

WACKY COLLECTORS

We're outta CONTROL!

Whether it's another fluffy cow, cutesy kitty or concrete kangaroo, there's always room for more at the homes of these fanatical collectors

Natasha Goldsworthy firmly believes a woman should never change for a man, so she's broken up with any guy who's questioned her Hello Kitty collection.

The 29-year-old horse trainer is obsessed with the adorable white cat and has spent \$80,000 on her impressive haul.

When it comes to Hello Kitty, Natasha has it all – jewellery, clothing, kitchenware, a gumball machine and 4000 stuffed kitties all stored in the perfectly pink one-bedroom apartment she calls her "Kitty Kingdom".

Some guys find the Kingdom, which is filled with 10,000 Hello Kitty items, a bit overwhelming.

"Boyfriends in the past have tried to make me give her up... so I got rid of them," Natasha says defiantly. **"If a man doesn't like my Kitty Kingdom and can't accept me for who I am, then I'm not interested in them."**

She's still hopeful she'll meet a guy who loves Kitty as much as she does and she's even picked out her wedding dress for when the time comes, modelled on one worn by her favourite cat.

This year, Hello Kitty celebrates its 40th anniversary and Natasha, who's been collecting since she was 15 years old, says she's certainly not going to stop buying merchandise anytime soon.

"I live in my little pink lagoon with all my kitties. They cheer me up and I like having them around me," she says.



Natasha won't date guys who aren't Kitty-friendly.



Carol says her students think she's crazy – in a good way.

I'm udderly obsessed

Carol Tan is dotty for cows! The bubbly 34-year-old is the proud owner of 3550 items, making her the Australian record holder for the largest cow collection.

"I love all cows! It's really the shape. They're so gentle," says Carol, eyes sparkling.

From tablecloths to couches, cookie cutters, clocks, crockery, cow-cululators and custom "COW" numberplates, it's hard to find an object in Carol's Melbourne home that isn't bovine inspired.

When she's not scouring the globe for cow-phernalia, she's

lecturing uni students on management.

"They think I'm crazy. Good crazy, not bad crazy!"



Helen's animal collection began 47 years ago with a giant lizard.

My backyard is a zoo

When Perth retiree Helen Fanciulli-Webster is lonely, she looks outside and is instantly comforted by 500 friends in her backyard.

They're not rowdy or messy – they're the ideal guests, even if the conversation is a bit one-way.

"I love them like a kid loves a teddy bear," says the 81-year-

old grandma, whose collection began 47 years ago with a gift.

"My first was a lizard but now I've got kangaroos, butterflies, ducks, peacocks and many more."

When the grandkids visit, they make a beeline for the backyard to see what's been added.

"It's getting a bit ridiculous and it's an obsession, but I love it and they brighten up my life."

I'm addicted to plastic food

From baguettes to burgers, soups, sundaes, doughnuts and desserts – if it's food and it's fake, then Akiko Obata wants to know about it.

Ever since a trip to Tokyo Disneyland 10 years ago, she's been obsessed and now **holds the world record for the largest collection,** with a whopping 8083 items packed into her apartment.



Akiko is always hungry for food – the plastic, collectable kind.