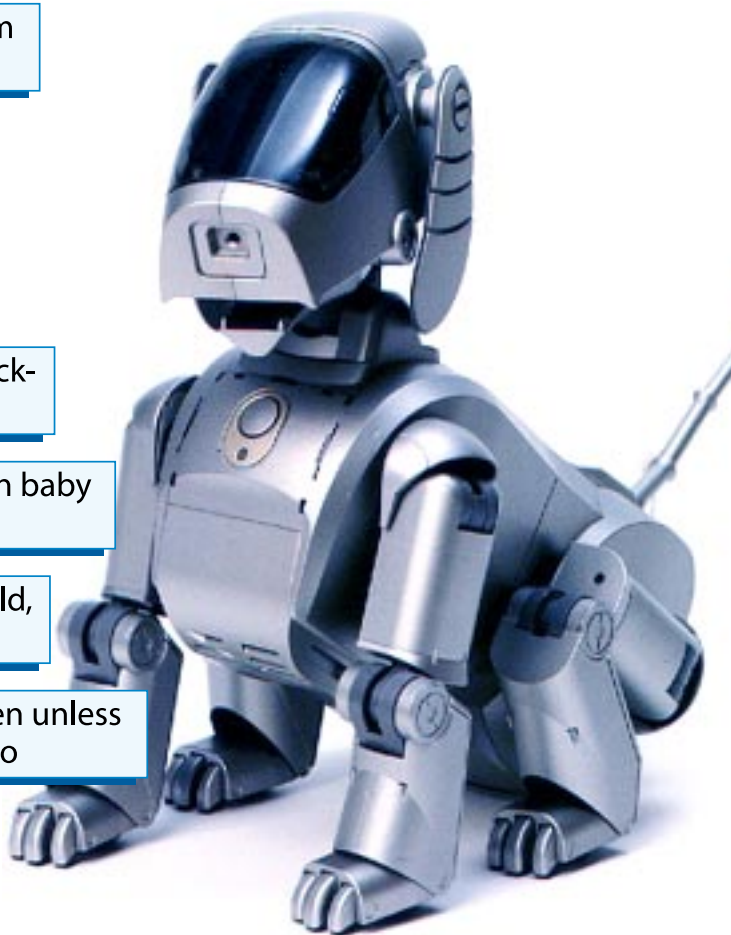


The Sony Cyber-Pooch

Offered for sale exclusively over the Internet, Sony's new "Aibo" — a \$2,500 robotic dog that can go for walks, wag its tail and do tricks — recently sold out in 20 minutes. Why is Aibo so popular?

- 8% Keeps all those goddamn robot cats out of yard
- 16% Crude, mechanical simulations of love and affection prepare children for adult world
- 9% Marks territory with stream of caustic battery acid
- 4% Hoping to teach it to say "Rastro"
- 7% Doesn't vomit batteries back up like real dog
- 12% No need to drown it in brick-filled sack to shut it up
- 13% Hoping to train it to tuck in baby from airport video-phone
- 10% Kids kept nagging for a cold, metallic object to hug
- 15% Won't bite faces off children unless specifically programmed to
- 6% Have long dreamed of electric sheep



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