

SPCA[®] Kids

Kind Matters

News

Issue 25 / Feb 2023

2023's first issue of Kind Matters is here!

We're excited to announce that this issue features our annual photography competition, along with exciting information about pigs, Māui and Hector's dolphins, as well as a brand new craft.

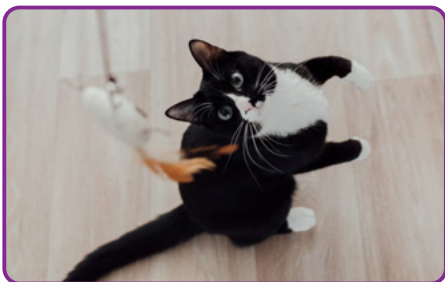
We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed creating it for you!

Photography Competition

It's time for our annual Kind Matters Photography Competition!

For this year's competition, we want to see animals at play. Just as play is important for your own wellbeing, play is an essential part of good animal welfare. Your photo can be of any animal, as long as you capture them at play. For example, photos can be of animals playing with their guardian, another animal companion, or with a toy. When taking your photo, remember to ensure the experience is fun and safe for everyone. Check out the photos below for inspiration and our top photography tips on the next page!

To enter, email your photo to education@spca.nz with the subject "Kind Matters Photography Competition 2023" by 24th April 2023. Please provide your name, age, school, and contact details.



Please note: by entering SPCA competitions, you're agreeing for SPCA New Zealand to share your work on all SPCA webpages and within social media postings. Thank you to our competition sponsor, OfficeMax, for the amazing prizes, and EUGY by Dodoland for our spot prizes.

What's Inside



A Closer Look at: Pigs - Poaka

Learn about what pigs need to be happy and healthy.



Kind Conservation: Māui and Hector's Dolphins

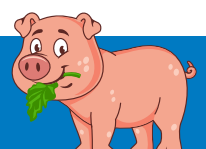
Read all about these incredible native mammals.



Craft: Pipe Cleaner Pigs

Create your own little group of pigs from pipe cleaner.

and much more...



Visit www.spca.nz/kids for more animal information!

SPCA's Top Photography Tips



1. Hold your camera steady

Holding your camera still and steady is important to capture crisp, sharp images. If you shake or move too much, you'll likely end up with a blurry image.



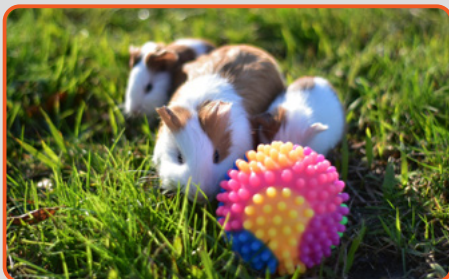
2. Pay attention to the background

Creating a good photograph isn't just about the animal - pay attention to the background to ensure it complements the animal and does not distract.



3. Get on the animal's level

Taking photo from a low level can bring a unique perspective to your photography. This helps you and the viewer see things from the animal's world.



4. Think about lighting

Lighting can be tricky but it's important that you take your photo without too much shadow or too much light so that you can see the animal clearly.



5. Taking care

Making sure the animal is comfortable and having a positive experience is of the utmost importance. Safe treats and remaining calm and quiet really helps.



6. Have fun!

Photography is all about having fun. Experiment with your shots, get creative, take lots of photos, and make sure the animal is having fun too!



A Closer Look at: Pigs - Poaka

There are so many things that make pigs, or poaka, truly fascinating. Not only are they super cute, but they have unique personalities and are incredibly smart!

It's important that you get to know your pigs really well so that you can be the very best guardian you can be for them. This includes knowing their wants, needs, likes, and dislikes.

Pigs have a wide range of wants and needs including proper food and fresh water, a comfortable, safe environment, veterinary care, and opportunities to express natural behaviours.



Pigs also have their own thoughts and feelings. So not only do pigs need their guardians to understand the things they need to be happy and healthy, they also need them to understand that because they have their own personalities, they will have different behavioural traits and preferences. When we understand these things, we can give our pigs the very best lives possible!



Fun Pig Facts:

- > Pigs can be toilet trained.
- > Pigs are very clever and have excellent memories.
- > Pigs can learn tricks like sitting, spinning, shaking hands, rolling balls, retrieving objects, stay, opening doors or pushing buttons.
- > Some pigs even have been trained to use obstacle courses, just like dogs!
- > Mud acts as a sunscreen for pigs, protecting them from the sun and keeping them cool at the same time.
- > Pigs have a great sense of smell.
- > Full grown pigs can weigh approximately 140-300 kgs.
- > Pigs are super clean and will toilet away from their living and eating areas.
- > Pigs often love belly rubs.
- > Pigs love to play.

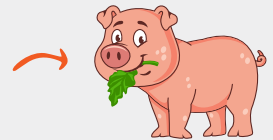


What do pigs need?

Just like all other animals, pigs need to be provided with the Five Domains. You can learn more about the Five Domains for pigs by clicking on the icons below:



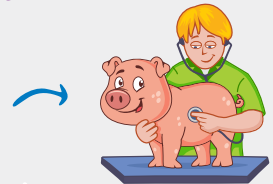
Nutrition



Environment



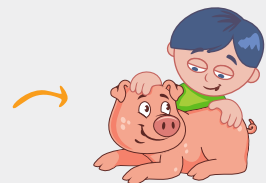
Health



Behaviour



Mental Wellbeing



Natural Pig Behaviours

Like all animals, pigs have a range of natural behaviours. Natural behaviours are not only the things that animals want to do, but they are things they need to do for their mental and physical wellbeing. Two of these behaviours for pigs include:

Rooting

Rooting is the term used for when pigs dig up the ground using their noses. They do this to forage, or search, for food. It's essential for pigs to have areas where they can do this as much and as often as they want/need.

Nesting

Birds aren't the only animals that make nests! Sows (female pigs that have had babies) and gilts (female pigs that have not had babies) have a natural instinct to make nests. They even collect materials to make these nests - so it's important they are provided with appropriate materials to build safe, comfy nests.



Kind Conservation: Māui and Hector's Dolphins

What dolphins are not only the smallest, but also the rarest in the world? The answer is the Māui and Hector's dolphins!



Hector's dolphins are endemic to New Zealand which means they can only be found in New Zealand. These stunning dolphins have unique black and white markings and their dorsal fin (the fin on their back that often pokes out of the water when they're swimming) is rounded, unlike most other dolphins who have pointier dorsal fins!

Sadly, Hector's dolphins are endangered, with only approximately 15,000 individuals left living in New Zealand's coastal waters.

The subspecies of the Hector's

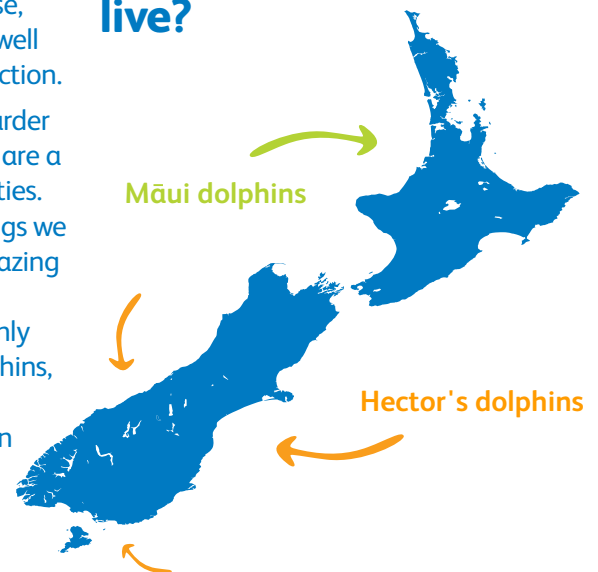
dolphin, called the Māui dolphin, are also in trouble. Unfortunately, they are listed as critically endangered with only about 54 remaining in the wild. Both of these incredible animals need our help.

One of the biggest threats to both of these incredible marine mammals is fishing, with set nets being particularly dangerous. Not only are fishing nets dangerous, but other challenges they face are boat strike, pollution, climate change, disease, predation, extreme weather, as well as habitat disruption and destruction.

Some of these challenges are harder for humans to control, but there are a lot that are due to human activities. This means there are lots of things we can do to help protect these amazing mammals through behavioural change. These actions will not only help the Māui and Hector's dolphins, but they'll help other important marine mammals as well. You can learn more about the things you can do to protect marine life [here](#).



Where do Māui and Hector's dolphins live?



How can you tell the difference?

There are lots of things that make the Māui and Hector's dolphins so similar. They are both the smallest species of dolphins in the world, they both use echolocation, they both communicate using high-pitched clicks, and they both have distinct colours round dorsal fins.

In fact, the two are so similar that Māui dolphins used to be known as the North Island Hector's dolphins.

Despite these similarities, Māui and Hector's dolphins are not actually identical. That is why twenty-one years ago, in 2002, Māui dolphins got their new name and were identified as a separate subspecies of the Hector's dolphin.

So how do you tell the difference between the Māui and Hector's dolphins? One of the ways to

determine if you've seen a Māui or Hector's dolphin is to think about *where* they were when you saw them.

Hector's dolphins are located off the coast of the South Island (though they have been known to make a rare appearance around the North Island), while Māui dolphins are only located off the west coast of the North Island (see above map).

According to the Department of Conservation, Māui and Hector's dolphins are also physically and genetically different.

The main physical difference between the two are the Māui dolphins' larger skulls and snouts.

Have you been lucky enough to see the incredible Māui and/or Hector's dolphins? Send us a picture and tell us all about it: education@spca.nz



Photo from © Department of Conservation

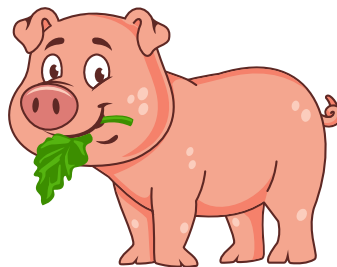
Māui dolphin



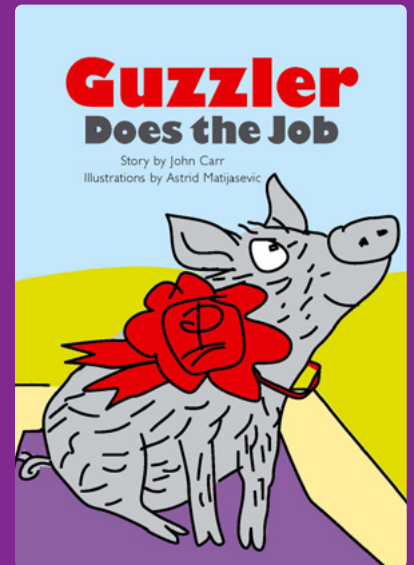
Hector's dolphin

The Five Domains for Pigs

Help! Otis the pig has a boring, bare environment. What does he need to be happy and healthy? Draw what he needs in the box below!



Book Nook



Title: Guzzler Does the Job

Author: John Carr

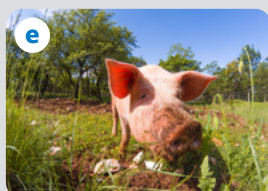
Illustrator: Astrid Matijasevic

Based on a true story, this emotive and thought-provoking first-person narrative recounts the rescue of an orphaned piglet and his adoption into a kind and caring family.

You can find Guzzler Does the Job, along with SPCA's others storybooks at your school. Ask your teacher where you can find them!

Which Domain?

Which of the Five Domains does each photo depict? Answers pg. 7



Origami Pig

Follow the directions on SPCA's Kids' Portal [here](#) to make your own origami pigs. Once you've got the hang of pigs, have a go at making our other eight origami animals!



SPCA's Live Education Webinars

Have you heard about SPCA's Live Education Webinars? These 30-minute webinars, hosted by SPCA's Education Coordinator, are a great way to learn about animal welfare, responsible animal guardianship, and the role SPCA plays in the community. Talk to your teacher or parent/guardian about tuning into these fun webinars! You can learn more about the exciting topics and find the term schedules [here](#)



SPCA - who are we?!



What are the Five Domains and why are they so important



Animals think and feel. Here's how we know...



Enrichment - what is it and why is it so important?



Help us! How you can get involved with SPCA and help animals



Animal Welfare Careers - for animal lovers!

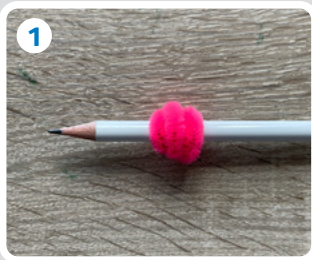
Craft: Pipe Cleaner Pigs

Follow the directions below to make these cool pipe cleaner pigs!

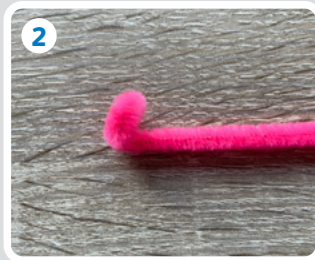
- Materials needed:**
- > Pencil and sharpie
 - > Pipe Cleaner
 - > Hot glue gun
 - > Scissors
 - > Googly eyes



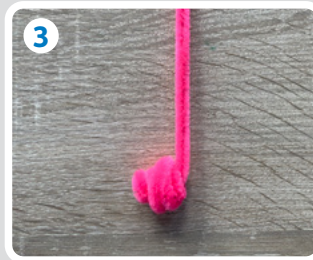
Instructions



Wrap a piece of pipe cleaner around a pencil.



Next, curl the end of a half piece of pipe cleaner.



Slide the pipe cleaners from step 1 onto step 2.



Curl the pipe cleaner from step 2 into ears.



Attach 3 pipe cleaners together and wrap around a sharpie.



Tuck the end of the pipe cleaner under a loop at the end.



Curl the end of the pipe cleaner to make a tail.



Fold two pipe cleaner halves and curl to make legs.



Place the legs over the body.



Slide the end of the head into the top of the body.

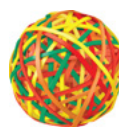


Glue on googly eyes.



Make your pig some pig friends!

A huge thank you to our incredible Kind Matters Competition sponsor, Office Max and our spot prize sponsor, EUGY by Dodoland!



OfficeMax®

**What do you want to see in Kind Matters this year?
Let us know!** Email education@spca.nz with your ideas!



a. Nutrition
b. Health
c. Environment/Behaviour
d. Mental Wellbeing
e. Behaviour
f. Environment