

Welcome to 2022's first issue of Kind Matters!

We're so excited to bring you this new edition of Kind Matters, full of heaps interesting animal facts, lots of fun activities, and some super special announcements. You do not want to miss this!

Read on to learn all out about 2021's Bird of the Year, how to make this issue's fun craft, and how you can participate in the very first Kind Matters competition of the year!

SPCA Animal Photography Competition



We absolutely love seeing photos of your companions so we decided it's time for another Kind Matters Photography Competition!

Your photo can be of a companion, farmed, or wild animal - just be sure to check out SPCA's top photography tips on the next page so you can get out there and create the very best shot of your animal friend!

Email your photo to education@sPCA.nz with the subject "Photography Competition 2022" by 25th April 2022. Please provide your name, age, school, contact details, and description of your photo!



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.

What's Inside



© Colin O'Donnell | DOC

Kind Conservation: Pekapeka-tou-roa

Read about 2021's Bird of the Year - the long-tailed bat!



Sneak Peeks

Have the first look at SPCA's new Animal Care Videos and Series 4 Readers!



Craft: Pekapeka Pom Pom Pencil Topper

Make a cool pom pom bat!

and much more...



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 compliments 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. Animal 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!

Kind Conservation: Pekapeka-tou-roa/long-tailed bat

© Colin O'Donnell | DOC



At the end of 2021, the Te Manu Rongonui/Bird of the Year competition came to a close. This annual competition, held by Forest and Bird, helps to raise awareness about Aotearoa's native wildlife, the habitats they live in, and the threats that they face.



© Ian Davidson-Watts | BBC

Animal lovers across the country casted their vote for New Zealand's Bird of the Year – and if you haven't heard yet, the winner may surprise you!

This is because the 2021 winner isn't a bird at all but rather, an endemic

mammal – the pekapeka-tou-roa, or long-tailed bat.

This is the first time that a mammal has been included in the competition and therefore, the first time a mammal has won as well.

Weighing only 8-11 grams and measuring about the size of a thumb, the long-tailed bat is unfortunately critically endangered. This is why it is so important for us to help protect them and their habitats.

Long-tailed bats can be found on both the North and South Islands, as well as Stewart Island, Littler Barrier, Great Barrier, and Kapiti Island.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) works hard to establish new populations of pekapeka - but there are still heaps of ways you can get involved and help these small brown beauties. Read on to learn how!

Fun Facts:

Take a look at the awesome fun pekapeka-tou-roa/long-tailed bat facts below!

1. It is believed that long-tailed bats only have one baby per year.
2. Long-tailed bats can fly approximately 60 km per hour.
3. Long-tailed bats are insectivores, with moths, midges, mosquitoes, and beetles being their favourite snack.
4. Long-tailed bats fly along forest edges at dusk.
5. Just like other bats, long-tailed bats use echolocation (sound waves sent out that reflect off of objects) to determine where they are when flying and what's in front of them. However, unlike with other bats, some people can hear the long-tailed bats echolocation calls.



© Sabine Bernett | DOC

How you can help:

One of the biggest threats to the long-tailed bats is habitat loss. Check out the ways that you can help protect these vulnerable animals:

- > Volunteer to replant and restore areas of native forests
- > Never litter
- > When visiting forests, stick to the paths
- > Give wildlife space and respect
- > Help spread the word about the challenges pekapeka face
- > Write a polite email/letter to the government urging further protection of forest and bush habitats

For more information, visit the Wildlife section of SPCA's Kids' Portal [here](#).



Behind-the-Scenes: SPCA's New Animal Care Videos

SPCA's Education Team have been hard at work producing a brand new series of animal care videos for SPCA's Kids' Portal!

These exciting new videos are based around the Five Domains of animal welfare which means there will be an incredible 75 new videos - that's 5 videos for each animal for you to watch, enjoy, and learn from. Check out some of the behind-the-scenes photos from our filming days and stay tuned for the big reveal next month!



What animals will have new videos?

1. Rabbits
2. Rats
3. Chickens
4. Cows
5. Horses
6. Pigs
7. Goats
8. Sheep
9. Alpacas
10. Ducks
11. Turtles
12. Companion Birds
13. Bearded Dragons

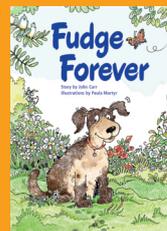
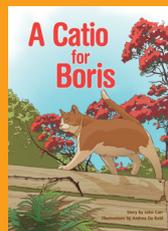
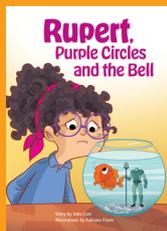
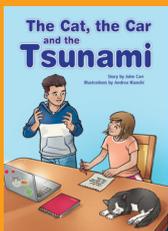


Also, our brand new videos for fish and mice are already on the Kids' Portal. Click the buttons below to watch:

[Fish](#)

[Mice](#)

SPCA's Instructional Readers: A Sneak Peek at Series 4



2022 is a big year – we have *another* exciting announcement. We are very excited to share with you that SPCA has its fourth series of Instructional Readers launching this term. Tell your teacher and be sure to look for the six pawesome new readers coming to your school very soon. The brand new titles and cover pages are feature above and to the right is a snippet from one of the stories - Rupert, Purple Circles and the Bell!

Chapter 3

After the weekend, with only Mr Pickles, the caretaker, for company, the bell was back. So were the finless ones. Rupert was glad to see them, especially Purple Circles. She was talking to Shiny Top.

The others were pointing at a large rectangle. Everyone in Room 4 had listened carefully to Hanna's presentation. Now they all wanted to be involved in making Rupert's life better.

The large rectangle was filled with colourful moving objects. They looked familiar. Rupert recognised that they were fish like him. He stared in wonder at them. They were swimming in a clean watery world with plants and rocks to explore.



Word Search

Find all of the below animal words!



a l p a c a s q u a
c p i g s r a t s x
s h e e p d g r x b
n b i r d s o a c t
r v i c r y a b o g
q d u c k s t b w y
t u r t l e s i s u
b a t s p h n t w p
n h o r s e s s i y
a i p u n f x d s l

Rabbits
Rats
Chickens
Cows
Horses
Pigs
Goats
Sheep
Alpacas
Ducks
Turtles
Bats
Birds

Guess the Animal



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____

Answers on pg. 6

Help SPCA: Foster an Animal



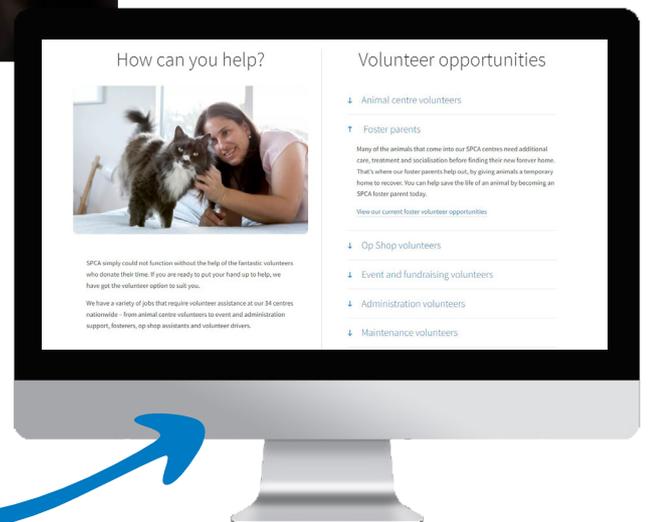
Kittens, kittens, and more kittens - it's kitten season for SPCA Centres all across Aotearoa!

We all love kittens and there is certainly no shortage of kittens at SPCA during this time of the year. There's just one issue - we need more foster families to help us care for these sweet babies!

Foster families are the amazing volunteers that provide animals temporary homes and extra care before they return to SPCA before finding their forever homes.

With the 2021/22 summer being SPCA's busiest kitten season ever, we're asking families to consider volunteering their time to help us help hundreds of animals in need.

You can learn more and ask an adult to apply online [here](#).



Craft: Pekapeka Pom Pom Pencil Topper

Materials needed

- > Black and brown yarn
- > Hot glue gun
- > Googly eyes
- > Pencils
- > Scissors
- > Black craft paper or felt



Instructions



1 First, use SPCA's [pom pom ball instructions](#) to make a pom pom.



2 Fluff up the pom pom when you remove it from the cardboard.



3 Cut wing and ear shapes from your craft paper or felt.



4 Glue the wings and ear to your pom pom to make your bat.



5 Glue the googly eyes on in the middle of the pom pom.



6 Glue your bat onto the top of your pencil.

IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

SPCA is turning **150** this year - and we are doing lots to celebrate this incredible milestone!

We are inviting schools all over Aotearoa to celebrate with us by hosting their very own animal themed dress up day this May. Talk to your teacher about getting involved and stay tuned for more information!



Is there something you'd like to see in the next issue of Kind Matters?

We'd love to hear from you!

Email education@sPCA.nZ with you ideas!



- 1. Horse
- 2. Cockatoo
- 3. Highland Cow
- 4. Fish
- 5. Bearded Dragon