BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Pet Cameras, Feeders & Litter Boxes

Furbo, Petcube, PETLIBRO, PetSafe and Litter-Robot — explained in plain English, one step at a time

A plain-English guide for pet owners, families and pet sitters

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For Furbo, Petcube, PETLIBRO, PetSafe & Litter-Robot · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your guide to the smart gadgets that help look after your pets: cameras that let you see and talk to them (and toss a treat), feeders and water fountains that keep to a schedule, and litter boxes that clean themselves. Read it in any order and at your own pace. Every feature comes with what it actually does *for you* and for your pet, honest prices, and slow, step-by-step directions. Pet apps change their menus often, so when a button has moved, look for the same words nearby.

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PART 1

Getting Started

What pet cameras, smart feeders, fountains and self-cleaning litter boxes really do, what they can't do, how to pick the right one, and the handful of words you'll see in every pet app.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you've ever sat at a doctor's appointment, a grandchild's ball game or a long family dinner and wondered how the dog is doing at home, this guide is for **you**. The same goes for anyone who has a cat that wants breakfast at 5 a.m. sharp, or a back that would rather not bend over a litter box every day.

I'm Bill. I've spent more than 30 years working with technology, and these days I help people here in Portage County feel at home with theirs. Pet gadgets have become some of the most popular things in people's homes, and also some of the most confusing: every brand has its own app, its own subscription and its own fussy Wi-Fi rules. I wrote this guide the way I'd explain it at your kitchen table: patiently, in plain English, and without trying to sell you anything.

What this guide will do for you

- Explain what a pet camera, an automatic feeder, a water fountain and a self-cleaning litter box can and can't do.
- Walk you through setting up the best-known brands: **Furbo** and **Petcube** cameras, **PETLIBRO** and **PetSafe** feeders and fountains, and **Litter-Robot** and **PetSafe ScoopFree** litter boxes.
- Get these gadgets onto your Wi-Fi, including the 2.4 GHz part most of them need.
- Give you the real prices of the optional subscriptions, as of November 2026, so you can decide whether you need one.
- Show you how to share access with family and pet sitters safely.
- Cover the safety side: power outages, backup batteries, litter-box safety sensors and keeping a camera in your home private.
- Tell you exactly what to do when a device says **offline**.

The big promise: you can't break anything

Nothing in these apps can hurt your pet or your phone if you tap the wrong thing. A feeding schedule can be changed, a camera can be switched off, and a device that won't connect can almost always be set up again from scratch. Take your time.

GOOD TO KNOW

One honest word before we start

These gadgets are helpers, not caretakers. A feeder can't notice that your cat seems poorly, and a camera can't let the dog out. Somebody still needs to check on your pet in person. Chapter 2 explains what that means in practice.

And I'm only a phone call away

If anything here leaves you unsure, call me at **(330) 200-8042**. There's no such thing as a silly question, especially when it's about a member of the family with four legs.

Let's start with what these gadgets actually do.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What Pet Gadgets Can & Can't Do

Smart pet gadgets connect to your home Wi-Fi and to an app on your phone. That lets you see, hear and control them from anywhere. Here's the honest picture of each kind.

Gadget	What it does well	What it can't do
Pet camera (Furbo, Petcube)	Live video, two-way talk, treat tossing, barking alerts	Let the dog out, notice a slow illness, stop a fight
Automatic feeder (PETLIBRO, PetSafe)	Meals on time, measured portions, feeding log	Tell if the bowl is spilled, jammed or untouched for sure
Water fountain	Fresh, moving water; low-water alerts on smart models	Clean itself
Self-cleaning litter box	Sifts waste after each visit; can track visits and weight	Replace a vet's eye on changes in your cat's habits

A feeder doesn't replace checking on your pet

This matters enough to say plainly. An automatic feeder is wonderful for a late evening, an early breakfast or a long day out. It is **not** a reason to leave a pet alone for days. Feeders can jam, run out, lose power or be emptied by a clever cat. Water can run low. A pet can get sick, get stuck or knock something over. Plan on a person — you, a neighbor, a family member or a pet sitter — seeing your pet regularly, and use the gadgets to fill the gaps in between.

STAY SAFE

Trips longer than a day

For an overnight trip or longer, arrange for someone to visit in person. Use the camera and feeder as a backup to that visit, not instead of it. If a pet is elderly, diabetic, on medication or has health problems, ask your veterinarian how often they should be checked.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Used the right way, these gadgets mean fewer rushed trips home, a calmer pet that eats on schedule, and a quick look at the living room whenever you wonder. That's real peace of mind.

CHAPTER 3

Picking the Right Gadget for Your Pet

You don't need everything. Start with the one problem you'd most like solved, and add more later only if it helps.

Start with your biggest worry

If you say...	Look at
"I wonder what the dog is doing all day."	A pet camera. A **Furbo** or a **Petcube Bites** adds treat tossing.
"The cat wakes me up for breakfast."	An automatic feeder on a schedule, such as a **PETLIBRO Granary** or **PetSafe Smart Feed**.
"I'm out late some evenings."	An automatic feeder, plus a camera if you like to see that the meal was eaten.
"The cat doesn't drink enough."	A water fountain. Many cats prefer moving water.
"Scooping is hard on my back."	A self-cleaning litter box, such as a **Litter-Robot** or a **PetSafe ScoopFree**.
"Two cats, one diet."	A microchip or tag-reading feeder that opens only for the right pet. Several brands make them; ask your veterinarian first if one cat is on a special diet.

Questions to ask before you buy

1. Does it need a **subscription** for the features I want? (Chapters 12 and 17 have the prices.)
2. Does it need **2.4 GHz Wi-Fi**? Most do. (Chapter 6.)
3. Does it keep working when the **Wi-Fi or the power goes out**? (Chapter 15.)
4. Can I **share** it with a family member or pet sitter? (Chapter 21.)
5. Is it the right size for my pet? Litter boxes and treat tossers both have size limits.

HEADS UP

Cheap camera, required plan

Some pet cameras are sold at a lower price in a bundle that only works with a paid plan, sometimes with a minimum commitment. Read the box or product page carefully: a lower price up front can cost more over a year or two.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Buying for the problem you actually have saves money, and avoids a closet full of gadgets and a phone full of apps you never open.

CHAPTER 4

The Words You'll See

Pet apps use the same handful of words over and over. Here they are in plain English. Come back whenever one puzzles you.

Word	What it means
App	The program on your phone that runs the gadget: the **Furbo** app, the **Petcube** app, the **PETLIBRO** app, the **Whisker** app (Litter-Robot), and PetSafe's app.
Account	The email address and password you sign in to the app with. Protect it like a bank password (Chapter 22).
2.4 GHz / 5 GHz	The two main "lanes" of home Wi-Fi. 2.4 GHz reaches farther; most pet gadgets only use this lane.
Onboarding / Pairing	The setup steps that connect a new gadget to your Wi-Fi and your account.
Live view	Watching the camera's picture right now.
Two-way audio	Talking through the camera's speaker and hearing through its microphone.
Video history	Recordings saved online so you can watch them later. Usually needs a subscription.
Cloud	The company's computers, where recordings and settings are kept.
Subscription / plan	An optional monthly or yearly fee for extra features, such as Furbo Nanny, Petcube Care, PETLIBRO Video Cloud or Whisker+.
Backup battery	Batteries that keep a feeder running its schedule when the power goes out.
Offline	The gadget isn't talking to the app right now. It may still be working on its own.
Firmware	The gadget's built-in software. Updates fix problems; the app usually offers them.

TIP

Offline doesn't always mean broken

Many feeders keep their schedule in their own memory, so an "offline" feeder may still be serving meals on time. You just can't see it or change it from your phone until it reconnects. Chapter 23 walks through what to do.

PART 2

Wi-Fi & Setup

Everything you need before you open the box, the 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi most pet gadgets insist on, and where to put each one so it works well and stays safe.

CHAPTER 5

Before You Start: Phone, App & Account

Every gadget in this guide is set up the same basic way: you install the maker's app, create an account, and the app walks you through connecting the gadget to your Wi-Fi. A little preparation makes it go smoothly.

Have these ready

- Your **smartphone**, charged, with Bluetooth turned on (many gadgets use Bluetooth during setup).
- Your **Wi-Fi name and password**, written down exactly. Passwords are case sensitive.
- The gadget, plugged in near where it will live, and fairly close to your Wi-Fi router for setup.
- An **email address** you check, for the account and its security codes.
- About 20 minutes, without interruptions.

The usual setup, step by step

1. Install the app from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android). Search for the brand name and check that the maker's name is listed under the app.
2. Open the app and create an account with your email address and a strong, new password.
3. Tap the button to **add a device** (often a plus sign) and choose your model.
4. Allow the permissions the app asks for, such as Bluetooth, location and notifications. Setup often fails without them.
5. Pick your home Wi-Fi network — the 2.4 GHz one if you see two — and type the password.
6. Wait while the gadget connects. Its light usually changes color when it's done.
7. Accept any firmware update the app offers, and leave the gadget plugged in until it finishes.

TIP

Why the app wants your location

On many phones, an app has to have location permission to scan for nearby Wi-Fi networks and Bluetooth gadgets. It's a quirk of the phone's rules, not the pet company tracking you around town.

HEADS UP

Use the real app

Only download the app named in your gadget's instructions, from the official app store. Look-alike "helper" apps exist for popular brands. They aren't needed, and some ask for payment.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With everything at hand, setup usually works the first time, and you avoid the frustrating loop of "connection failed, try again."

CHAPTER 6

Getting on 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi

This is the number-one reason pet gadgets won't set up. Most home Wi-Fi today broadcasts two kinds of signal: **2.4 GHz**, which reaches farther through walls, and **5 GHz**, which is faster but shorter range. Most pet gadgets can only use 2.4 GHz.

Which gadgets need 2.4 GHz

Gadget	What the maker says
Petcube Cam and Bites 2 Lite	2.4 GHz only
Petcube Bites 2	2.4 GHz or 5 GHz
Litter-Robot 4	2.4 GHz only; put your phone on the 2.4 GHz network for setup
PetSafe ScoopFree Crystal Smart	2.4 GHz Wi-Fi required to connect to the app

For Furbo cameras, PETLIBRO feeders and fountains and other PetSafe gadgets, plan on 2.4 GHz too, and check the box or the maker's help page for your exact model. A few newer models also accept 5 GHz, but 2.4 GHz is the safe choice.

If you see two network names

Some routers show two names, such as **Smith Home** and **Smith Home-5G**. Pick the one *without* "5G" for your pet gadget. Your phone can stay on either one.

If you see only one name

Most newer routers and mesh systems (eero, Google Nest Wifi, TP-Link Deco, Spectrum, Xfinity) combine both lanes under one name. That usually works, because the gadget simply uses the 2.4 GHz lane. When it doesn't, try these, in order:

1. Do the setup standing a few feet from the router, with the gadget nearby.
2. Restart the router, wait for it to come back, and try again.
3. On eero, use **Settings** > **Troubleshooting** > **Connect 2.4 GHz only devices**. It hides the faster lanes for a short time so the gadget can join, then brings them back. Devices already connected stay connected.
4. Litter-Robot's advice, which works for other gadgets too: temporarily turn off the 5 GHz signal in the router's app, or set up a 2.4 GHz-only guest network, and connect the gadget to that.

5. Litter-Robot also warns that some mesh routers move devices between the lanes on their own. If a gadget connects and then keeps dropping off, a dedicated 2.4 GHz guest network is the usual fix.

TIP

Hidden network names

If your Wi-Fi name is hidden, it won't show in the list. Most apps have an option such as **Other network** or **Add network manually** where you type the name and password yourself.

HEADS UP

VPN apps get in the way

If your phone has a VPN app turned on, switch it off during setup. Litter-Robot's setup checklist says to avoid VPNs and "captive portal" networks (the kind with a sign-in page, like a hotel's), and the same advice helps with other brands too.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A great many "it won't connect" problems come down to the Wi-Fi lane. Sorting it out first can turn an hour of frustration into a ten-minute job.

CHAPTER 7

Where to Put Each Gadget

A good spot matters for Wi-Fi, for your pet's comfort and for safety. Here are sensible starting points.

Gadget	A good spot
Pet camera	Where your pet spends the day, on a sturdy shelf or table it can't be knocked off, facing the room rather than a bright window. For treat tossing, leave open floor in front of it.
Feeder	On a hard, level floor away from the litter box, out of direct sun, near an outlet so it runs on power and keeps its batteries as backup.
Fountain	Away from the food bowl if your cat is picky, on a surface that won't be harmed by the odd splash, close enough to an outlet that the cord isn't stretched.
Self-cleaning litter box	On a firm, level floor (not thick carpet) in a quiet spot, with room around it. Litter-Robot says a firm, level surface is needed for accurate cat detection and weight readings.

STAY SAFE

Cords and curious pets

Run power cords along the wall and behind furniture so pets can't chew them. A cord cover from the hardware store helps with puppies and kittens. Keep cords out of walkways so nobody trips.

GOOD TO KNOW

Wi-Fi through walls

If the gadget sets up fine next to the router but drops offline in its real spot, the signal there is weak. Try a spot a few feet closer, or ask whether a mesh Wi-Fi point would help. Chapter 23 has more.

TIP

Give your pet time

Some pets are wary of a new machine that moves or makes noise. Set it up and let them sniff it for a day or two before relying on it. With a new feeder or litter box, keep the old bowl or box nearby for the first days.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

The right spot means a clear picture, a reliable connection, and a pet that actually uses the gadget you bought.

PART 3

Pet Cameras: Furbo & Petcube

Setting up the two best-known pet cameras, tossing treats without jams, alerts that help instead of nag, and what the Furbo Nanny and Petcube Care plans really cost.

CHAPTER 8

Setting Up a Furbo Camera

Furbo makes treat-tossing cameras for dogs and cats, including 360-degree models that turn to follow your pet and a smaller Mini. They all set up through the **Furbo** app. Plan on **2.4 GHz** Wi-Fi, as with most pet cameras (Chapter 6).

Step by step

1. Plug the Furbo in near your router for setup. Wait for its light to show it's ready to be set up.
2. Install the **Furbo** app, open it and create an account (or sign in).
3. Follow the app to add a new Furbo. Turn on Bluetooth when asked; the app uses it to talk to the camera during setup.
4. Choose your 2.4 GHz network and type the password carefully.
5. When setup finishes, move the camera to its real spot and check the live view.

Reading the light

The light on the front of a Furbo changes color to show what it's doing: waiting for setup, connecting, online, or having trouble. The colors differ a little from model to model, so Furbo's help center has a separate light guide for each camera. Search the help center for your model's name and "light" and keep that page handy.

TIP

Stuck partway through setup?

If setup stalls while the phone is talking to the camera, turn your phone's Bluetooth off and on, unplug the Furbo for ten seconds, and start the add-a-device steps again.

GOOD TO KNOW

One account per Furbo

A Furbo is tied to one account (one email and password). Chapter 21 explains how families share it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing what the light means lets you tell at a glance whether it's the camera, the Wi-Fi or your phone that needs attention.

CHAPTER 9

Setting Up a Petcube Camera

Petcube makes several cameras: the plain **Petcube Cam** and **Cam 360**, the **Bites** models that toss treats (Bites 2 and Bites 2 Lite), and the **Play** models with a built-in laser toy for cats. All of them run on the **Petcube** app.

Step by step

1. Plug the camera in near where it will live, within good Wi-Fi range.
2. Install the **Petcube** app and create your account. The camera will belong to this account.
3. Tap to add a device, choose your model and follow the steps.
4. Choose your Wi-Fi network. Most Petcube models need **2.4 GHz**; the **Bites 2** can also use 5 GHz.
5. When the live view appears, you're done. Try the speaker button to say hello.

GOOD TO KNOW

One camera, one owner

A Petcube belongs to the account that set it up. Other people make their own Petcube account and are invited through **Sharing**, which Chapter 21 explains. Don't set it up again on a second person's account.

TIP

Talk softly the first time

Some pets are startled to hear your voice coming from a box. Speak calmly and briefly the first few times, and toss a treat if your camera can, so they learn the voice means something good.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A look in on your pet from wherever you are, and a familiar voice for them in the middle of a long day.

CHAPTER 10

Treat Tossing Without the Jams

Tossing a treat from your phone is the fun part of a Furbo or Petcube Bites. It's also where most problems happen, nearly always because of the treats.

Choose the right treats

- **Dry, firm and round** treats toss best. Soft, sticky or crumbly treats jam.
- Size matters, and it varies by model. Cat cameras and small models take smaller treats than dog cameras. Check the treat-size guide in your camera's help pages before you buy a big bag.
- Small, uniform pieces toss more reliably than a mix of sizes.
- Count treats in your pet's daily food allowance, so tossing doesn't become overfeeding.

Loading and tossing

1. Open the treat container lid and pour in a small handful. Don't pack it full.
2. Close the lid firmly.
3. Open the app's live view and use the treat button.
4. Watch where it lands, and adjust the camera's spot if treats roll under furniture.

When a treat won't come out

1. Give it a moment and try once more. Some models retry a failed toss on their own, and some have a setting in the app that shakes treats loose.
2. Unplug the camera, empty all the treats and crumbs, and give it a few firm shakes.
3. Clean the container (below), let it dry completely, and reload with smaller, drier treats.

Cleaning the treat container

Unplug the camera first. Wipe the treat container with a **damp cloth** and dry it thoroughly before you refill it; moisture and crumbs are what cause clogs and mold. Don't run water into the camera or put it in the dishwasher: there are electronics inside. Your model's manual says which parts, if any, come out for washing.

STAY SAFE

Treats and health

If your pet has a sensitive stomach, allergies or a weight problem, ask your veterinarian which treats and how many are fine. Don't let remote treats replace real attention.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

The right treats mean the button works every time — and your pet gets a happy surprise instead of a jammed machine.

CHAPTER 11

Barking Alerts & Notifications That Don't Nag

Pet cameras can send your phone an alert when your dog barks, your cat meows, or the camera sees movement or a person. Helpful, unless your phone buzzes every minute. Here's how to tune them.

Tuning barking and meowing alerts

1. Open the camera's app and go to the camera's settings (usually a gear icon).
2. Look for the alert you want, such as a barking, meowing, sound or motion alert, and switch it on or off.
3. If there's a **sensitivity** setting, start on the lowest one. Traffic, the TV or a neighbor's dog can trigger a sensitive alert.
4. If there's a setting for **how often** you're told, pick a longer gap, such as once every half hour, rather than every time.

Plan-only alerts

The cleverer alerts — telling a person from a pet, or recognizing the sound of a smoke alarm, for example — are usually part of a paid plan. Check the plan comparison in the app before you pay (Chapter 12), and turn on only the ones you'll act on.

TIP

Start quiet, then add

Turn on just one or two alerts at first, on the least frequent setting. After a week, you'll know which ones you actually want.

HEADS UP

Alerts can arrive late

Motion-type alerts are often bundled, so a notice can arrive some minutes after the moment. A camera alert is not an emergency alarm.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You'll hear about the barking that matters — a long spell that might bother the neighbors — without a phone that never stops buzzing.

CHAPTER 12

Furbo Nanny & Petcube Care: What the Plans Cost

Both big camera brands sell an optional subscription. The camera still works without one: you can watch live, talk and toss treats. The plan adds saved video and smarter alerts. Here are the real numbers, as of November 2026, before tax.

Furbo Nanny (U.S. list prices)

Plan	Monthly	Billed yearly	Billed every 2 years	Video history
Standard	$9.99/mo	$7.99/mo	$7.49/mo	3 days
Premium	$12.49/mo	$9.99/mo	$9.37/mo	7 days

- Each extra camera on the plan adds **two dollars a month**, up to 10 cameras.
- **Premium** adds the longer, 7-day video history on top of the Standard features.
- Furbo updated its plans for new subscribers in November 2025 and held prices for earlier subscribers until June 30, 2026. If you've had a plan for a while, check what you're paying now.

Furbo often runs first-year discounts and free trials with new cameras. The price at renewal can be higher than what you paid at first, so look at the renewal price, not just the opening offer.

Petcube Care

Petcube Care has two plans, **Optimal** and **Premium**. Optimal keeps about **3 days** of video history; Premium keeps **90 days** and covers an unlimited number of cameras on one account, and Petcube says its 2-year warranty comes only with Premium. Petcube's store listed camera bundles with Petcube Care starting from **$5.99 a month**. Premium's price on its own wasn't clearly posted on Petcube's pages when this guide was checked, so look in the app before you subscribe.

Petcube says plainly that you do **not** need a Petcube Care membership for the camera to work.

Do you need a plan?

If...	Then
You mostly peek in live and toss treats	Probably not. Try the free trial, then decide.
You want to see what happened while you weren't watching	A plan with video history helps.
You want person, smoke-alarm or similar alerts	Check which plan includes them.
Several cameras	Compare the per-camera charge with a plan that covers many.

HEADS UP

Free trials turn into payments

Most trials renew automatically. Put the end date on your calendar the day you start. To cancel, use the app or the company's website, or your phone's subscription settings if you subscribed through the App Store or Google Play.

SCAM ALERT

"Your pet camera plan has expired"

Emails and texts claiming your Furbo, Petcube or other plan failed to renew, with a link to "update your card," are a common trick. Don't click. Open the app yourself and check your plan there.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the real price — including what it renews at — lets you pay only for what you'll use, and avoid surprise charges a year from now.

PART 4

Feeders & Water Fountains

Automatic feeders from PETLIBRO and PetSafe, sensible schedules and portions, what happens in a power outage, keeping a fountain clean, and the optional camera-feeder video plans.

CHAPTER 13

Setting Up an Automatic Feeder

An automatic feeder holds a supply of dry food and drops a measured portion at the times you set. Smart feeders connect to Wi-Fi so you can change the schedule, feed an extra meal and check the feeding log from your phone. Two names you'll see often are **PETLIBRO** (the Granary and Space dry-food feeders and the Polar wet-food feeder, among others) and **PetSafe** (the Smart Feed and other models).

Step by step

1. Put the feeder together following the leaflet: hopper, lid, bowl. Make sure the bowl clicks in.
2. Put in the **backup batteries** now, if your model takes them (Chapter 15), so you don't forget.
3. Plug the feeder into the wall with its power adapter.
4. Install the brand's app: **PETLIBRO** for PETLIBRO feeders, PetSafe's app for the Smart Feed. Create an account.
5. Add the feeder in the app and connect it to your 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi.
6. Fill the hopper with dry food only, below any MAX line.
7. Use the app's **feed now** button to drop one test portion, and check it lands in the bowl.

HEADS UP

Kibble size and jams

Feeders are designed for dry kibble within a size range. Very large, oddly shaped, oily or wet food can jam a dry-food feeder. Check the size limits in your model's instructions. For wet food, use a feeder built for wet food, such as PETLIBRO's Polar.

TIP

Feeders without an app

If you don't want an app at all, many feeders are programmed with buttons on the front and never touch the internet. They can't send you alerts, but there's no Wi-Fi to go wrong. Look for one with a battery backup.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Meals on time even when you're running late, and no 5 a.m. paw on your face asking for breakfast.

CHAPTER 14

Schedules, Portions & the Feeding Log

The schedule is the heart of a feeder. Set it once, check it now and then, and it does the remembering for you.

Setting a schedule

1. Open the feeder in its app and find **Feeding plan**, **Schedule** or **Meals**.
2. Add a meal: choose the time and the number of portions.
3. Repeat for each meal of the day, and choose the days of the week.
4. Save, and check that the feeder shows the new plan.
5. Watch the first scheduled meal, in person or on a camera, to be sure it works.

Getting portions right

A feeder measures in "portions," and a portion is a different amount on each model. Your veterinarian or the food bag tells you how much your pet should eat in a day. Divide that across the meals, then use your feeder's instructions to turn cups into portions.

The feeding log

Smart feeders keep a record of each meal they served. It's a useful check, with one catch: the log shows what the feeder *tried* to serve. A jam, an empty hopper or a pet that didn't eat may not show up. A camera feeder, or a camera pointed at the bowl, gives a truer picture.

STAY SAFE

Watch for changes in eating

A pet that suddenly eats much less or much more can be unwell. A feeder can't tell you that. If food is being left, or your pet seems hungrier than usual, call your veterinarian.

TIP

Daylight saving time

Feeders use the clock from the internet or their own settings. After the clocks change, check that breakfast still comes at breakfast time.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Regular meals at the same times, measured the same way, help many pets keep a steady weight, and everyone in the house knows the pet has been fed.

CHAPTER 15

Power Outages & Backup Batteries

Here in northeast Ohio, storms and winter weather knock the power out now and then. A feeder with no backup simply stops. Here's what each kind does, and how to prepare.

When the Wi-Fi goes out

Most smart dry-food feeders keep their schedule in the feeder's own memory, so meals usually keep coming when the internet drops. What you lose is control and alerts on your phone until it reconnects. Because models differ, look in your feeder's manual or help page for the words "offline" or "without Wi-Fi" so you know for certain how yours behaves.

When the power goes out

Feeder	Backup	What PETLIBRO says
PETLIBRO Granary (Wi-Fi)	Three D alkaline batteries	An emergency backup only. Do not use rechargeable batteries. Change them every 6 months if they haven't been used.
PETLIBRO Space	Backup batteries	Switches to battery power on its own during an outage, and the app tells you.
Other PETLIBRO models	Usually D batteries	Can run on batteries alone, but PETLIBRO recommends the power adapter, with fresh batteries kept in as backup.

PetSafe and other brands also sell feeders with a battery backup, usually D batteries bought separately. Check your model's manual for the battery type and how long it lasts.

Get ready before the next storm

1. Put fresh alkaline batteries in the feeder now, if it takes them. Write the date on a piece of tape on the bottom.
2. Replace them on the schedule your manual gives (PETLIBRO says every 6 months for the Granary if they haven't been used), or sooner if the app warns of low battery.
3. Keep a spare pack in the drawer with your flashlights.
4. After a power cut, check that the feeder still shows the right time and schedule, and watch the next meal.

HEADS UP

Don't trust the app alone after a blackout

A feeder can come back from an outage with the wrong time or a lost connection, and the app may not make that obvious. After any outage, check the bowl or the camera yourself.

STAY SAFE

Long outages

Batteries buy you a day or a few days, not a week. If the power is out and you're away, ask a neighbor or family member to check food and water in person.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Five minutes and a pack of batteries mean your pet still gets dinner when the lights go out.

CHAPTER 16

Water Fountains: Setup & Keeping Them Clean

A pet fountain keeps water moving through a filter, and many cats and dogs drink more from it than from a still bowl. Smart fountains, such as PETLIBRO's Dockstream models, add an app that can tell you when the water is low or the filter is due. A fountain is only as good as its cleaning, though.

Setting one up

1. Rinse the tank, the pump cover and the lid before first use.
2. Soak or rinse the new filter as its instructions say. Some filters need a few minutes in water before they work properly.
3. Put the pump and filter in place, then fill with fresh water up to the MAX line.
4. Plug it in. Water should start flowing within a few seconds.
5. For a smart fountain, add it in the brand's app and connect it to your 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi.
6. Leave the old water bowl out for a few days while your pet gets used to the sound.

A cleaning routine that works

How often	What to do
Every day or two	Check the water level and top up with fresh water.
Every week (or as the manual says)	Unplug, empty, and wash the tank and bowl in warm, soapy water. Rinse well.
Every couple of weeks	Take the pump apart and clean it. Hair and slime build up inside and make it noisy or slow.
Filter	Replace on the schedule in your manual, or sooner if the water looks cloudy. Smart fountains often remind you in the app.

STAY SAFE

Never let the pump run dry

A pump that runs without water can overheat and wear out. Keep the water above the minimum line, and unplug the fountain before you take it apart. Keep the cord where your pet can't chew it.

TIP

Noisy fountain?

A gurgle or hum usually means the water is low or the pump is clogged with hair. Top it up first; if it's still noisy, clean the pump.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Fresh, moving water that your pet wants to drink, and a fountain that lasts for years instead of months.

CHAPTER 17

Camera Feeders & PETLIBRO Video Cloud

Some feeders have a camera built in, and PETLIBRO also sells a stand-alone pet camera, the **Scout Smart Camera**. A camera at the bowl answers the question a feeding log can't: did your pet actually eat? Like the camera brands in Part 3, PETLIBRO sells an optional plan for saved video and smarter features.

PETLIBRO Video Cloud AI (U.S. store prices)

Plan	Price shown	Saved video	Notes
Free	No charge	None saved	Live view still works; the AI features don't
Standard	$95.99 a year	7 days	About 26 cents a day
Premium	$135.99 a year	30 days	About 37 cents a day

- These were the prices on PETLIBRO's U.S. store in November 2026, shown with a 20% discount. The regular price can be higher, and prices differ by country.
- Plans are generally for one camera. PETLIBRO also lists a family tier covering more than one in some regions, so compare before you pay for each camera separately.
- Retailer listings mention the plan for features such as activity tracking and highlight clips.

Do you need it?

If...	Then
You just want to peek at the bowl now and then	No. The free live view does that.
You want to look back and see whether breakfast was eaten	A plan with saved video helps.
Several pets and you want to know who ate what	The AI features may help; try any trial first.

HEADS UP

Pay once, in one place

If you already pay for a Furbo, Petcube or home-security camera plan, a second plan for the feeder camera may be more than you need. Make a list of every pet subscription and its renewal date (the Cheat-Sheet in Chapter 27 has a spot for it).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Seeing your pet at the bowl is the surest way to know the feeder did its job. You can decide calmly whether a plan is worth it, knowing the real yearly cost.

PART 5

Self-Cleaning Litter Boxes

Setting up a Litter-Robot with the Whisker app, the safety sensors that protect your cat (and the rules for kittens), and the PetSafe ScoopFree crystal-tray boxes.

CHAPTER 18

Setting Up a Litter-Robot

The **Litter-Robot**, made by a company called **Whisker**, is the best-known self-cleaning litter box. After your cat leaves, it waits a short time and then slowly turns to sift the clumps into a drawer underneath. You empty the drawer every few days instead of scooping. The Litter-Robot 4 is the common model in homes today; the Litter-Robot 5 and 5 Pro arrived in late 2025. All of them run on the **Whisker** app.

Before you start

- Put the robot where it will live: on a **firm, level floor**, not a thick rug. Soft floors throw off its weight sensors.
- Fill it with clumping litter to the fill line, no higher. Too much litter also confuses the sensors.
- Have your **2.4 GHz** Wi-Fi name and password ready. The Litter-Robot 4 connects to 2.4 GHz only.
- Connect your **phone** to the 2.4 GHz network too, and turn off any VPN app.

Step by step

1. Plug the robot in and switch it on.
2. Install the **Whisker** app and create an account (or sign in).
3. Tap to add a robot and choose your model. Allow Bluetooth when asked.
4. Choose your 2.4 GHz network and type the password.
5. When the app shows the robot online, run one clean cycle while you watch, so you know what it sounds like.

If it won't connect

- Check the Wi-Fi password, letter by letter.
- On a mesh system with one network name, temporarily turn off 5 GHz, or make a 2.4 GHz-only guest network and connect the robot to that (Chapter 6).
- Avoid networks with a sign-in page, like a hotel's or some apartment buildings'.
- If you change your router or Wi-Fi password later, use the app's **Update Network** option to reconnect. You'll need the new 2.4 GHz name and password.

GOOD TO KNOW

One account, many robots

One Whisker account can hold several Litter-Robots, and Whisker's Feeder-Robot feeder too, so everything is in one app.

TIP

Let your cat take it slow

Some cats need a few days to trust a box that moves. Many owners leave the robot switched off for the first days, so it's just a box, and keep the old box nearby until the cat is using the new one.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

No more daily scooping, and a cleaner box for your cat. For anyone with a sore back or knees, that alone can be worth it.

CHAPTER 19

Litter-Box Safety Sensors, Kittens & Whisker+

Any machine that moves with a cat nearby has to be careful. The Litter-Robot is designed to notice a cat and stop. It helps to know how that works, and where its limits are.

How the Litter-Robot 4 senses your cat

- **Laser sensors** watch several safety zones around the opening and inside the globe.
- **Weight sensors** in the base feel a cat step in.
- **Anti-pinch and anti-obstruction** software stops the motion if something is in the way.
- After the cat leaves, the robot waits for a delay you set in the app before it cleans. If a cat comes back in, it pauses.

The 3-pound rule for kittens and small cats

Whisker says the Litter-Robot can only reliably detect cats weighing **3 pounds or more**. For a kitten under 3 pounds, Whisker recommends a "semi-automatic" approach: keep the robot powered off or unplugged and use it as an ordinary box, under supervision, until the kitten reaches 3 pounds and can reliably trigger the sensors. Then you can turn automatic cleaning on.

STAY SAFE

If it ever cycles with your cat inside

Stop using automatic mode right away: switch the robot off or unplug it. Check that it's on a firm, level floor, the litter is at the fill line, and the sensors are clean. Then contact Whisker support before you turn automatic cleaning back on. Don't take chances with a small or elderly cat.

Handy settings in the Whisker app

Setting	What it's for
Cycle delay	How long the robot waits after your cat leaves before it cleans. A longer delay suits a cat who likes to come back for a second visit.
Control panel lock	Stops curious children (or pets) from pressing the buttons.
Night light	A soft light so your cat can find the box in the dark.
Sleep mode	Hours when the robot won't run a cycle, such as overnight in a bedroom area.
Pet profiles	Track visits and weight for each cat. How many cats each model can tell apart differs; the Litter-Robot 5 Pro handles more than the Litter-Robot 5.

Weight readings: useful, not perfect

The robot weighs your cat on each visit, and changes over weeks can be worth mentioning to your veterinarian. Whisker notes the scale can't tell apart cats within about a pound of each other, and that soft floors and too much litter or waste cause wrong readings. Keeping the robot updated helps too.

STAY SAFE

Watch your cat's habits, not just the app

Going in and out often with little result, crying in the box, or not using it at all can be signs of a urinary blockage, which is an emergency, especially in male cats. Call your veterinarian promptly. An app chart is a helper, not a diagnosis.

Whisker+ membership

Whisker sells an optional **Whisker+** membership that adds extra features in the app and covers all your compatible Whisker devices. Some Litter-Robot bundles include a few months or a year of it. Whisker's current price wasn't clearly posted when this guide was checked, so look in the app's account section, and note the renewal date if a bundle included it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the safety rules lets you enjoy the convenience without worry, and the visit and weight records give you something real to tell the vet.

CHAPTER 20

PetSafe ScoopFree Litter Boxes

PetSafe's **ScoopFree** boxes work differently from a Litter-Robot. Instead of clumping litter and a drawer, most use a **disposable tray of crystal litter**. A rake moves waste into a covered trap at one end, and every few weeks you throw the whole tray away and put in a new one. The **ScoopFree Crystal Smart** model adds Wi-Fi and an app.

Setting up a ScoopFree Crystal Smart

1. Put the box on a level floor in a quiet spot, and slide in a fresh crystal litter tray.
2. Plug it in.
3. Install PetSafe's app, create an account and add the litter box.
4. Connect it to your **2.4 GHz** Wi-Fi. PetSafe says the network must be 2.4 GHz for the box to connect to the app.
5. Check that the app shows the box, then let your cat explore it.

What the app does

PetSafe lists round-the-clock monitoring in the app and a health counter that tracks how often your cat uses the box, so you can spot a change in habits.

HEADS UP

Use the right trays and litter

The manual warns against using other litter or other trays in the ScoopFree Crystal Smart. Use ScoopFree crystal litter trays (or PetSafe's own reusable tray with crystal litter). Clumping clay litter will jam the rake.

TIP

Count the cost of trays

The box is only part of the cost. Replacement trays are an ongoing expense, so check the current price of a multi-pack before you buy, and how often your cats will need a new one.

STAY SAFE

Kittens, small cats and safety

Read your model's manual for its age and weight guidance and how it senses a cat. Watch your cat's first few visits, and if a rake ever moves while your cat is inside, stop using it and contact PetSafe.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

No daily scooping and no heavy bags of litter: a simple tray swap every few weeks, plus a record of your cat's visits.

PART 6

Sharing, Privacy & Account Safety

Letting family and pet sitters use your pet gadgets the safe way, keeping a camera in your home private, and protecting the accounts behind it all.

CHAPTER 21

Sharing with Family & Pet Sitters

Most households want more than one person to see the camera or change the feeding schedule. Each brand handles sharing differently: some let you invite people to their own accounts, and some simply share one login. Here's how the main ones work.

At a glance

Brand	How sharing works
Petcube	Invite people by username into a **Family** or **Friends** list. Each person uses their own Petcube account.
PETLIBRO	**Device Sharing** in the device's settings. Up to five other accounts per device.
Furbo	One account per Furbo. Furbo's help center says to share the login with family members.
Whisker (Litter-Robot)	Others in the household download the Whisker app and sign in with the same account.

Petcube: Family or Friends

1. Ask the other person to install the **Petcube** app and create their own account.
2. In your app, open the camera and tap **Sharing**.
3. Add them to the **Family** list or the **Friends** list.
4. To remove someone later, find their name in the same Sharing menu and swipe it left to delete or unfriend them.

List	What they can do
Family	Almost full control: connect any time, change camera and sharing settings, and see recorded videos on the Petcube Care timeline.
Friends	Limited access you control: only at the days and times you schedule, and you decide whether they can toss treats or use two-way audio.

TIP

Pet sitters go in Friends

Put a pet sitter or dog walker on the **Friends** list, scheduled for the days they're working. Keep **Family** for the people you'd hand a house key to.

HEADS UP

Leave public sharing off

Petcube also has a public sharing option that lets anyone with the app watch. For a camera inside your home, leave it off.

PETLIBRO: Device Sharing

1. Ask the other person to install the **PETLIBRO** app and create their own account.
2. In your app, open the feeder or fountain and tap **Settings**.
3. Choose **Device Sharing** and add the other person's account (their email address).
4. Repeat for each device you want to share. Each device can be shared with up to five accounts.

Furbo and Litter-Robot: one shared login

With these, everyone signs in with the same email and password. That's simple for a household, but it means anyone with the login can change settings, see recordings and even change the password. So:

- Share the login only with people you trust completely.
- Use a password you don't use anywhere else (Chapter 22).
- For a pet sitter, think twice. If you do share it, change the password when they're done, and check that the settings are as you left them.

A pet-sitter plan that doesn't depend on gadgets

1. Write down feeding amounts, medicines and the vet's phone number on paper, on the counter.
2. Show the sitter how to feed by hand if the feeder fails, and where the spare food and batteries are.
3. Give them access to the camera only if it helps them, with the least access that works.
4. Agree how often they'll visit in person. The gadgets fill gaps between visits; they don't replace them.
5. When they're done, remove their access or change the shared password.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Everyone who helps with your pet can see what they need, and nobody keeps access longer than they should.

CHAPTER 22

Camera Privacy & Account Security

A pet camera is a camera and microphone inside your home, connected to the internet. That's what makes it useful, and it's why a few sensible habits matter. None of this is hard.

Where to point the camera

- Point it at where your pet spends time, not at a bedroom, bathroom or a desk with your mail and bills on it.
- If you have house guests, a cleaner or a caregiver, tell them there's a camera and where it is. It's the courteous thing to do, and in some situations it may be required.
- When you're home, use the app's privacy or camera-off setting if it has one, or simply unplug it.

Protect the account

1. Use a **long, unique password** for each pet app: one you don't use for email, banking or anything else. A password manager, or the one built into your phone, can remember it for you.
2. Turn on **two-step verification** (a code sent to your phone or email when you sign in) if the app offers it. Look in the account or security section of the app's settings.
3. Use an email address you check, so you see sign-in alerts and receipts.
4. Keep the app and the gadget's firmware up to date. Accept updates when the app offers them.
5. Sign out of the app on any old phone or tablet before you give it away.

Protect the Wi-Fi it lives on

Your pet gadgets are only as safe as the network they're on. The FTC's advice for home Wi-Fi: change the router's default admin password, use WPA2 or the newer WPA3 security with a strong Wi-Fi password, and keep the router's software updated.

SCAM ALERT

"Your camera has been hacked" calls and pop-ups

A caller, email or pop-up says your camera or account has been hacked and asks you to call a number, pay for a fix or install a program so they can "secure" it. Real pet companies don't do this. Hang up or close it, then open the app yourself and change your password if you're worried.

SCAM ALERT

Fake support numbers

Searching for "Furbo support phone" or "Litter-Robot help" can turn up ads for look-alike support lines. Use the help links inside the official app or type the company's own web address.

SCAM ALERT

Fake shops and too-good prices

Social-media ads for a famous self-cleaning litter box or pet camera at a fraction of the usual price are often fake shops. Buy from the maker's own website or a store you know.

STAY SAFE

If you think someone else is watching

Change the app's password right away, sign out all other devices if the app offers it, check the sharing list for anyone you don't recognize, and turn on two-step verification.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Your camera shows your pet to you, and only to you and the people you choose.

PART 7

When Something Goes Wrong

What to do when a gadget says offline, the everyday fixes for feeders, cameras, fountains and litter boxes, and getting ready for a trip or passing a gadget on.

CHAPTER 23

When a Gadget Says "Offline"

"Offline" is the most common message in any pet app. It means the gadget and the app have lost touch. Remember that a feeder may still be serving meals from its own memory (Chapter 15). Work through these steps in order; most problems are fixed in the first three.

First, the quick checks

1. **Is it plugged in and switched on?** Look for its light. A tripped power strip or a pet that pulled the plug is more common than you'd think.
2. **Is your internet working?** Try a web page on your phone with cell data turned off. If nothing loads, the problem is the internet, not the gadget.
3. **Restart the gadget.** Unplug it for 10 to 30 seconds and plug it back in. Give it a couple of minutes to reconnect.
4. **Restart the router.** Unplug it for 30 seconds, plug it back in and wait until its lights settle, then restart the gadget again.
5. **Close and reopen the app**, and check the app store for an update.

If it's still offline

- **Did anything change?** A new router, a new internet company or a new Wi-Fi password means the gadget is still looking for the old network. It has to be told about the new one, usually by running setup again. (The Litter-Robot's Whisker app has an **Update Network** option for this.)
- **Is the Wi-Fi weak where it sits?** If it works next to the router but not in its spot, move it a little closer or consider a mesh Wi-Fi point.
- **Did your router switch lanes?** Some mesh routers steer devices between 2.4 and 5 GHz. A 2.4 GHz-only guest network often settles a gadget that keeps dropping off (Chapter 6).
- **Check the maker's status.** Now and then the company's own computers are down. The app or the company's help site may say so.

The last resort: set it up again

If nothing else works, remove the gadget from the app and set it up as new (Chapters 8, 9, 13 and 18). Most gadgets have a reset button or a reset step in the manual. Before you do, write down your feeding schedule and settings, because a reset may erase them.

HEADS UP

Saved videos may not survive

Removing a camera from your account can delete its saved video history. If there's a clip you want to keep, download it first.

TIP

Same name, same password

If you ever replace your router, giving the new one exactly the same Wi-Fi name and password as the old one lets many gadgets reconnect by themselves, with no setup needed.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A calm, step-by-step routine that fixes most "offline" problems in a few minutes, without a service call.

CHAPTER 24

Everyday Fixes: Jams, Noises & Odd Behavior

Beyond Wi-Fi, most problems with pet gadgets are mechanical, and most have simple causes. Here are the common ones.

Feeders

Problem	Try this
Food didn't come out	Check the hopper isn't empty and the kibble isn't bridged (stuck in an arch above the opening). Stir it, then try **feed now**.
Jams often	Kibble may be too big, oily or broken. Clean the hopper and dispenser, dry them completely, and try a smaller kibble.
Meals at the wrong time	Check the time zone and clock in the app, especially after a power cut or a daylight saving change.
Double or missing meals	Look for a duplicate meal in the schedule, and check the feeding log.

Cameras

Problem	Try this
Picture is blurry or dark	Wipe the lens with a soft, dry cloth. Move it away from a bright window that makes the room look dark.
Video freezes or stutters	Weak Wi-Fi. Move the camera or router a little closer.
Can't hear or be heard	Check the phone's volume, and that the app has microphone permission.
Treats won't toss	See Chapter 10: smaller, drier treats and a clean container.

Fountains

Problem	Try this
Loud or gurgling	Top up the water, then clean the pump.
Water not flowing	Check it's plugged in, the water is above the minimum line, and the pump isn't clogged with hair.
Slimy or smelly	Wash everything and replace the filter (Chapter 16).

Self-cleaning litter boxes

Problem	Try this
Cycles at odd times	Check the cycle delay and sleep mode settings in the app.
Wrong cat weight or missed visits	Make sure it's on a firm, level floor and the litter is at the fill line, not above it. Check for a firmware update.
Drawer or tray fills fast	Empty the drawer or change the tray sooner, especially with more than one cat.
Stopped mid-cycle	Something may be in the way. Switch it off, look, clear it, and let it reset.

STAY SAFE

Unplug before you reach in

Always unplug a feeder, fountain or litter box before you put your hand inside or take it apart.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Most problems you can sort out yourself in a few minutes, and you'll know when it's time to call the maker or a helper instead.

CHAPTER 25

Going Away, Moving & Passing a Gadget On

Trips, moves and upgrades are when pet gadgets most often let people down, usually because something wasn't checked ahead of time.

Before a trip

1. Arrange in-person visits first: a neighbor, family member or pet sitter (Chapter 2).
2. A week ahead, run the feeder on its real schedule and watch it, in person or on the camera.
3. Fill the feeder and fountain, put in fresh backup batteries, and clean the litter box.
4. Check that the camera is online from your phone while on cell data, not just your home Wi-Fi.
5. Share access with your sitter (Chapter 21), and leave written instructions and the vet's number.
6. While you're away, look in once a day. If a gadget goes offline, ask your sitter to check in person.

STAY SAFE

A feeder is not a pet sitter

Even with full hoppers, a camera and a fountain, a pet left alone for days can run into trouble no gadget will catch. Make sure a person sees your pet.

Moving house

- Write down your schedules and settings before you unplug anything.
- At the new home, each gadget needs to be connected to the new Wi-Fi, usually by running setup again (Chapter 23).
- Give your pet extra time to get used to the gadgets in their new spots.

Selling or giving one away

1. Download any videos you want to keep.
2. Remove the gadget from your account in the app.
3. Do a factory reset following the maker's instructions, so your Wi-Fi details and settings are wiped.

4. Cancel or move any subscription tied to it, so you're not paying for a gadget you no longer have.

HEADS UP

Buying secondhand

If you buy a used camera, feeder or litter box, make sure the seller has removed it from their account. A gadget still tied to someone else's account usually can't be set up, and the seller might still be able to see your camera.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Trips without worry, a smooth move, and no strangers with a view into your living room.

PART 8

Getting Help & Your Cheat-Sheet

An honest word about when a hand is worth it, and a one-page summary to keep near your pet's things.

CHAPTER 26

When to Call Bill

Most of what's in this guide you can do yourself, at your own pace. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time and worry. Here's my straight advice, with no pressure.

Times it's well worth a call

- **Nothing will connect**, and you suspect the 2.4 GHz problem but can't find the setting in your router.
- **Setting it all up in one visit**: camera, feeder, fountain and litter box on the Wi-Fi, schedules entered, sharing set up for the family, and everything tested with you.
- **A trip is coming up** and you'd like everything checked, the batteries fresh and the pet sitter's access ready before you go.
- **You've changed routers or internet companies** and every gadget in the house went offline at once.
- **You're worried about privacy**: who can see the camera, whether the passwords are strong, and whether old phones still have access.
- **Deciding whether a subscription is worth it** for how you actually use the gadget, with no sales pitch.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace, explain what I'm doing in plain words, and never talk down to anyone. I'll tell you honestly when something isn't worth your money, and I don't sell subscriptions or gadgets. I've been doing this kind of work for more than 30 years, and I serve Portage County, Ohio, in person, and folks farther away by remote help.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call **(330) 200-8042** or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. My help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. This guide is yours to keep for free; if you'd like a hand, I'm only a phone call away.

GOOD TO KNOW

You may meet Sophie first

When you call or visit billshometech.com, you might be greeted by **Sophie**, my AI receptionist. She can answer quick questions and help you book a time. A real person — me — does the actual help.

GOOD TO KNOW

What I can't do

I'm a technology helper, not a veterinarian. If your pet seems unwell, eats or drinks differently, or has trouble in the litter box, call your vet first.

Thank you for taking such good care of the animals in your life. Take it one step at a time, and remember: the best pet gadget is still a person who stops by.

— Bill

CHAPTER 27

Your Pet Gadgets Cheat-Sheet

Keep this with your pet's food and leash. The whole guide, boiled down.

The essentials

Topic	Remember
Wi-Fi	Most pet gadgets need 2.4 GHz. Phone on the same network, VPN off, during setup.
Furbo	Furbo app. Furbo Nanny Standard $9.99/mo or Premium $12.49/mo; plus two dollars a month per extra camera. One shared login.
Petcube	Petcube app. Petcube Care optional (Optimal or Premium). Share through Family or Friends.
PETLIBRO	PETLIBRO app. Video Cloud AI Standard $95.99/yr, Premium $135.99/yr (U.S. sale prices). Device Sharing, up to 5 accounts.
Litter-Robot	Whisker app. Cats 3 lb or more for automatic mode. Update Network if Wi-Fi changes.
PetSafe ScoopFree	PetSafe app on Smart models. Crystal litter trays only.
Power outage	Fresh alkaline D batteries in the feeder (not rechargeable for PETLIBRO).
Prices	As of November 2026; always check the renewal price.

Write it down once

Keep handy	
Gadgets & their apps	_____
Account email for each app	_____
Who has shared access	_____
Feeding schedule & portions	_____
Battery change date	_____
Filter or tray change date	_____
Paid plans & renewal dates	_____
Veterinarian's phone number	_____
Pet sitter or neighbor's phone number	_____

When something's wrong, in order

1. Is your pet OK? Check in person or ask someone to, before you fix any gadget.
2. Is the gadget plugged in and its light on?
3. Is your internet working?
4. Unplug the gadget for 30 seconds and plug it back in.
5. Restart the router, then the gadget.
6. Did the Wi-Fi name or password change? Run setup again.
7. Still stuck? Call Bill at (330) 200-8042.

STAY SAFE

If your pet seems unwell

Call your veterinarian. For a cat straining in the litter box with little or nothing coming out, call right away: it can be an emergency.