

SPCA[®] Kids

Kind Matters

News

Issue 19 / Dec 2021

The holiday season is here, along with our holiday issue of Kind Matters!

This time of the year is full of so many exciting things – summer weather, school holidays, Christmas, New Year, just to name a few.

With all of this excitement, it's important we don't forget to consider the welfare of our animal friends – companion, farmed, and wild. In this issue of Kind Matters, you'll find lots of tips for how we can care for our animals during this time.

Check out the rest of the sections of this issue of Kind Matters to learn all about reindeer, read our top firework and summer safety tips, and complete the exciting craft and activities!

But first...

We want to take the time to thank all of our *pawesome* supporters for their amazing generosity this year.

We have had akonga from all over New Zealand take the time to fundraise, make toys, bake cupcakes, foster, and get creative in order to help animals in need - thank you on behalf of all SPCA staff and animals!



And of course - we want to thank our wonderful Kind Matters sponsors for their generosity! Whittakers, Faber-Castell NZ, Whitcoulls, Pics Peanut Butter, Dodoland – Eugy, Nestle Purina, Wheelers, and Mary Egan Publishing.

What's Inside?



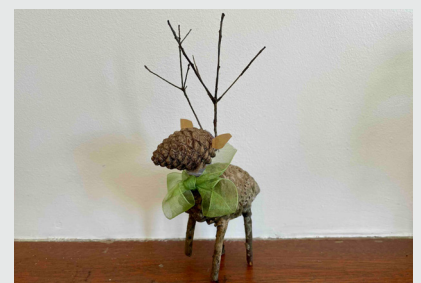
A Closer Look at Reindeer:

Learn all about these fascinating animals



Fireworks & Summer Safety:

Tips for how we can care for and protect our animals



Craft time - Pinecone Reindeer: Easy step-by-step instructions!

and much more...



Visit spca.nz/kids for more animal information.

Animals and Fireworks

This time of the year, people all across Aotearoa are celebrating many occasions, and a lot of the celebrating involves fireworks.

Fireworks can be great fun and exciting for some people, but for animals, fireworks are terrifying. Unfortunately, our SPCA Centres all over New Zealand receive dozens of calls about fireworks related animal injuries, frightened animals, missing animals and occasionally, abuse of animals.

Fireworks cause companion, farmed, and wild animals fear, distress and harm, and this is why, SPCA are advocating for a ban on the private sale and use of fireworks in New Zealand.

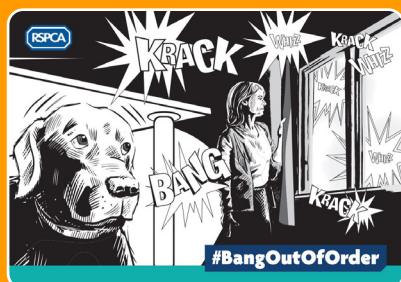
However, while the private sale of fireworks is still legal, you can check out SPCA's list of important tips that will help responsible animal guardians keep their animals safe during this time.

Fireworks Colouring Page

Our friends at RSPCA UK have also been working hard to change fireworks regulations to help animals in the UK.

They have created some really awesome colouring pages as well.

Click on the image below to print and colour the page.



SPCA®

Fireworks Tips

Keep animals safe around fireworks

While most people enjoy the fireworks festivities, unfortunately many animals become highly distressed by fireworks. Check out the below tips for how you can help your animals during this time:

1



Exercise your dog early in the day to avoid being out during dusk when fireworks could be set off.

2



Keep animals inside - close doors and windows, draw the curtains, and play calm music to help drown out loud bangs.

3



Stay home with your companion, calmly comfort them, or provide a safe comfortable place they can hide if they want to be alone.

4



Don't forget about rabbits and guinea pigs. Have them tucked away safely or you can even bring them inside for the night.

5



Make sure all fences are secure and check that paddocks and barns are safe for your farmed animals.

4



Both cats and dogs should be microchipped with contact details up to date and have a collar and identification tag with your contact details on it.

Check out the [Keeping Animals Safe Around Fireworks](#) section of SPCA's Kids Portal to learn more.

A Closer Look at Reindeer

Once of this season's holidays celebrated around the world is Christmas – a festival associated with decorations, presents, elves, time with friends and family, and of course, reindeer! Reindeer feature in songs, stories, and movies but that's not the only place where you will find these beautiful and amazing creatures.

Reindeer are native to northern Europe, Siberia, and North America. There are two types of reindeer and they live in either the tundra (vast, flat arctic area) or forest (or woodland) environments of these regions.



Reindeer, also known as caribou in North America, are of course members of the deer family. They are herbivores that mainly eat plants, grasses, mushrooms, and lichens and will dig for food with their hooves. Their hooves are super special and will actually grow and shrink depending on the weather, making it easier to walk on snow and ice or the soft, muddy ground.

This isn't the only thing that makes reindeer so fascinating – they are part of one of the largest animal migrations on earth. Migration is when a group of same-species animals move from one area to another in line with the seasons. Reindeer will travel approximately 2574 kilometers every year!

Fun Reindeer Facts:

- > Just like we humans all have unique fingerprints, reindeer have unique antlers - no two are the same!
- > A baby reindeer is called a fawn, while a male is called a buck, and a female is called a doe.
- > Male reindeers' antlers can have as many as 44 points (called tines) and can be 1.4 m in length!
- > Both male and female reindeer can grow antlers.
- > Reindeer's antlers fall off and grow back larger every year.
- > Reindeer have hairy noses and hooves - physical characteristics that help them live in cold and icy environments.



Reindeer Logic



Santa's reindeer had a race to see who would lead the sleigh this year. Medals were given to the top three reindeer. Can you figure out what order the reindeer came in the race?

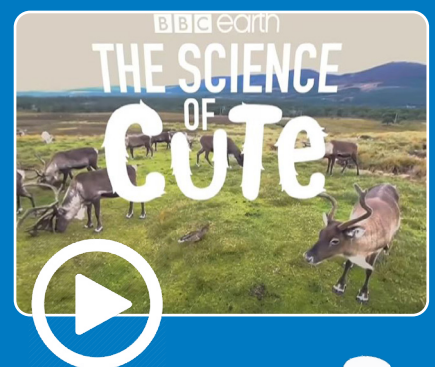
1. Blitzen finished two ahead of Cupid and three ahead of Vixen.
2. Rudolph finished just ahead of Blitzen and just behind Dancer.
3. Only one reindeer was slower than Cupid.
4. Comet was pleased to have beaten Rudolph, but he wished that he had also beaten Dasher.
5. Prancer, Comet, and Dasher all won medal.
6. Donner was unhappy to be in the bottom half of the results
7. Prancer was delighted to beat Dasher.

Answer on page 4

Reindeer Video

To learn more about these amazing animals, watch this cool BBC Earth VR video about a reindeer herd living in Scotland!

"It is believed that reindeer once roamed the land in the Scottish Highlands, and that wild populations were wiped out 10,000 years ago. Could they be brought back to their native range?"



Summer Safety Tips



Keep your animals hydrated!

During summer, animals will need lots of clean, fresh, water. Keep an eye on their water bowls and take water with you when exercising your dog.



Apply sunscreen!

Just like we need to protect ourselves from the sun, we need to protect our animals too. Keep their skin safe with animal-safe sunscreen.



Safe swimming!

If your dog likes swimming, then one of the best activities you can do in the hot weather is swimming.



Provide lots of shade!

Make sure all animals in your care have a cool, shady place to rest and escape the heat of the sun.

No parking!

Never ever leave your animal in the car on a hot day. Even with the windows down, cars can quickly become dangerously hot.



Watch the paws!

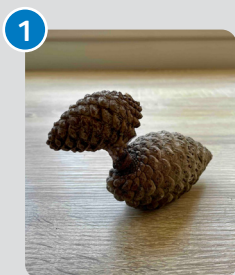
Be careful not to let your companions walk on hot sand or concrete - it can burn their paws.



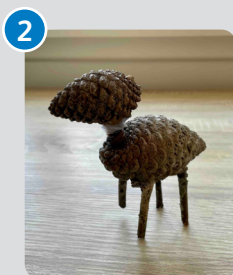
Reindeer Pinecone Craft

Follow the directions below to make your very own reindeer using natural materials!

- Materials needed:**
- > Pinecones
 - > Hot glue gun
 - > Ribbon
 - > Sticks and twigs
 - > Brown paper or felt



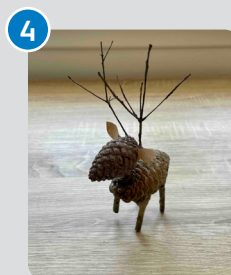
1 Start by hot glueing the small pinecone on top of the larger pinecone. Be careful - the glue will be very hot!



2 Next, break a small stick into four equal pieces. Glue them to the bottom of the large pinecone to create your reindeer's legs.



3 Find two twigs that have multiple points. Glue them to the back of the smaller pinecone to make your reindeer's antlers.



4 Cut two ear shapes from brown paper or felt and glue them on either side of the small pinecone.



5 Finally, cut a piece of ribbon and tie a bow around your reindeer's neck. You can make one reindeer, or Santa's whole herd!

What do you want to see in the next issue of Kind Matters?

Email education@spca.nz



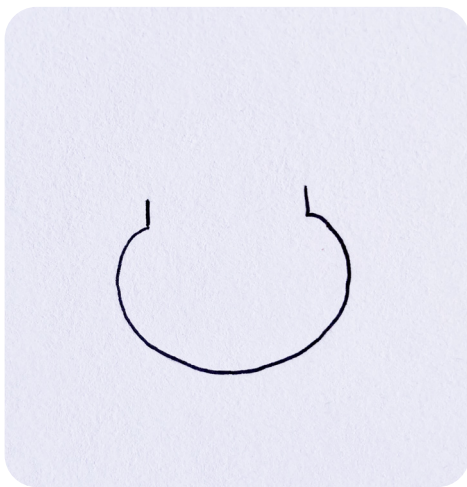
Reindeer Logic Answer:
1. Prancer
2. Dasher
3. Comet
4. Dancer
5. Rudolph
6. Blitzen
7. Donner
8. Cupid
9. Vixen



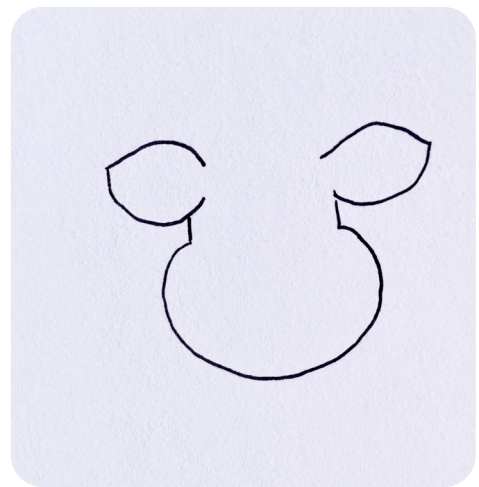
How to Draw a Reindeer

Drawing is a super fun activity, especially when you're drawing animals! Follow the step-by-step instructions below to learn how to draw a reindeer. Once you've got the hang of it, get creative with your drawings!

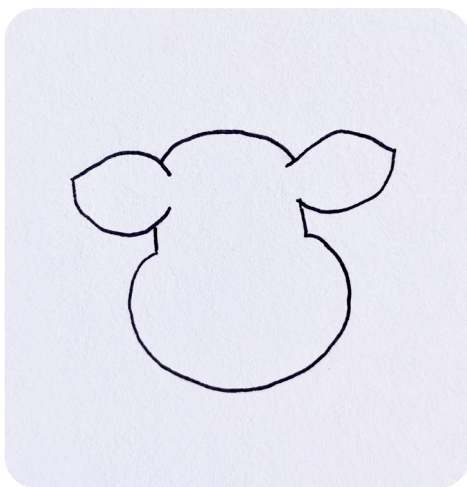
Instructions:



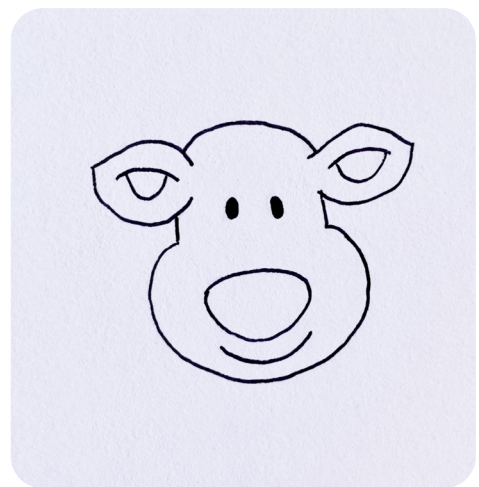
- 1** Start by drawing a half oval shape with two small straight lines at the top.



- 2** Next, draw two curves above the straight lines to create the reindeer's ears.



- 3** Connect the ears with a curved line. Now you have the reindeer's head!



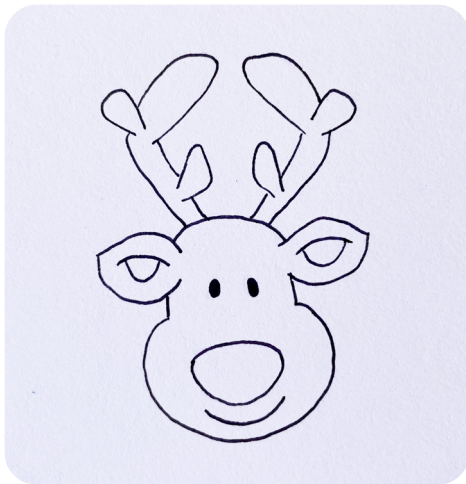
- 4** Add features such as eyes, ear details, nose, and mouth.



How to Draw a Reindeer



Instructions continued:



- 5** Next, create the reindeer's antlers - it's easiest to draw the points (called tines) first, then connect them from top, down to the head.



- 6** Starting from the bottom of the reindeer's head, draw a curved rectangular shape for the body.



- 7** Draw your reindeer's tail then create the legs by drawing four skinny rectangles - don't forget the hooves!



- 8** Finally, colour and decorate your reindeer and you're done!

