

SPCA® Kids

Kind Matters

News

Issue 26 / May 2023

Here we are with another exciting issue of Kind Matters!

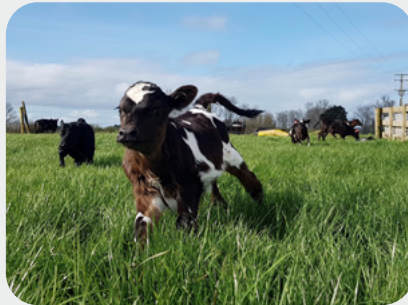
But first - check out the winners of our 2023: *Photography Competition*

Junior Winner



Pippa, age 6

Senior Winner



Macy, age 13

Junior Runner-Up



Addison, age 6

Senior Runner-Up



Madeleine, age 12

With so many amazing entries, choosing only two winners per category was a tough decision. We would like to congratulate our pawesome winners and send out another huge thank you to our competition sponsor, OfficeMax, and our spot prize sponsor, EUGY by Dodoland.

The winning photos were chosen because of their creativity, fantastic use of lighting and perspective, and the animals are comfortable and having a positive experience.



Be sure to check out the rest of this issue to learn all there is to know about adopting an animal, including things to consider to ensure you're ready to become an animal guardian and why adoption is so important. We also dive into the truth behind some common animal myths!

What's Inside



All About Adoption

Learn everything there is to know about adopting an animal from SPCA.



Debunking Animal Myths

Learn the truth behind these common animal myths



Craft: Animal Organiser

The perfect place for all your school supplies!

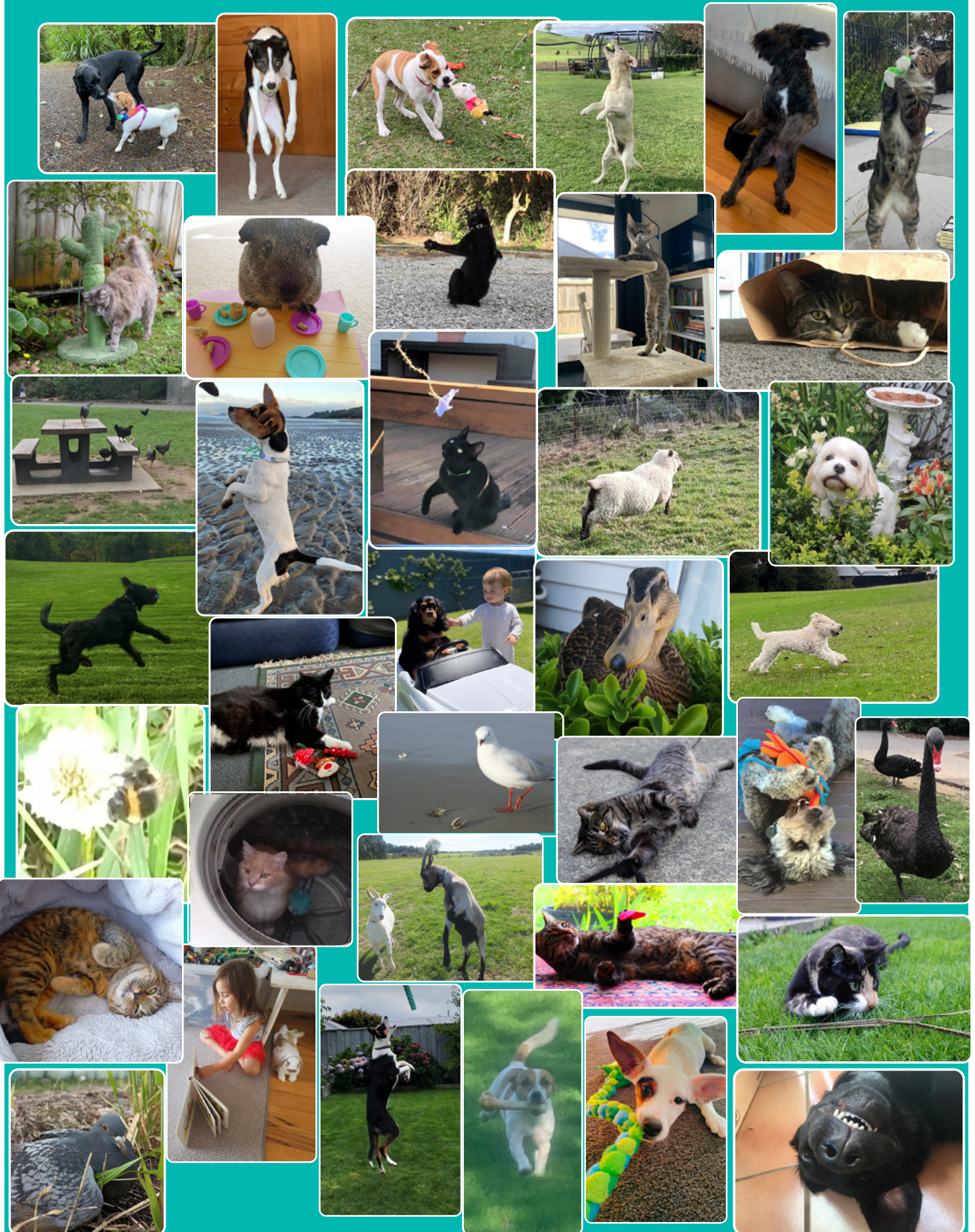
and much more...



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

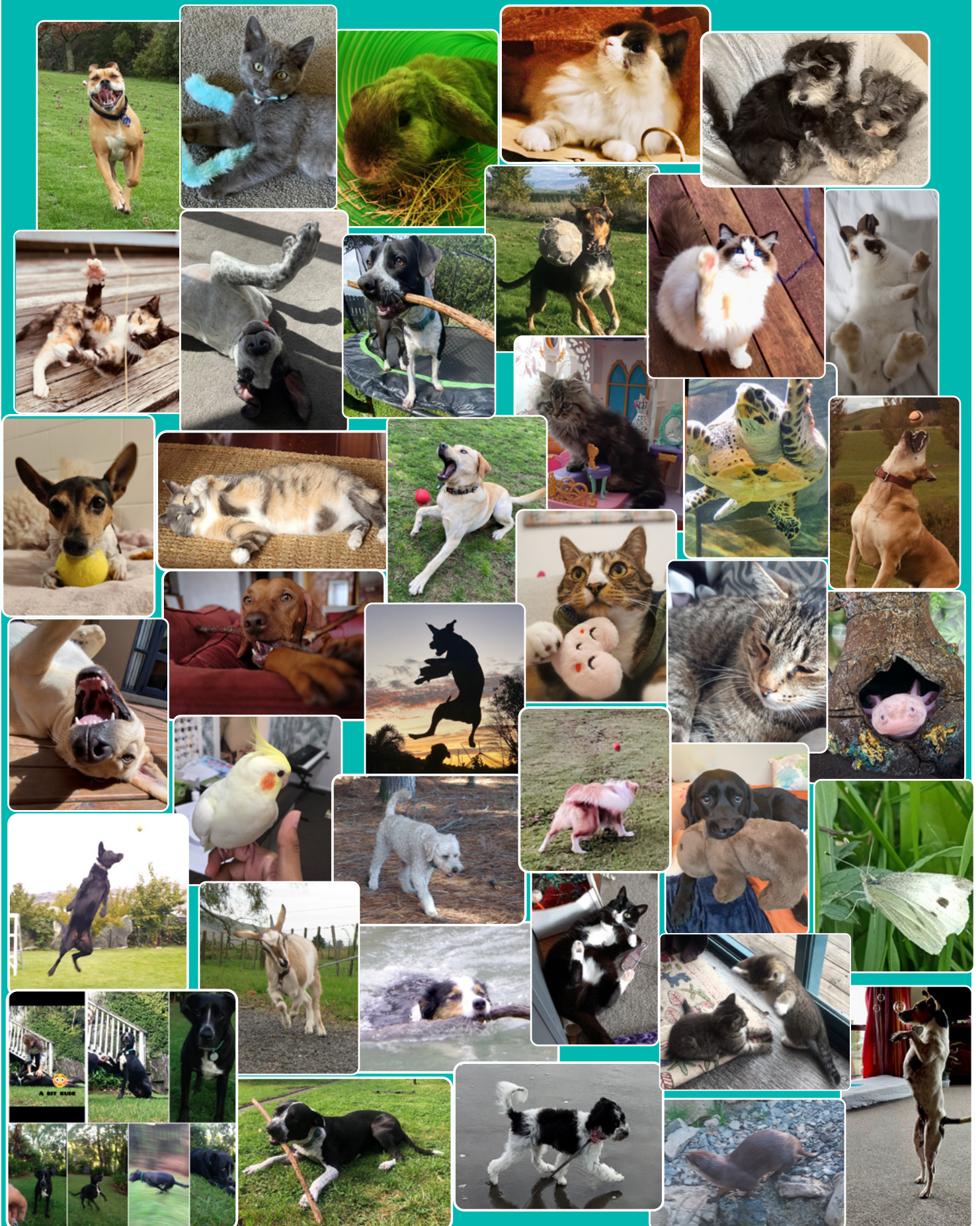
Kind Matters Photography Competition '23 Photos

Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to everyone who entered the competition - you are all pawesome! Check out these animals at play.



Kind Matters Photography Competition '23 Photos

...and even more entries of animals having fun playing!



All About Adoption

From cats and dogs to horses and goats - SPCA is full of animals looking for their forever homes. The most common animals we get at SPCA are cats, dogs, rabbits, and guinea pigs, though we often have goats, chickens, pigs, sheep, and horses as well. Sometimes we even have companion birds, reptiles, mice, rats, and cows.

If you are like most of us here at SPCA, falling in love with an animal is easy. Adopting an animal, however, is a big decision. Just like people, animals are living beings with needs, wants and feelings. They require a considerable amount of time, money, care, and commitment. Animal guardianship (ownership) can be a wonderful experience and very rewarding, but only if you think through your decision very carefully before you adopt. You need to consider things like - do you have the time? Will an animal fit into your lifestyle? You can. Click on the button below to have a look at more important questions to consider before adopting.

Adopting a Companion Animal

Before you adopt, it's also important for you to do your research about what your new companion will need to be happy and healthy. This includes knowing all about

the **Five Domains** for that animal. The four domains of Nutrition, Environment, Health, and Behaviour, are the areas in which we, as animal guardians, can take positive action to ensure they are of a high standard. These domains all impact on the overall Mental Wellbeing (the fifth domain) of an animal's welfare. As responsible animal guardians, the goal is to ensure animals have more positive experiences, helping them to have a life worth living. Click on the Anima Care button below to research the Five Domains for the animal you're wanting to adopt.



Animal Care



Why Adopt?

We highly recommend adopting from SPCA (or another reputable animal rescue) for a number of reasons. For example:

1. When you adopt from SPCA, you're saving a life. Animals come into our care because they have been neglected, abandoned and abused. When you adopt one of these animals, you're giving them a second chance at a happy and healthy life.
2. Adopting a dog from SPCA saves more than one life. Not only do adoption fees help future animals but when you adopt, you make room in shelters for others.
3. When adopting, you will be properly matched with a dog that is most suitable for you. Our qualified staff know all about the dogs in our care and will be able to pair you with a dog that suits both yours and the dog's need.
4. Our staff also give expert advice about training, feeding, behaviour, etc. and will provide continued support to ensure the transition from shelter to home goes smoothly.
5. Dogs from SPCA come vet and temperament checked, microchipped, vaccinated, de-sexed, and registered with the council so it costs less than buying a dog from a pet store.
6. As all animals adopted out from SPCA are spayed and neutered, you're helping to stop companion animal overpopulation.



All About Adoption



Once you and your family are ready to adopt - what's the first step?

The first step to adopting an animal from SPCA, is to hop online to have a look at the animal adoption profiles. If there is an animal that you and your family feel will be the right match, an adult can apply to meet that animal using the button in their profile. Our amazing animal attendants will then be in touch to arrange an adoption appointment.

Check out our animals for adoption by clicking on the button below:

[Adoption Profiles](#)

Learn more about adopting from SPCA by clicking on the button below:

[Adopt from SPCA](#)

Adopting a dog? What do they need?



Make a list of the things you will need for your new dog:

What will you name your new dog?:



Adopting a cat? What do they need?



Make a list of the things you will need for your new cat:

What will you name your new cat?:



Microchipping

A microchip is a tiny computer chip that a veterinarian places just under an animal's skin.



A microchip has a guardian's contact information stored on it.

If a companion animal ever becomes lost, SPCA, other rescues, and veterinary clinics have special scanners that can read the microchip.

The guardian (owner) of the animal can then be contacted and reunited with their companion animal.

Microchips are essential because they can never fall off or be removed like a collar.

A microchip is only useful if the owner keeps their details up to date!

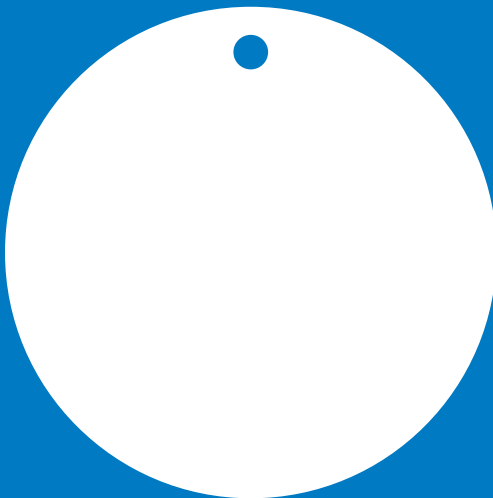


It is very important to keep your contact details up to date on the Companion Animals NZ Register (www.animalregister.co.nz), so that if you move house or change your phone number, you can still be contacted if your animal becomes lost.

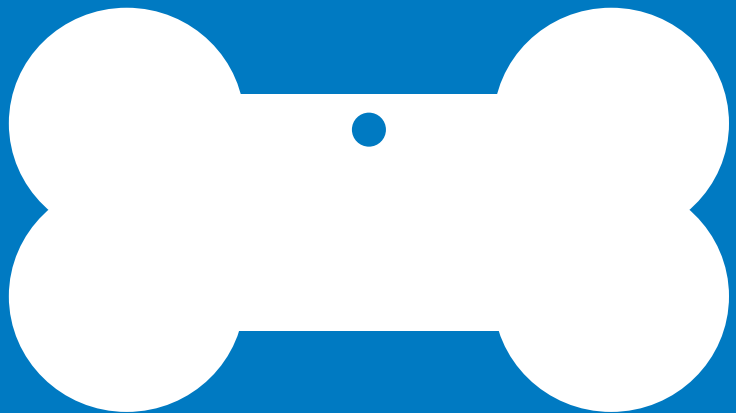
ID Tag Designer

ID (identification) tags are an important part of responsible animal guardianship. ID tags are what companion animals, such as cats and dogs, will wear on their collars to ensure they are easily identifiable in the event that they get lost. That way, animals and their guardians can easily be reunited. ID tags must have details like: your animal's name, your contact phone number, and your address. Get creative and design the tags below.

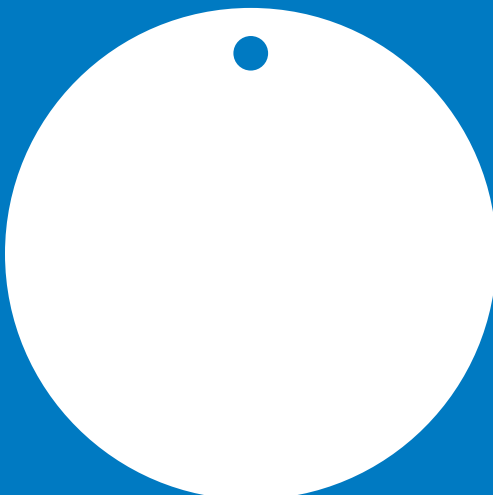
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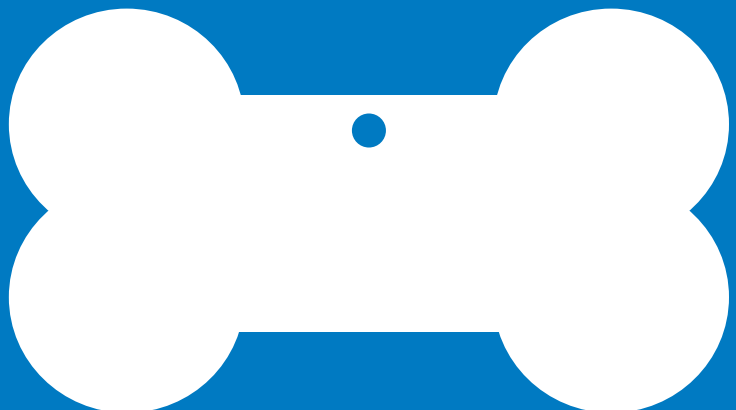
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BACK



BACK



Debunking Animal Myths

Unfortunately, there are still a lot of animal myths (a commonly held idea/belief that is actually false) out there. It's important to know what is true and what is false when it comes to caring for our furry, feathered, and scaled companions so that we can give them the very best lives. Take a look at some of the common myths that have been debunked (proven to be false) below:



✗ MYTH #1 Purring always means your cat is happy.

✓ TRUTH: Purring can mean contentment, but it can also mean nervousness, fear, and stress.

✗ MYTH #2 It is okay for fish to live in a bowl.

✓ TRUTH: Fish need large, clean, enriched aquariums - the bigger the better!



✗ MYTH #3 You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

✓ TRUTH: Dogs are capable of learning at any age using positive, reward-based training!

✗ MYTH #4 Rabbits are happy to live on their own.

✓ TRUTH: Rabbits are social animals that feel safe and happy when they live with a compatible companion.



✗ MYTH #5 Guinea pigs are low maintenance companions.

✓ TRUTH: There is no such thing as a low maintenance companion - guinea pigs have particular wants and needs like all animals.

Debunking Animal Myths Continued



✗ MYTH #1 Goats can and will eat anything.

✓ TRUTH: Goats need a specially prepared diet - not only will they not eat just anything, it's unhealthy for them to do so.

✗ MYTH #2 Horses always sleep standing up.

✓ TRUTH: Horses will doze standing up, however, they still need to lay down to enter REM (rapid eye movement) sleep.



✗ MYTH #3 Pigs are dirty animals.

✓ TRUTH: Pigs are actually very clean animals that only toilet away from their sleeping and eating areas.

✗ MYTH #4 Ducks don't need much water.

✓ TRUTH: Ducks need constant access to ponds and pools to express natural behaviours and for their health.



✗ MYTH #5 Chickens are not smart animals.

✓ TRUTH: Chickens are very intelligent - they can solve puzzles, use past experiences to make decisions, and have great memories.

You can learn more animal facts and care information [here](#).



Craft: Animal Organiser

Follow the directions below to make your very own cardboard tube animal organiser - the perfect place to store your pens and pencils!

Materials needed:

- > Scissors
- > Cardboard tubes
- > Glue
- > Coloured paper
- > Googly eyes (optional)

Instructions



1 Draw a circle on a piece of paper and cut it out.



2 Using another colour of paper, cut out legs, ears, whiskers, and a tail.



3 Next, cut out a nose and the inside of the ear using another colour.



4 Cut two cardboard tubes in half and glue them all together.



5 Glue your paper elements together to create your cat's face. Draw eyes or glue on googly eyes.



6 Glue your cat's face, legs, and tail onto the cardboard tubes. Now it's ready to hold your school supplies!

The latest Kind Matters competition has come to an end, but not to worry - we have another exciting competition to look forward to this year. Keep an eye out for our next issue of Kind Matters for our exciting competition announcement!



Is there something you'd like to see this year in Kind Matters?

We'd love to hear from you!

Email education@spca.nz with your ideas!

