

## The Facebook/Email Gift Card Pet Scam

This is the a common pet scam and relatively easy to avoid. Most cases aren't reported because the people who are scammed simply feel too stupid that they have been caught out. It goes like this..

1. You get an email OR you get a message on Facebook (unsolicited).

It says that you are the "luck winner of a gift card from [common name of pet retail chain]" .

You either have to "CLICK HERE TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE" at which point you accidentally click on a virus or Trojan or worm or keylogger or ransomware or other nasty that infects your computer, OR

You have to provide your credit card details because the amount on the gift card is put onto your credit card

Tragically, the email even looks like it comes from 'common pet retail chain' – it might be admin@petretailchain.com.au, for example. It might even use the logo from the "common pet retail chain"

In the case of Facebook messages, these might come from a fake Facebook page, or even from a friend (if your friend's account gets hijacked)

And it's usually for a sum of money that makes it worth looking at....

### So How Do You Tell If It's Real?

Three simple rules

- If it looks too good to be true it probably is. Why would a pet retail chain suddenly offer you gift cards, but want your credit card details or you to click to see it?

- Check with the store. If you don't regularly shop at that store, why would they send you a gift card? C'mon, stores aren't usually *that* generous!



- NEVER, never, never give your credit card details to an unsolicited email or Facebook message.

*This advice is of a general nature and is not a substitute for professional assistance.*

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