Knitwear HANDBOOK Cast off your preconceptions. Wool - in all its guises - was the cosiest of hits on the catwalk New name 1: ALEXANDER LEWIS SWEATER, £655 At 14, Alexander Lewis made a pact with himself - he would either become an actor or a designer. So after treading the boards at the University of Southern California and assisting the legendary PAUL SMITH BLACK LABEL André Leon Talley at American CABLE WOOL SWEATER, £159 Vogue, he returned to London to work as a pattern-cutter at Norton & Sons on Savile Row, before Traditional weaves heading up branding and still hold sway and business at E Tautz. Now he a chunky cable knit has made his womenswear is a winter staple; CHINTI & PARKER debut. "I was inspired by the go oversized (to SWEATER £350 straw-weaving methods smarten, cinch with used in Brazilian furniturea glossy skinny belt). making," he says about MOSCHINO CHEAP & CHIC MERINO-WOOL SWEATER, £355 his new hand-crochet weave. "The technique was something the knitters had never done ALWAYS HANDWASH before, which appealed WOOLLENS IN COLD to me; there's no point WATER AND DRY FLAT PREVENT BOBBLING in doing something that BY VOWING TO NEVER has been seen time and CARRY A HANDBAG again, is there?" We couldn't OVER THE SHOULDER agree more. Alexanderlewis.eu. (THE FRICTION Ellen Burney ROUGHS UP WOOL DAVID KOMA CASHMERE SWEATER, £999 AND CASHMERE) ANIMAL **IKOU TSCHUSS** MARKS & SPENCER WOOL-MIX SWEATER, £35 CASHMERE SWEATER, £399, AT COUVERTURE INTARSIA How to add bite? TOPSHOP WOOL SWEATER, £65 With a sweater boasting a tiger... or a dog, cat or rabbit... Autumn's wittiest knits are pet-friendly.

PAUL & JOE SISTER WOOL SWEATER, £175