



Main image: Every item is unique with an individual print.
 Top right: Simply take the prints at home.
 Above: Silver ring featuring paw prints of two dogs.
 Below right: Leather bracelet with pearl in red gold.
 Bottom right: The original 'Baxter-bracelet'.

One moment in time

German jewellery company FOYA have made it their mission to immortalise cherished memories through their jewellery, featuring paw prints and footprints. Each unique handmade piece of jewellery captures a moment in time, forever.

TEXT: MARILENA STRACKE | PHOTOS: FOYA

On a walk by the North Sea, Katja and Stefan Boscheinen watched their two-year-old son and wondered how they could capture his footprints in the sand, which started their journey of becoming jewellery designers.

Of course, this concept of using footprints in jewellery was not new, but the Boscheinens did not agree with existing methods of taking the prints, the quality produced, or the designs.

"We did not like that the footprints were taken with ink on paper. Most details were lost and the outlines were anything but sharp," Katja Boscheinen explains. "Over the course of two years we developed our own way to take the prints using step-in foam and then transferring that onto silver." The prototype was made from the paw prints of their family cat, Puffy, and in 2011 they finally opened their online shop, which has been growing ever since. Today, they are able to use a range of different materials including gold and stainless steel.

As many pet owners have discovered, FOYA does not use any chemicals or ink, making the process of taking the prints entirely stress-free for animals. The remarkable detail, which includes capturing the claws, makes the pieces unmistakably individual.

Boscheinen adds: "We are very happy to welcome so many pet owners as our customers because we understand that pets are family members. We live in a region with many horses and we are recently making more and more jewellery with imprints of horseshoes."

As animal lovers themselves, the Boscheinens are committed vegetarians and treat animals with great respect. Many of their customers have become friends over the years.

The owners of Baxter the dog had tried to take Baxter's paw prints themselves using salt dough, which did not work as Baxter preferred to eat the dough. When they

found FOYA, the jewellery with Baxter's paw print amazed them. Sadly, Baxter passed away shortly after and a memorial bracelet was designed, which still is one of the Boscheinens' personal favourites.

"We have become close friends with Baxter's owners and are so happy to see how much meaning the bracelet has. It is not just jewellery. It represents a deep connection," Boscheinen says and she is absolutely right.

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