



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the SPCA Kids' Newsletter! Each term you'll be able to find fun facts, quizzes, games, tips, competitions, events, and much more. The best part is – it's all about animals! Dive in to find out more about the companion animals we call family and the remarkable wild animals that have found a beautiful home in New Zealand.

SPCA Competition

Attention all creative writers!

You may have noticed that our SPCA Kids' Newsletter is missing something... a name! That's where you come in – we need your help to come up with a fun, educational, and catchy new name. This newsletter is for you, so who better than you to choose a name for it?

To enter, email your name ideas to education@sPCA.nZ with the subject "SPCA Newsletter Name Contest."

Please include your name, age, and contact information.

There's no limit to your creativity, so put on your thinking cap and submit as many ideas as you would like!

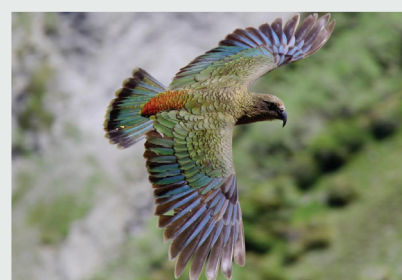
Prize: SPCA supporter's pack, filled with all sorts of goodies!

Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will announce the winner and the brand new name of our newsletter!

What's Inside



A Closer Look at: Dogs - Kuri
Facts about your canine companion.



Kind Conservation: Kea
Learn all about these intelligent birds.



Craft Time:
Toys and crafts you can make yourself!

and much more...



What is SPCA?

SPCA stands for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

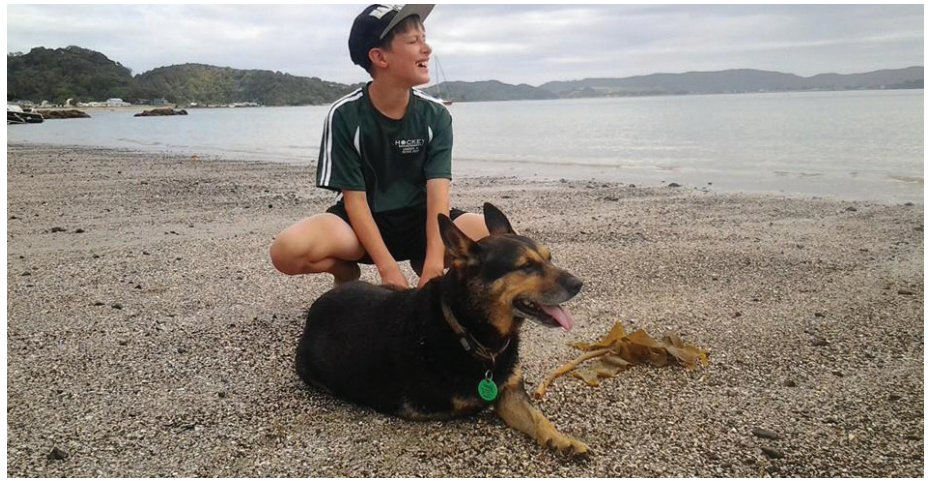
SPCA helps protect approximately 45,000 animals in New Zealand every year. Animals who are sick, injured, lost, abused or simply abandoned. We are the only charity with the power to protect all animals and prosecute people under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

How did it start?

SPCA has a long history that dates back all the way to the 19th Century. Take a look at how it all started!

- 1800** • The SPCA began in England.
- 1822** • The first law to protect animals was passed by several people, including William Wilberforce and Richard Martin.
- 1824** • Rev Arthur Broome formed the SPCA in London.
- 1835** • The English Protection of Animals Act became part of New Zealand laws.
- 1840** • SPCA received royal patronage.
- 1872** • SPCA Canterbury was formed.
- 1878** • The English Protection of Animals Act was replaced by the first New Zealand Act protecting animals.
- 1882** • SPCA Otago was formed.
- 1884** • SPCA Auckland was formed.
- 1885** • SPCA Wellington was formed.

Over time, more SPCA centres were established throughout New Zealand. Today SPCA New Zealand has 42 centres!



A Closer Look at: Dogs - Kuri

Dog, kuri, pooch, pup – whatever you may call your canine companion, they are much loved animals that have been a human's best friend for thousands of years. As guardians, it is our responsibility to make sure that our dogs' needs are met. Whether you already own a dog or are thinking of adopting one, a vital thing to provide for them is proper nutrition, as it promotes good health. It is a legal requirement for anyone who has a dog to ensure they have a suitable diet – this means appropriate food and water. Feeding your dog a complete commercial pet food is the best way of guaranteeing they get all the nutrients they need. Your dog should also have easy access to fresh,

clean water 24/7, both inside and outside. Just like you, dogs need water to survive.

Did you know...

- > A dog's body is 80 % water.
- > Dogs should not be given milk – they are lactose intolerant.
- > Chocolate and grapes are some of the foods that are poisonous to dogs.
- > The amount you feed your dog depends on size, age, and lifestyle.
- > Never give your dog small or cooked bones. Cooked bones become brittle and easily splinter, these sharp splinters can damage your dog's gums, teeth and throat.

Fun Fact: Have you ever noticed that dogs' noses are wet?

You may be wondering why that is and there is actually more than one reason! Dogs love sniffing everything they come in contact with whether it's another dog, a person, or a tree they come across during their daily walk. A wet nose is what actually makes your dog's sense of smell so incredible and much better than a humans' – it allows dogs to absorb scent particles which they can then analyse and understand. Their wet nose also helps dogs cool off on a hot day as they only sweat from their nose and feet and do not have sweat glands in the same places as people!



Happy Tales: Meet Dingo!

Dingo was taken to the SPCA after he was found dumped behind a closed vet clinic on a cold Sunday. Dingo was malnourished which means he was starved of the nutrition he needed to live. He was also very cold and could barely stand – he needed medical treatment, and quick! To say he had a hard start to life is an understatement. Whoever left Dingo did not provide him with the five freedoms, the welfare standards we must provide as responsible guardians.

An SPCA Inspector who specialises in fostering animals requiring critical care provided a temporary home for Dingo so that he was able to grow healthy and strong. After a month of love, care, and attention, Dingo's condition improved enough for him to be adopted into his forever home.



His new family reports that “Dingo is a sweet-natured boy who loves cuddles and snuggling up.”

“His favourite place to snooze is the couch in his mum’s office while she works, and is best friends with his doggie sister, Soekie,” his mum says. “Dingo and Soekie get on very well, in fact, he adores her!”

“Dingo has been a wonderful addition to our family, bringing laughter, love and fun to every day.”

Now that Dingo has a responsible, forever family, he has everything he needs and wants to be a happy, healthy pup! Way to go Dingo!

Kind Conservation: Kea

Endemic to New Zealand, Kea are unique in that they are the world's only true alpine parrot. They have a beautiful mix of green, brown, and blue feathers with vibrant orange feathers under their wings. Armed with a curved beak, skilled claws, a bright mind, and innate curiosity, Kea enjoy exploring their surroundings -



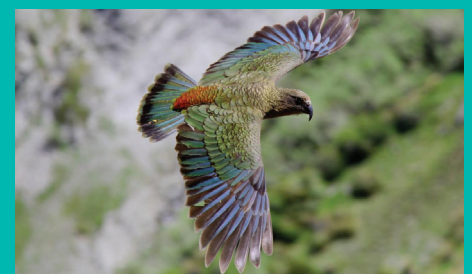
especially intriguing human objects like cars and backpacks!

Kea are omnivorous which means that they eat both plants and other animals. Sadly, Kea are an endangered species with only approximately 3,000 -7,000 left in New Zealand. It is important that we protect this endemic bird by enjoying them from a distance and remembering not to feed them! Studies have shown that kea who are fed regularly by humans are more at risk of injury from human-made objects such as traps, poisons and vehicles.

Kind Conservation Action: Recently, at the Homer Tunnel entrance of Milford Sound, Kea have been demonstrating their profound intelligence. New Zealand Transport Agency were noticing that the road cones they placed had been moved from their original spots. Upon reviewing the video footage from the area, NZTA came to find that

Kea were craftily repositioning the cones. To keep the birds safe from traffic, NZTA developed a roadside gym for the clever Kea that include ladders, swings, and climbing frames – all of which can be rearranged to keep them interested. These gyms provide enrichment for the Kea to ensure their cunning minds are fit and are kept out of harm's way. Such a perfect example of people putting the animals' needs and interest first while working to conserve precious endangered wildlife in a positive way!

Fun fact: Kea are very intelligent and often work in pairs to reach a common goal!



Responsible Guardianship Tip:

Cold Weather Advice

It's that time of the year – winter! With winter comes a drop in temperature that requires people to bundle up to keep warm. Animals are no different, they feel like cold just like me and you.

Here are some important tips to ensure that your companion animals stay cosy, happy, and healthy during the winter months.

> Make sure you keep an eye on your companion animal's water dish. Cold temperatures can cause water to freeze so check their dish frequently and replace frozen water

with fresh, clean water.

> New Zealand can get very windy, rainy, and cold in the winter. Ensure your animal has adequate shelter, safe from the elements.

> Avoid salt and anti-freeze. Salt can hurt your animal's paws and anti-freeze is poisonous if ingested.

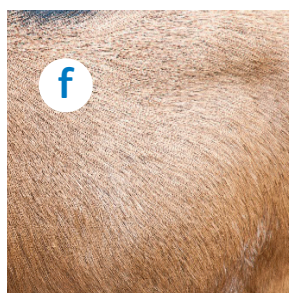
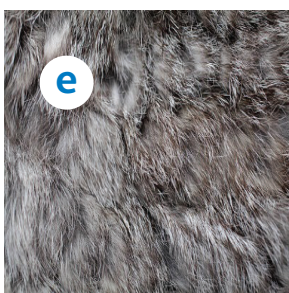
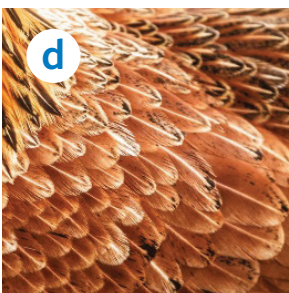
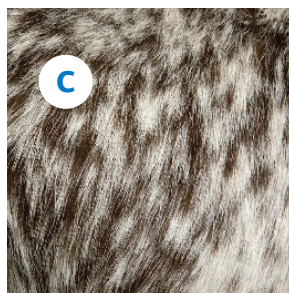
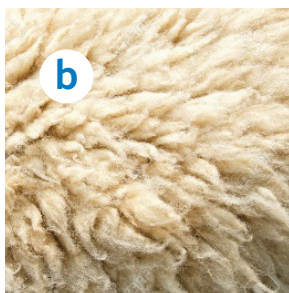
> Winter is the perfect time to nestle into your warm and comfy bed!

> Provide your animal with snuggly, warm blankets and a raised bed to keep them away from the cold, damp ground.



Mystery Animal

Can you identify each animal by the close-up?



Did you guess them all? Check page 5 for answers

Word Search

FFYQSTDSQZUPLYU
RPYPSPWHZCNIDKTD
EQCUQERHIAJGIX
TARCLOVESGYQKLZ
ATFTOPONZNISUIO
WAEHYMAICKFHIBL
XRXUMIPVFOHJYIW
FLOODRLAKUTOWSN
JQKRBYPANWREINU
UUALNDIIMIKGLOS
YUCOMPASSIONDPP
GRETUENFAQNNLSA
ERACGRBPOERAIEY
RMJPOEQEQWOKEFR
YCCMGIIGUMDBECP

See if you can find all the words!

ANIMAL	NEUTER
CARE	RESPONSIBILITY
COMPANION	SHELTER
COMPASSION	SPAY
FOOD	SPCA
GUARDIANSHIP	TRUST
KEA	WATER
LOVE	WILDLIFE

Remember to look in all directions
– even backwards!

Book Nook

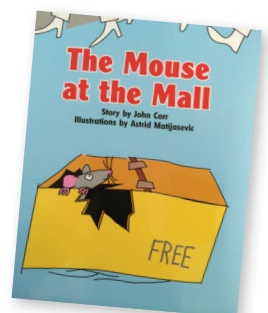
Title: The Mouse at the Mall

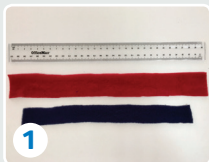
Author: John Carr

Illustrator: Astrid Matijasevic

A girl and her mother go to the mall to buy shoes. They leave with a shoebox with a toilet roll and a mouse inside. What will happen next?

Find the SPCA book series at your school or buy your own set online at:
www.rnzspca.org.nz





Make it Yourself: Snuffle Mat

When you're not in school, how do you like to spend your free time? Perhaps you enjoy playing soccer, reading a book, or drawing. Now imagine if you didn't have these things, how would you feel?

Now think about your dog, cat, rabbit, or other companion animal. Do you think that they would like to have hobbies and activities too? Do you think they get bored? Of course they do! This is where enrichment comes into play. By providing your companion animal with lots of different enrichment, they are able to exercise their minds and let out their normal, natural behaviour. Enrichment helps keep your animal happy by providing mental and physical stimulation!

One great enrichment toy is a Snuffle Mat! Provide your furry friend with a mini treasure hunt that is sure to entertain.

Materials needed:

> Rubber mat with holes, max. size approx. 40 cm x 60 cm (can be found at Bunnings Warehouse). These mats are great for dogs while smaller mats can be used for cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs!

> 5 + thin fleece blankets (flannelette sheets/ pillow cases can also be used)
> Scissors
> Ruler



Instructions:

1. Cut the fleece into strips, approx. 4-5cm wide x 25-30cm cm long. These don't need to be perfect and varying lengths can be fun for companion animals!
2. Thread a strip of fabric through the bottom of the first two holes in the first row so the ends are pointing up. Secure the fabric by tying a single knot.
3. Continue this pattern along all of the rows of the mat. Remember to rest your hands as needed!
4. Once finished, go back and tie knots diagonally in each direction to fill any gaps. Mix up colours as you wish!
5. Now just scatter some kibble or treats over the mat and let your companion animal start searching OR you can donate your mat to the animals at your local SPCA!



Materials needed:

> Coloured paper
> Scissors
> Glue stick

Craft Time: Animal Origami Bookmark

Get creative and turn your favourite animal into a bookmark!

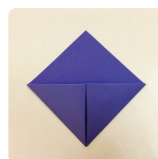
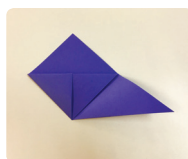
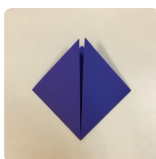
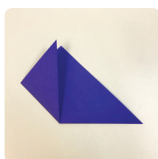
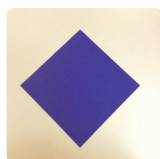
Instructions:

1. Start with a square piece of paper.
2. Fold the paper into a triangle shape.
3. Bring the bottom corners up to the top of the triangle to make a smaller square.
4. Unfold to reveal a triangle again.
5. Bring the front top of the triangle down so the point is touching the bottom.

6. Bring the corners back up and tuck them behind the piece that is folded down.

Once you have finished the origami part of your bookmark, you can cut, glue, colour, and decorate it any way you'd like. The options are endless!

Inspiration from Maggy @ REDTEDArt



Share your ideas!

Have an idea for something you want to see in the SPCA Kids' Newsletter? We want to hear from you! This is the first edition of our newsletter and we want to make sure that you are enjoying the content. What do you want to see in the next edition? Email your thoughts to education@spca.nz

Mystery Animal Answers
A - Cat
B - Sheep
C - Goat
D - Chicken
E - Rabbit
F - Pig