a video when the camera detects movement and alert you via e-mail or Twitter — handy if you're trying to catch your dog doing something specific, like raiding the trash or jumping on the forbidden couch.

- **Multiple cameras.** Some systems come with more than one camera. The Vue comes with two and can support up to 50.
 - **Remote scanning.** You can get a full view of your pet's activity with a camera, like the Mole, that can "look" around the room.
 - **Wireless cameras.** Put them anywhere and move them at will. The Vue cameras are battery-operated; the batteries last about a year. Other cameras require a nearby power source.
 - **Wi-Fi capability.** Those that aren't wireless require an Ethernet cable, so they have to be located near your computer or router.
 - **iPhone or cell phone access.** Most camera systems we tested allow you to view the video feed from your iPhone, and some work with other mobile phones that have web-browsing capabilities. One subscription service, MobileCamViewer by mobiIDEOS, doesn't come with a camera, but allows you to check your own web cam on about 95 percent of the cell phones on the market today.
 - **Social networking capabilities.** If your dog is particularly amusing, you can capture his caught-on-video cuteness and share it with friends and family via the pet cam company's website or through e-mail, YouTube, or Twitter. Panasonic hosts an online community called SeeMyPetCam.com for pet lovers to share their videos as well as advice, article links, and other pet information.
 - **Collar camera.** Have you ever wanted to see the world through your dog's eyes? With the Pet's Eye View Camera, manufactured by Uncle Milton, you can. The camera takes still photos and can be set to take a picture every one, five, or 15 minutes.
- Whether you put your pet camera on the ground to survey the food bowl, hang it from the ceiling for a bird's eye view of your dog's favorite spot, or aim it on that sunny spot in the backyard, pet cams can keep you amused, alert you to safety issues at home, and foster a closer bond between you and your dog. You may not always get to be together, but with a pet cam, you can feel closer, wherever you are. **tr**

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To compare pet camera specs and features, visit DogChannel.com/extras