

Spring has sprung!

Spring, or kōanga, is a beautiful and special time of the year. In Aotearoa, from September to November, you can find signs of new life everywhere. Flowers sprouting, trees blooming, grass growing – not to mention all of the baby animals!

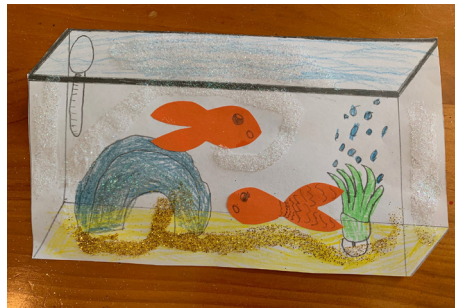
These last few months, heaps of different baby animals have come into the world. These wee babies have been learning the ins and outs of life during their first few months, all with the help of their mums and dads so that when the time comes, they can thrive on their own!

In this issue of Kind Matters, we are taking a look at all of the animals that make spring so spectacular. We hope you enjoy the fun facts and information, as well as the exciting activities and craft in this issue!

Competition Winners

We would like to thank all of the awesome young people throughout New Zealand that entered our Fish Enrichment Competition. It was a difficult choice with so many beautiful and creative entries, but we have chosen the winners because they did a fin-tastic job including the five freedoms in their drawings.

Congratulations to our winners Tessa and Kasey from Rata Street School!



Thank you to our sponsors: Faber Castell NZ, Mary Egan Publishing, and Wheelers

Mystery Challenge

We have something super exciting in the works – SPCA, along with another awesome New Zealand organization, have teamed up for a super cool mystery challenge! This challenge will launch in December, with all of the details announced in our special holiday issue of Kind Matters so stay tuned!

In the meantime, here is your clue:

SPCA® Kids + 
= **Mystery Challenge!**

What's Inside



A Closer Look at: Baby Animals

Fun spring baby facts.



Kind Conservation – What to do if you find a baby bird

Check out our helpful map.



Craft Time – DIY Mask

Fun and easy to make face mask.

and much more...



Visit www.kids.spcaeducation.org.nz

Baby Animals

When tramping in the bush, exploring your local park, or looking out onto the paddocks of a farm, you're sure to see lots of baby animals at this time of the year. But what are some of the baby animals that you can hope to see in New Zealand? Have a look below to learn all about some of these adorable and important animals!

Swans (kakīānau)

Did you know that out of all of the swan species in the world – there are only two that are black? One of those species happens to live in New Zealand. The black swan (kakīānau), originally from Australia, was not only introduced to New Zealand by humans, but they also made their way here naturally. Found on and near freshwater, black swans lay green eggs and when they hatch, a little grey-feathered cygnet (baby swan) is born!



Lambs (reme)

Lambs (reme) are often associated with springtime and it's no wonder – so many can be spotted in paddocks all over New Zealand at this time of the year! These super cute and smart babies naturally wean at 6 months of age, with ewe (female) lambs, sticking with the dam (mum), while ram (male) lambs will often join another group. When lambs are born, it only takes minutes for them to learn to stand and walk!

Calves (kāwhe)

Calves (kāwhe) are the babies of cows. Calves are not super mobile until one week of age. By this point, they are able to keep up with their mums and stay close to their sides at all times. After a gestation period of 283 days, cows most often give birth to a single calf, but they can sometimes have twins.



Paradise Shelduck (pūtangitangi)

The male and female Paradise Shelduck (pūtangitangi), endemic to New Zealand, are two of the very best parents out there! Not only do both the male and female care for their clutch of 5-15 ducklings until they are able to fly, but they are very protective as well, often distracting potential predators by faking a broken wing.



Chicks (pī)

Chicks (pī) are great communicators. In fact, before chicks even hatch, chicks and hens will chirp to each other. Chicks are dependent on their mums to teach them all things chicken – not only will a hen continue to teach her chicks different calls, but they learn which foods to eat, what is dangerous, how to dust bathe, the flock's social structure, etc. from her as well.

Pūkeko

Another kind of chick that you can see in the spring is a baby pūkeko. Pūkeko are native to New Zealand and lay light brown eggs with darker marks in a nest made of plant leaves and stems. Several members in pūkeko groups care for chicks, even if they are not the parents and males are the primary incubators!



How amazing are these animals and their babies?!

Almost everyone can agree that baby animals are cute! However, it's important to remember to remember these animals are vulnerable and therefore need care and protection. Parents are often very protective of their babies. Enjoying these animals from a distance will help keep the animals calm and you safe as well.

Can you think of any other baby animals you can see in the spring?

Write them down here: _____

A photograph of a young lamb and its mother in a grassy field. The lamb is standing and looking towards the camera, while the mother is grazing on the grass. In the background, there is a wooden fence and a building with corrugated metal siding.

[illegible][illegible]

**Do It For
Marine Life**

Story by John Carr
Illustrations by Laura King

Answers on pg.6

Kind Conservation:

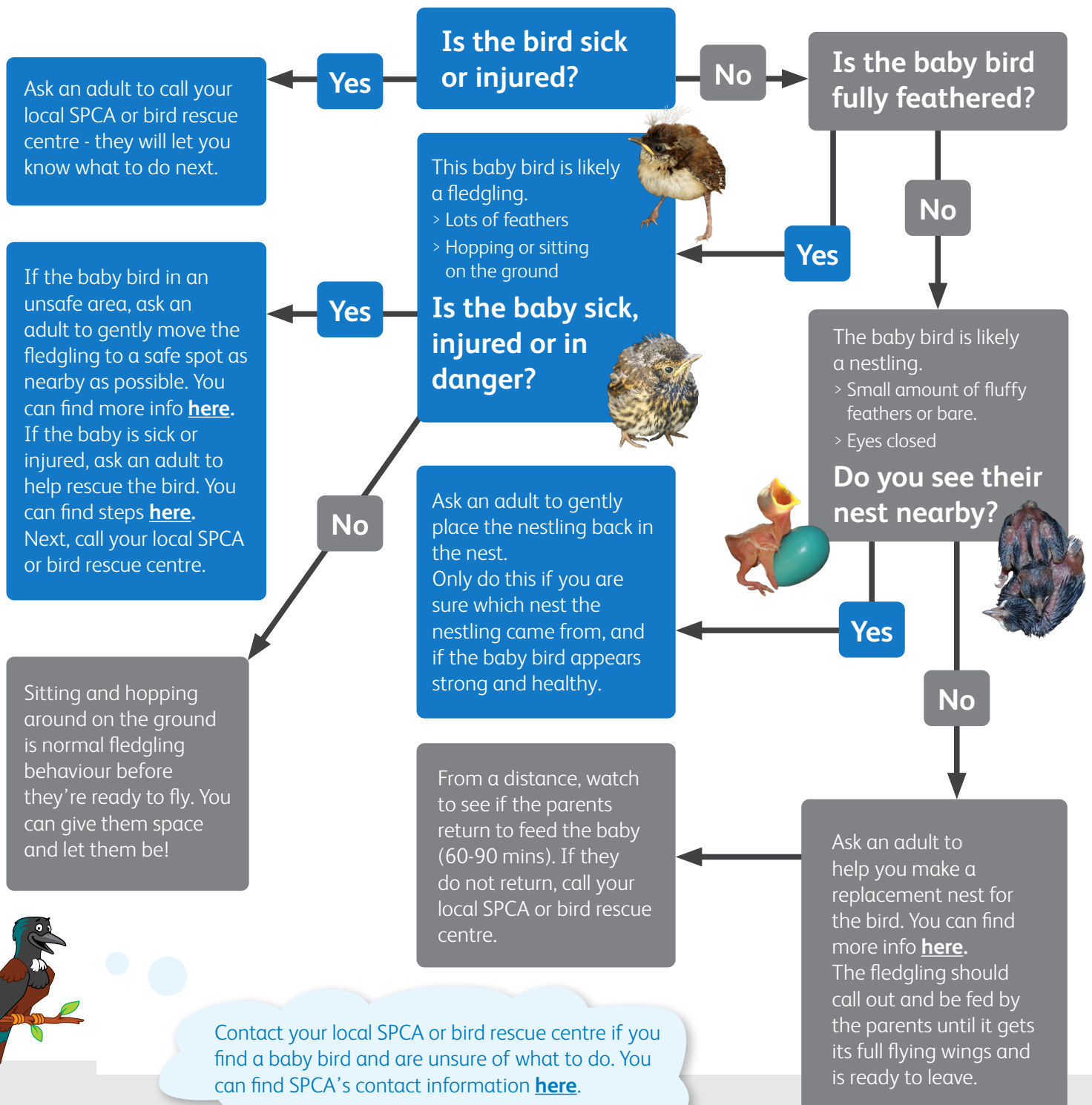
What to do if you find a baby bird



Spring and summer are popular times of the year to spot young birds, also known as fledglings. At this time in their life, it's completely normal to see them sitting or hopping around on the ground. This is because a lot of birds leave the nest once they are fully feathered, but just before they've developed their flight feathers.

Though they might seem like they're all alone, their parents are usually close by, keeping a watchful eye until they're able to fly on their own. So, if you see a baby bird that is in a safe place and looks healthy, it's best to keep a distance. However, there are some situations in which birds may need our help. Have a look at the map below which will help you determine what to do if you find a baby bird.

What to do if you find a baby bird?



Craft – DIY No Sew Mask!

It's well known that wearing a mask can help protect you and others from getting sick – but did you know that by making your own reusable mask, you'll be helping to protect wildlife as well?

How does a reusable mask help wildlife you ask? Simple – when you make your own mask, not only are you repurposing an old item instead of throwing it out to a landfill, but you're also helping to reduce the waste that is produced by disposable masks. Sadly, when disposable masks are irresponsibly discarded, wildlife can get caught and become seriously injured by becoming tangled up in them.

One of the most important actions you can take for wildlife is to protect their environment. You can help do this by participating in nature clean-up events, always disposing of your rubbish responsibly, and making a commitment to recycle or use re-usable materials.

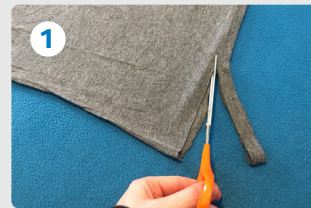
Making your own mask is easy – all you need are scissors and an old t-shirt that you don't mind cutting up.

Materials:

> Upcycled t-shirt > Scissors

Instructions:

1. Start by cutting the bottom hem of the t-shirt off.
2. Next, mark two lines on the t-shirt – one thin strip and one thick.
3. Cut along the two lines, creating one thin strip for the straps and one thick strip for the mask.
4. Cut the sewn ends of the thin strip.
5. Pull the strips to make them stretch and curl.
6. Draw a rectangle on the thick strip of material (the size will depend on how you want the mask to fit your face) and cut out.
7. Fold the two shorter sides of the rectangle inward, about an inch.
8. Cut small slits along the sides, being sure not to cut all of the way through.
9. Unfold the sides.
10. Weave the straps in and out of the slits.
11. Pull the straps so the sides are cinched.
12. Hold the mask to your face so you can measure how long you need the straps to be, then tie the straps.
13. Now your mask is ready to be worn!



Baking time: SPCA Cupcake Day

Whether you're taking part in SPCA's Annual Cupcake Day, or you would just like to bake cupcakes to share with your friends and family, these sheep cupcakes are a super cute and fun way to celebrate springtime!

You can bake any kind of cupcakes you would like, but below is a dozen cupcake recipe for some inspiration!



Ingredients:

- > ½ cup unsalted butter
- > ¾ cup of sugar
- > 2 cage free eggs
- > 1 & ½ cups all-purpose flour
- > 1 tsp baking powder
- > ½ tsp salt
- > ½ cup buttermilk
- > ¼ cup honey
- > 1 tsp vanilla

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C and line a 12-cup muffin tin with cupcake liners.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together dry ingredients and set aside.
3. In a small bowl, mix together wet ingredients (buttermilk, honey, vanilla) and set aside.
4. Cream butter and sugar in a separate large mixing bowl.
5. Add eggs (one at a time), beating well after each addition and scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed.
6. Gradually add the dry and wet ingredients to the eggs, mixing until combined.
7. Spoon the mixture into the cupcake liners until they're each about 2/3 full.
8. Bake for 18-20 minutes.
9. Let cupcakes cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then taking care, place the cupcakes on a wire rack to finish cooling.
10. Once cupcakes are completely cool – you can add your sheep decorations!

Do you have an animal welfare topic you'd like to learn about?

Email your ideas to education@spca.nz

Answers:

- 1-e,
- 2-d,
- 3-f,
- 4-a,
- 5-c,
- 6-b

Answers:

- 1. Food
- 2. Water
- 3. Shelter
- 4. Enrichment

Final message answer: Companion animals need responsible animal guardians!

5. Care

- 6. Understanding
- 7. Love
- 8. Protection
- 9. Exercise

10. Kindness

- 11. Compassion
- 12. Companionship
- 13. Vet Care
- 14. Comfort