

EDITORIAL

Things are shaking up at the office. It's the ongoing metro rail project. They're laying down deep foundations – like acupuncture needles – through this major avenue. Every morning the machine cranks up and the not-so-good vibrations rock the neighbourhood, the quiet rumble creating ripples; the water in the glass waves, the leaves of the desk plant shiver, and the Funko Pop bobblehead action figures headbang all day.

Yes, we fear for our dear lives. Every time a glass panel squeaks or the floor pulsates harder than usual (which is no pulse at all), we spit out a few supplications under our breath. And then find a person to complain about all the ruckus. "Dude, that was a strong one," I say, and he responds, "I hate this. Everything sucks here." But that's who are as a people, isn't it? Talk about patience and we don't stand a chance. Talk about indifference, and we deserve a gold medal and some more.

– Kazi Akib Bin Asad, Sub-editor, SHOUT



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PLAYWATCH

Cute Animals on YouTube

RABITA SALEH

Cute animal videos and compilations of people's pets doing the most hilariously adorable things are everywhere. However, there are times when we find ourselves getting curiously attached to certain animals, and even though they aren't our pets, we come to care for them in a special way. In this list are three channels that have managed to capture my heart with their adorableness and I'd like to share them with you.

MAYAPOLARBEAR

This walking barking cloud is one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. This channel showcases Maya (the aptly-named "polar bear") Samoyed's life with her owner, who Maya calls "mom". If you're new to the channel you can start with her food review videos because those are incredibly entertaining. However, any video of her rolling on grass, being groomed, or delivering pizza makes my heart skip beats too. Fair warning, if you aren't a fan of doggo-speak, maybe keep yourself away from these videos unless you want her to do you a bamboozle.

RACHEL & JUN'S ADVENTURES!

Rachel and Jun are a Japanese-American couple who own three cats: Haku, Nagi and Poki. The videos are about their lives, but they have a special series "MOSTLY CATS!!" that contain all their videos about their cats.

From making cat beds to buying cat hats, Rachel and Jun capture everything cat related in their videos. The dynamic between all three fluffy cats, their habits, and their hilarious interactions with the couple's Roomba are bound to make you binge this channel.

LUCAS THE SPIDER

Okay, I know Lucas the Spider is not



technically a pet, or even a real animal for that matter. But if you've ever got the cute animal blues this is the real channel you want to visit. Lucas the Spider is, in my opinion, hands down the most adorable animated character ever created. With the baby voice which never fails to tug at your heartstrings and his big brown eyes that beg you to give this arachnid a chance, Lucas will have you wrapped around his many fluffy legs in mere seconds.

The entire channel is binge-able in a maximum of half an hour, so if you aren't on this hype train yet, you can board it any time.

These channels do not consist of your typical pretty compilation videos. The first two channels don't just show pets being cute. They give us an insight into their lives that make us feel almost as though we are part of it, and at the end of the day, that's what makes them so special.

Lucas, on the other hand, is on another level of adorableness, and the need for his presence on any list of cute animal videos must go unquestioned.

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Extra Explanations

ALIZA RAHMAN

About 13,000 miles away, dressed, jewelled, and illuminated by blue, pink, and red lighting is Natalie Wynn, better known as "ContraPoints". Her videos cover a range of topics, almost all contentious but all important. But the word "cover" doesn't fully explain all that Wynn discusses in a video. From difficult-sounding terms you may have heard of such as post-modern neo-Marxism to obscure and esoteric terms like "autogynephilia", Wynn makes daunting topics understandable.

Visually stunning, thought-provoking, and at times shocking, Wynn's videos educate and entertain. She is a relief for those frustrated with constantly seeing alt-right videos sprout up on YouTube and tackles issues you may have become sick of discussing because of the toxicity in online discourses. She critically examines and breaks down the arguments of the people

she both agrees and disagrees with instead of instantly dismissing the views held by people some might think are beyond hope. She does this with flair, but without, and yes this is true, resorting to immature personal attacks and fear-mongering.

And as you watch her videos, you realise that the issues discussed by this American personality is relevant in the lives of people in Bangladesh. From her videos on incels and Jordan Peterson to her latest video titled "Opulence", she asks questions you may not have thought of, and sheds a new light on issues you thought you had solidified opinions on, even issues in Bangladesh. If I've convinced you to go and check out her channel and you end up binge-watching her videos which you very well might, guilt is not what you'll be feeling, because as you finish watching and go about your day, you'll think back to everything you heard from ContraPoints, and you might just become a changed person.