



Coatis are playful and extremely intelligent. Babies like to ride on shoulders.

"THE BODY OF A RACCOON AND THE PERSONALITY OF A CAT"

Coatimundis Make Unusual Farm Pets

If you've been looking for an unusual pet - or a hot new money-making enterprise - you might want to take a look at coatimundi's, says Pam Stephens, Auburn, Wash., who's one of only a handful of breeders in the U.S.

"The coati has the body and climbing ability of a raccoon and the personality of a cat," says Stephens. "It isn't the best pet for everyone because it's very curious and has raccoon-like claws that aren't retractable. Coatis are full of energy and will play all day long so you have to make sure your house is 'kid proof'. They're an extremely intelligent animal and can easily outwit any dog or cat."

Coatis come from Central and South America. No coatis are being imported to the U.S. at the present time. They come in black and white, cinnamon-brown, red-brown, brown-gray, yellowish-gray, olive-brown, and chocolate. The most common captive coatis are the white nose coati and

the ringtail coati. Primarily a tree forest dweller, they've also been known to burrow into the ground and live there.

Coatis reach their maximum weight of 10 to 20 lbs. at about one year old. "Baby coatis like to climb up on your shoulder so that they can see everything around them," says Stephens. "If you don't want coatis to climb up on you, you'll have to train them when they're young."

Coatis chatter and sometimes make a small barking noise when they become disgusted with someone, says Stephens. "They can be house broken and leash broken at an early age. In general, the more human contact at an early age, the better their character will be."

Stephens has baby coatis for sale for \$650 apiece.

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Kid-size barrel mounts on top of automotive springs and steel plate to form horse.

Kids Love This Simple Rocking Horse

Herman Bauer of Atlanta, Ill., built this simple rocking horse for his children more than 30 years ago. Bauer has passed away but his rocking horse still provides many hours of entertainment for his grandchildren, says Bauer's daughter Mrs. Charles Ballinger of Atlanta, Ill.

The horse stands on an H-shaped platform made out of 1-in. galvanized pipe.

Bauer welded a pair of heavy-duty automotive springs to a steel plate on top of the pipe, then welded a kid-sized barrel to the top of the springs. A T-bar handle made out of pipe attaches to one end.

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Photos courtesy Denison Newspapers

Twin silos are home-sweet-home to Hassett. They're capped by a deck covered with artificial turf with a railing all the way around.

GIANT DECK SPANS TWO SILOS

The "Ultimate" Silo Home

We've seen a number of innovative silo homes over the years, but this new side-by-side silo home - with a giant deck spanning the tops of both structures - may be the most impressive ever.

"There are thousands of unused silos around, and I decided there had to be something better to do with them than let them stand vacant," says Leonard "Domie" Hassett, Denison, Iowa. "Pigeons were the only ones using these silos and they objected vigorously when we started work a year ago in January."

The twin Hanson silos, which were put up in the early 1960's, are 20 ft. in dia. and 70 ft. high.

The south silo has been converted to living quarters for Hassett. It has all the modern comforts of home. The big upper deck provides a panoramic view of the countryside. Hassett plans to convert the second silo to living space as well.

The converted silo has five floors, each with 314 sq. ft. The first floor has a toilet, shower, and washer and dryer. The second is the kitchen. The third is a family room and the fourth contains a bedroom with bath. The fifth is a living room with a moveable tractor tire chandelier.

Floors are connected with curved stair wells running along one side of the rooms.

The outside walls are insulated with fiberglass and are covered by wafer board that's screwed to 1 in. wood strips spaced every 4 ft. "Walls are actually a '16-a-gon,'" Hassett says. "That was probably the most time-consuming part of the project."

Electric radiant heat panels in the 8-ft. ceilings provide heat to each room. That's supplemented when necessary by electric heat strips in the air conditioning system.

Unloading doors up one side were converted to windows and additional 3 by 4-ft. and 2 by 2 1/2-ft. windows "are scattered around wherever we thought they should be," Hassett says. Curved steel window frames were first bolted in place in the sides of the stave walls, then window holes were



Hassett's silo home is furnished with interesting and unusual items such as this moveable living room chandelier made from a tractor tire.

cut out, and windows installed, he says.

Work was done one floor at a time from the ground up so the 26 by 56-ft. deck was one of the last projects, Hassett says. It's supported by two telephone poles that run across the tops of the silos and are held in place with steel bars.

The deck is covered with artificial turf and has a railing all the way around.

Hassett plans to begin work on the second silo next fall. One of the projects will be to connect the second floor kitchen of the first silo to the second floor of the second silo with a glass walkway (the structures are only 4 1/2-ft. apart). The second floor of silo number two will serve as a formal dining area.

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