

Best of L.A. 2021: All the Best Things to Eat, Shop for, and Do



Just in time for the post-pandemic boom, we're back with our annual, up-to-the-minute list of the city's finest fare. From veterinarians to vintage shops, toy stores to tacos, swimsuits to psychics, our team of reporters tore up the city to find the best things to do, eat, and buy right now. Plus, the top hair colorist, facial boutique, and lash salon to get you glammed up for the good times.

Below is the Pets section of the article:

Best of L.A.: PETS



» Groomer

Dogue Spa is the spot for fashionable pooches—including those belonging to Usher and Awkwafina—to get a fierce new haircut or try out the latest in funky color combinations. Groomer Joshua White specializes in Japanese-style cuts (\$99-\$215), unique precision trims that can turn a canine into a teddy bear or Ewok. He also offers vibrant dye jobs (\$25-\$400+) should you wish to turn Fido into a rainbow. But, rest assured, it's safe: Dogue uses vegetable-based dyes and performs patch tests on clients. White's own pooch, Snow, has become an Instagram sensation, thanks to her ever-changing, multi-colored dreamcoat. Bowwow! 8278 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, doguespa.net.

» Dog Walk

On the fourth Sunday of every month, the **South Coast Botanic Garden** opens most of its lush, 87-acre grounds to on-leash dog walking, allowing for some thrilling new sights and sounds for Fido. Explore the mammoth Moreton Bay fig trees in the banyan grove or wander through the shady fuchsia garden with your best friend. No wonder the dog days often sell out and require advance tickets (\$15 for humans, \$5 for dogs). Pamper your pooch further by arranging for a bespoke picnic with both people food and puppy treats, along with blankets (from \$325 for humans, \$25 for dogs). 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, southcoastbotanicgarden.org.

» Veterinary Care

Concierge medicine isn't just for humans. Veterinary start-up **Modern Animal** launched in 2020 with a fresh business model: for an annual fee of \$100 per pet, members get access to 24/7 virtual care and unlimited clinic visits—perfect for neurotic puppy parents. Appointments can be made and records can be accessed via a slick app, and the prices for various procedures and medications are listed on the website. The West Hollywood clinic has been a hit, and locations in Pasadena, Studio City, and Playa Vista are expected to open by year's end. 8122 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, modernanimal.com.

» Cat Café

One of only two brick-and-mortar spots in the city where you can get both a cuddle with kittens and a cup of coffee, **Crumbs & Whiskers** is the top cat, thanks to its longer menu and slightly cheaper prices (\$20 for 30 minutes, \$35 for 70 minutes). Patrons can enjoy espresso beverages, teas, and sweet treats before entering an airy, glass-enclosed room filled with up to two dozen cats wearing pink bowtie collars. If you find you're smitten, take one home for \$175, fully vaccinated and spayed. Even if you leave without a new pet, you've helped the feline kind: since opening in L.A. in 2017, the cat café has raised \$41,000 for animal charities. 7924 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, crumbsandwhiskers.com.

» Aquarium Supply

Whether you're looking for a simple three-gallon freshwater setup for your home office or need help maintaining the 25-gallon tank you've had for your red-eared slider turtle for years, **Underwater Depot** is a tremendous resource. The company's awe-inspiring showroom is stocked with an extensive selection of freshwater and saltwater species. An especially knowledgeable staff does out advise on fish selection and care. The shop is known for selling healthy creatures, along with providing supplies and services for stunning aquascaping. Aquarium cleaning and maintenance is also on offer. 13708 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, underwaterdepot.net.

EXPERT PICK

» Best Bird Store

Omar's Exotic Birds
Multiple locations at omarsexoticbirds.com

It's the ultimate bird-shop experience. The birds are well-socialized and out of their cages, hanging out on circular perches. They're excited to hop onto your arm. The staff are knowledgeable and have relationships with each bird. —Chan Quach, bird behaviorist