

Spring/Summer 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## James Cheung is Little Dolittle

Founded by James Cheung and tucked away on the outskirts of the Peak District in Tibshelf, Little Dolittle is a boarding service for small animals. Little Dolittle also offers specialised home visit services and a grooming service for guinea pigs.

Little Dolittle has a passion for animals and their welfare, driving its commitment to providing only the best care for your furry (and sometimes not-so-furry) family members. The team is passionate and highly qualified, boasting an impressive array of certifications and years of hands-on experience in animal care. Every pet entrusted to Little Dolittle receives the highest care and attention, giving pet owners peace of mind.

Embodying a blend of professional care, expertise, and a warm, animal-friendly environment, Little Dolittle is the go-to retreat for pet owners who seek nothing but the best for their small animals.

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## Top tips for keeping your small pets cool this summer

### Provide ample shade and ventilation

Ensure all pets have access to shaded areas throughout the day, particularly during peak sun hours. For indoor pets, keep rooms well-ventilated and consider using fans to circulate air without directly pointing them at the animals.

### Keep them hydrated

Fresh, clean water should be available at all times. Consider adding extra water bowls or bottles and check them throughout the day to ensure they're full and the water hasn't warmed too much.

### Create cool retreats

For small pets, such as hamsters, rats, and guinea pigs, offer cooling mats or tiles to lie on. You can also freeze water bottles wrapped in towels to snuggle against.

### Limit exercise to cooler times

For those pets needing exercise, try to do this in the early morning or evening when temperatures are lower.

### Monitor for heat stress

Be vigilant for signs of heatstroke, including excessive panting, drooling, lethargy, or uncoordinated movements.

Small animals might also exhibit rapid breathing or become less responsive. If you notice these signs, immediately move your pet to a cooler area and consult a vet.

### Groom regularly

Regular grooming helps remove excess fur, which can trap heat. This is particularly important for long-haired breeds of cats, rabbits, dogs and guinea pigs. However, avoid shaving pets without consulting a vet, as fur protects from the sun.

### Adjust their diet

During hot weather, pets may eat less. Ensure their diet remains balanced and consider feeding them during cooler parts of the day when their appetite might be better.



### Keep living areas cool

Consider using air conditioning or fans to keep the air cool for indoor pets. For those in enclosures or hutches outside, position them out of direct sunlight and consider using umbrellas or reflective covers to deflect heat.

**When in doubt, consult a professional for advice tailored to your specific animal.**



**Don't take our word for it -see our latest review!**

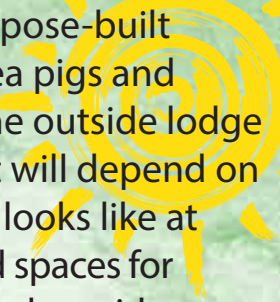


"Little Dolittle took fabulous care of our Giant African land snails during our holiday. Also giving valuable advice regarding the ongoing care of our snails, which demonstrated their expertise and commitment to animal welfare. They have made a lasting impression on us! Highly recommended for any pet owner who seeks peace of mind and the highest standard of care for their animals."

**Sarah Taffe, Newton.**

## The summer holidays will soon be here!

**Little Dolittle specialises in providing boarding and home visit services for a wide array of small animals. Boarding is available for amphibians, degus, ferrets, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, insects, mice, rats and tortoises. Home visits are available for all of the animals above, with the addition of cats, rabbits, fish and poultry. With the summer holidays on the horizon, it's the perfect time to ensure your pets are well cared for in your absence, but remember, early booking is essential to secure your spot!**



Little Dolittle boasts purpose-built accommodations. Guinea pigs and tortoises can board in the outside lodge or in the indoor space. It will depend on what their usual habitat looks like at home. Outdoor runs and spaces for exploration are provided, alongside a cosy indoor space for other small animals. Premises are **protected by CCTV** and there is the option for pet owners to check in on their beloved pets via **webcam access**.

Boarding includes feeding, watering, regular exercise, and handling, as well as a well-being and weight check upon arrival and departure. Nail trimming and medication administration are also covered, if necessary.

**Additional grooming such as ear, boar and grease gland cleaning are available as well as guinea pig bathing (upon a vet's recommendation).**



We encourage pet owners to book early. To make a reservation, new and returning customers must complete booking and pet registration forms, ensuring that all details about your pet's care and needs are accurately captured. Little Dolittle operates with a minimum stay requirement of three nights to provide the best possible experience for your pets.

## Did you know about... hamsters and torpor?



**Did you know that our small, whiskered friends, hamsters, also have a way of coping with the cold? They experience what is known as torpor!**

Torpor is a fascinating survival strategy that may occur in hamsters when temperatures fall. During torpor, hamsters enter a state of dormancy that resembles sleep. This isn't total hibernation, a deeper, longer-term form of dormancy. Instead, torpor can last anywhere from a few days to a week. It can actually be very dangerous for hamsters. Torpor can put them at serious risk of hypothermia and the result could be fatal.

Keep your hamster's home warm (approx 18-21°C all year round) to prevent torpor. If you do find your hamster in this state, gently warm it up, but be cautious not to overheat. Once your hammy wakes up, offer food and water to replenish energy and book to see the vet as soon as possible.



## Wildlife tip!



## A wild corner!

**Let a part of your garden grow wild. Long grass, wildflowers, piles of leaves, and logs can create perfect habitats for insects, small mammals, and amphibians. This "wild" approach mimics natural environments, offering hiding and nesting spots.**

**If you're interested in using any of our services or have a question to ask, please get in touch via the contact details below. We're always happy to help!**

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