

Want to video call the cat?

ADAM POULOPOULOS

Have you ever wanted to watch your cat sleep, eat and clean itself, from the comfort of your poolside deck chair? Now you can.

Mary's CatVilla, in Peka Peka, north of Wellington, offers cat owners the use of a Petzi camera, allowing them to keep an eye on their moggy from anywhere with an internet connection.

The feed is controlled from the owner's smartphone, and the camera is placed in the cat's "condo". Owners can watch their cat, speak to it through the camera's in-built microphone and take photos, which can be shared via the Petzi app.

It costs an extra \$1.50 per day. A camera that also dispenses treats, prompted by the smartphone user, is an extra \$2.50 a day.

The camera does not capture the cat when it goes into the public area.

Owners Frank Simon and Mary Bossley were inspired by similar arrangements at catteries in the US, and have offered it since their business opened in December.

The camera option was particularly popular with those leaving their cats for several months, Bossley said.

She said it can take a day or two for the cats to adjust to the device.

"There's a camera here. My humans can talk to me. Treats are coming out."

Bossley said she hoped other catteries and dog kennels would consider using similar cameras.

The pair will stock the cameras on their website, Mary's PetPalace, and are waiting for the delivery.



Mary Bossley with Apollo the cat, and a Petzi camera used at her cattery.

PHOTO: ADAM POUL