

PET PROOFING

We adore our pets. Cats live in 47.1 million of our households and dogs reside in 60.2 million homes. The problem is we don't always like what the furry friends do to our floors, walls and fabrics. Two interior designers give us their insight on designing a worry-free home for our pets.

By Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub





Scratches on the painted walls. Accidents on the floors. High-end fabrics shredded. Barbara Van Voast's clients loved her designs but needed a solution to their problems with pets.

The year was 2013 and she decided it was time to make Pet Proof Your Palace a division of Barbara Van Voast Interiors in Fort Lauderdale. Today it's 90 percent of her business.

"I realized pets had become a major problems for clients and myself," she says. "One client told me she couldn't have a beautiful bedspread because the dog ate the last two. She gave up on dust ruffles so I designed a platform bed with drawer storage underneath."

The clients' dogs and cats also attacked the fabric on two of their chairs. Her solution: Crypton, an engineered textile with patented technology to make the fabric stain, odor and bacteria resistant. Van Voast says it was originally developed for hotels and cruise ships but it had an unpleasant feel against the skin. The reengineered product now feels softer and is created in designs that look like brocade and other high-end fabrics.

Over the five years since she began the division she has developed design suggestions for pet households:

Wallcoverings: Avoid grass cloth, silk and linen, all of which beg to be scratched.

Flooring: Stainmaster has Pet Protect, a luxury vinyl flooring and carpeting. The vinyl has Claw Shield that is waterproof and resists pet scratches. The carpet and cushion system reduces pet odor and resists pet hair and stains. Mohawk also has a line of pet-friendly tile and carpeting.

Window treatments: Avoid draperies that pool on the floor and are made of silk, linen or open weaves. Select cordless window treatments and motorized blinds. The lack of cords prevents children and pets from entangling themselves.

Van Voast is also certified through Healing Touch for Animals, a program that teaches "techniques and applications to promote wellness, provide support through injury or illness, help with behavior issues and enhance the animal/human bond."

Don't worry about pets sitting on furniture covered in Crypton, which is stain, odor and bacteria resistant.



Top, Stainmaster's PetProtect™ luxury vinyl flooring is made with a ClawShield™ coating to resist scratching and Pet ActionTraction™ for paws. Microfiber fabrics allow Georgia O'Keefe to enjoy the sofa in Barbara Van Voast's home. Middle, Stainmaster's PetProtect carpet resists pet hair, reduces odors and is easy to clean. Coco enjoys a pet proof fabric in my home. Bottom, Pillow with Duralee's Lonni Paul Collection with Crypton Home.



Show & tell

Mary Foley and Michael Cox designed this pet palace for the Kips Bay Palm Beach Show House in West Palm Beach. Highlights include a plumbed water bowl and an AstroTurf covered platform for pets to relieve themselves. Photo by Kim Sargent.



Mary Foley and Michael Cox, who designed pet rooms for high-end clients in New York, decided to bring some new ideas to the Kips Bay Palm Beach Show House last fall in West Palm Beach's El Cid neighborhood. They converted the home's laundry room into the "Den Domestique," a pet haven with a plumbed water bowl, pet friendly flooring and fabrics, and a place for pets to relieve themselves. Foley has since retired but Cox gave us the details.

Why did they create this unusual theme?

"To make people smile!" Cox says. "To have fun creating an eccentric, whimsical space with a Norma Desmond-type character in mind. Everyone adores their pets and we wanted to indulge that passion."

They created stations. The food station contains treats for cats, dogs, fish and bunnies. A watering station features a decorative blue and white Kohler sink acting as a fresh water bowl. A relief station features a fire hydrant on an AstroTurf drained platform.

Floors always have to be practical. Cox says they have used Lonseal, a vinyl flooring, in the past but this room features Cambria quartzite, a hard surface less likely to chip, scratch or stain, in a classic black-and-white diamond pattern.

Think performance fabrics when you have a cat or dog. Cox recommends tight weaves and fabrics used for outdoors, such as sailcloth, canvas and denim.

"Since this was a fantasy/show house we worked with Holland & Sherry on paper-backed fabric wall covering – custom colored and printed just for the room in fuchsia and clementine. For an elegant but practical real-life application, consider hand-painted stripes."

SOURCES

DESIGNERS

Barbara Van Voast
Pet Proof Your Palace, a division of Van Voast Interiors,
Fort Lauderdale. Appointment only. 954-938-5262.

Michael Cox
Foley & Cox Interiors, 135 W. 29th St., Suite 900,
New York, 212-529-5800, foleyandcox.com.

PRODUCTS

Crypton, crypton.com.

Kohler, kohler.com.

Lonseal, lonseal.com.

Mohawk, mohawkflooring.com.

Stainmaster, stainmaster.com.

Go fetch

Last year pet owners spent \$69.51 billion on their fur babies, according to the American Pet Products Association. This year it's estimated to grow to \$72.13 billion. So what's new to spend your money on? Here are some best picks for 2018 from the recent Global Pet Expo in Orlando.

By Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub



Orbee Turf Strobe Ball

If your pet loves to play fetch, this will transform it into a multi-sensory experience. The ball blinks and flashes when activated and has a battery life of more than 200 hours. See planetdog.com.



Freshening Room Spray

Yes we love them but sometimes they stink. This spray neutralizes odors with five scents – Lavender, Green Tea, Fresh Citrus, Sunwashed Cotton and Mango Peach. See onefurallpets.com.



Swan Fountain

Does your cat love drinking out of the faucet? The Swan stainless steel fountain, a Second Place Winner, creates the same experience with 80 ozs. of water. The fountain is dishwasher safe and has a charcoal filter for clean, running water. It also features a USB connector. See petronics.io.



Puff N Fluff

Need to dry your dog in a hurry after a dip in the pool or a bath? The Puff-N-Fluff claims to get Fido dry within minutes. See thedogdryer.com.



Self-Flushing Cat Box

It looks like a toilet and requires a hookup to cold water from a toilet or drain as well as an electrical outlet. Try it in the bathroom or laundry room where cold water lines exist. CatGenie, which won Third Place, automatically scoops, liquefies and flushes cat waste away. It uses Washable Granules so cats can cover their waste. A SaniSolution washes, scrubs, scours and sanitizes as well as dry the granules. Never touch, change or buy cat litter again. See Chewy.com.



Aqua Paw

Turn bath time into a better experience with this bathing tool. The all-in-one spray and scrubber allows you to take control of your wiggly pets when giving them a bath. It connects to a shower or garden hose. See aquapaw.com.



Treat Dispenser Toy

This award-winning pet toy makes getting treats fun. The Treat Dispenser is a self-balancing, wobbling figure with the ears of cats and dogs. See DoyenWorld.com.



Mouse decoy

Mousr is a battery-operated toy for active felines. The durable toy flips, crashes and travels at breakneck speed on carpet or solid surfaces. No wonder it took First Place in the Cat Category. See petronics.io.

