

SPCA[®] Kids

Kind Matters

News

Issue 29 / Dec 2023

Kia ora and welcome to our Kiwi Summer Special of Kind Matters!



Another year has flown by and it's time to relax and enjoy the summer holidays with our loved ones, human and non-human.

Aotearoa is a special country filled with amazing creatures, great and small. One such animal is our feathered friend, the kiwi. So what better time of year to celebrate and learn how to care for this remarkable bird than in our Kiwi Summer issue of Kind Matters.

In this issue, you'll also learn about International Volunteer Day and you can discover some cool activities, loads of interesting facts, a fun Christmas craft, tasty recipes and much more!

Kids' Survey and Prize Draw

To make sure Kind Matters is the best it can be, we need the help of tamariki from around Aotearoa.

We have created a survey to find out what you like about Kind Matters, what you don't really like, and what you want to see more of. Now is your chance to have a say and tell us what you'd like to see in Kind Matters in 2024! Your feedback will be a huge help to us, and maybe you'll even see one of your ideas in the next issue!



Complete the short survey and go into the draw to win an awesome EUGY! There are 5 up for grabs!

The survey closes on Wednesday 20th December 2023. To take part and for terms and conditions, click [here](#) or visit the Kids' Portal [here](#). Don't forget to ask a parent or guardian for permission, and they're welcome to help you fill the survey out too.

And of course - we want to thank our sponsor Dodoland - EUGY for their generosity!



What's Inside?



Kind Conservation: Kiwi

Learn all about how Kiwi kids can care for kiwi.



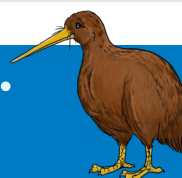
International Volunteer Day:

How can you volunteer and help care for animals in need these holidays?



Craft time - Kiwi Book Corner Craft: Easy step-by-step instructions!

and much more...



Visit spca.nz/kids for more animal information.

Kind Conservation: Kiwi



Aotearoa New Zealand is full of some of the world's most interesting animal species. These incredible animals come in all different shapes, sizes and colours. One such special creature that is endemic (found nowhere else in the world) to Aotearoa is the kiwi.

Kiwi are the national bird and taonga (treasure) of Aotearoa. It is a unique and curious bird: it cannot fly, has loose, hair-like feathers, strong legs and no tail. Because it is a shy, nocturnal (most active at night) bird, most New Zealanders have never seen one in the wild!

Aotearoa used to be home to 1,000,000s of kiwi. Unfortunately, there are now only about 70,000 left and around 20 kiwi are killed every week. Of the kiwi that hatch in the wild, approximately 95 % are killed before they reach adulthood.



Little Spotted Kiwi, Otorohonga Wildlife Trust

Female kiwi lay enormous eggs - they take up to 20 % of her body size!



North Island Brown Kiwi, collected 26 August 1940, Rotorua, New Zealand. CC BY 4.0. Te Papa (OR.016582)

How you can help!

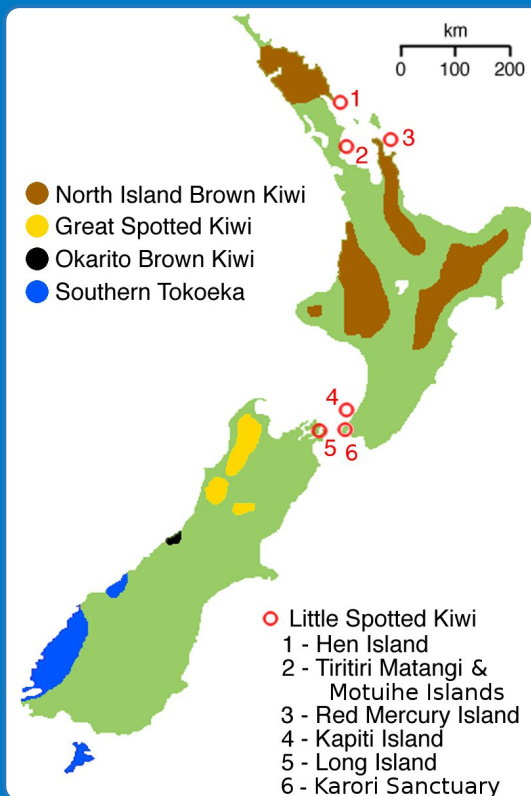
- › Be responsible with your companion animals. If you're visiting an area where kiwi live, make sure you keep your dog on a lead.
- › If you're travelling, do your research first to find out if wild kiwi live in the area and if dogs are allowed.
- › Keep your cat or dog inside at night.
- › Make sure your cat is well fed and has moving toys to play with. It will be less likely to chase birds and other creatures.

Threats to kiwi

Over the years, humans have made massive changes to the habitats in which kiwi live. As our towns and cities get bigger, sadly, forests (where kiwi live) and other habitats get smaller.

As kiwi can't fly, have weak wing and chest muscles and don't have a breastbone, this makes it difficult for them to escape predators. This puts them at high risk to receiving injuries, such as being crushed by a dog bite. The biggest threats to kiwi chicks are stoats, and to adult kiwi it's dogs. Cats and ferrets also often kill kiwi.

Where kiwi live in NZ - Do you live near kiwi?



Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiwi_\(bird\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiwi_(bird))

Operation Nest Egg

To help increase the number of kiwi, Operation Nest Egg is a project that takes kiwi eggs or chicks from the wild, hatches them in captivity, and raises them until they're big enough to defend themselves from stoats. They are then returned to the wild.



Willowbank Wildlife Reserve Image: Sabine Bernert

An Operation Nest Egg bird has a 65% chance of surviving to adulthood - compared to just 10% for wild-hatched and raised chicks!

Click [here](#) to find out more about Operation Nest Egg.



Did you know?

- > There are five species of kiwi: North Island brown kiwi, great spotted kiwi/ roroa, little spotted kiwi/kiwi pukupuku, rowi and tokoeka.
- > Kiwi are nocturnal (which means they come out of their burrows at night) yet they have poor eyesight compared to other nocturnal birds.
- > Kiwi can live for between 25 and 50 years.
- > There are about 70,000 kiwi left.
- > Kiwi can't fly.
- > Kiwi have whiskers, like a cat!
- > Their nostrils are at the tip of their long beak and they have an excellent sense of smell.



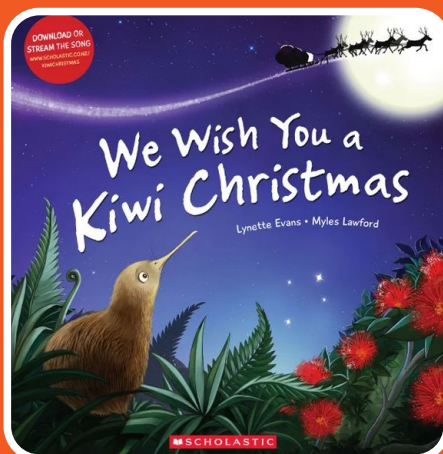
Book Nook



Title: We Wish You a Kiwi Christmas

Author: Lynette Evans

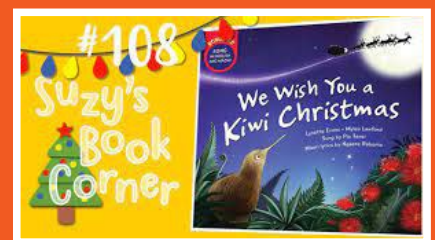
Illustrator: Myles Lawford



This is the story of how Kiwi helped save Christmas!

When Little Kiwi discovers an upset Santa stranded on a hillside with not a reindeer in sight, she rounds up all her bird friends to help. And in doing so, Little Kiwi gets to realise her own dream - to fly!

This is also a fun Kiwi Christmas sing-along from Scholastic NZ, sung by popular entertainer, Pio Terei, in both English and te reo Māori. Listen to it [here](#).



Want to listen to our SPCA Ambassador Suzy Cato read **We Wish You a Kiwi Christmas**? Check out this video on [Youtube](#).

Kiwi Calls

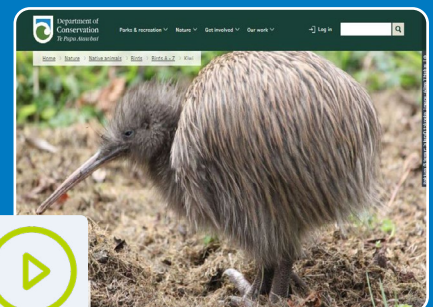


Animals communicate in a variety of ways. They need to send and receive information from other animals and the world around them.



Animals don't have a voice in the way that humans do, however, they can make sounds from their nose or throat.

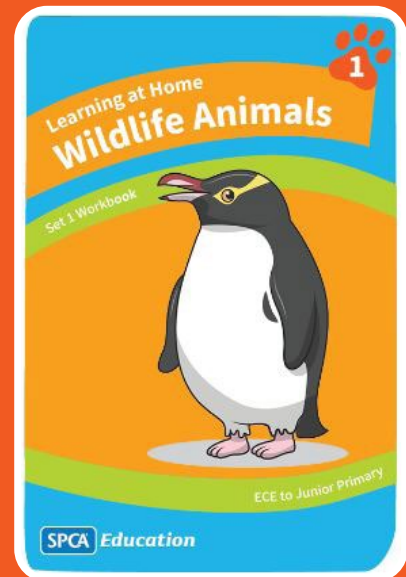
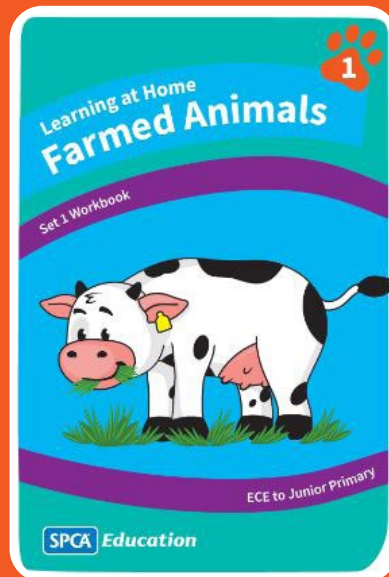
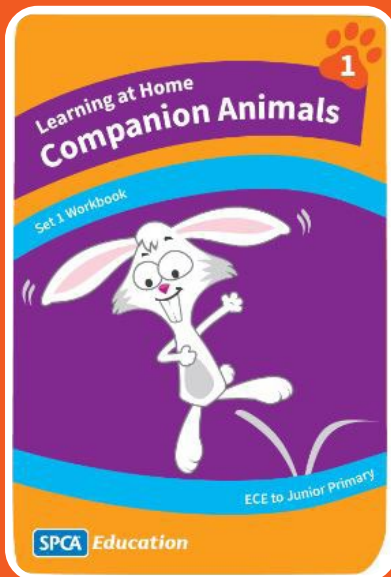
Have you ever wondered about how kiwi communicate with each other? To hear the amazing calls they make, listen to these cool recordings from DOC (Department of Conservation).



SPCA's Learning at Home Booklets

Do you love learning about animals? Want something fun to do over the school holiday? Well, look no further - SPCA's Learning at Home Booklets are an exciting collection of animal-related activities you can have fun doing at home.

There are three sets of booklets, each set has one booklet that focuses on companion animals, farmed animals and wild animals. There are loads of cool activities such as arts and crafts, reading, writing stories and maths problems. Choose a set that will be the best challenge for you! Check them out [here](#).



Once you have completed at least seven activities, send a copy of the checklist you have filled in at the back of the booklet and photos of your two favourite activities to education@spca.nz. We would love to share your amazing work on the SPCA Kids' Portal, so let us know if you would like that too.

When you send us your checklist and photos, we will send you a cool digital badge to say ka pai/well done for all your hard work! If you complete all three booklets in a set, you'll get an SPCA Certificate and a paw badge sent to you in the mail!



How the Kiwi Lost its Wings

Do you know the story about how the kiwi lost its wings?

Manu (birds) had a special place in traditional Māori life and are still a very important part of Māori tikanga (culture). The kiwi is a unique taonga (treasure) and this is a traditional tale which explores why they are so special.

Check out the Māori legend in the [Wildlife Animals Learning at Home booklet](#) on the Kids' Portal.



International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day is an international event and it's celebrated every year on 5th December. This special day recognises and celebrates the amazing things that volunteers do in communities, close to home and around the world.

Every year, SPCA Centres around the country receive approximately 31,000 animals through their doors and respond to about 13,000 animal welfare complaints. SPCA relies almost entirely on the generosity of those who choose to make a difference.

By collecting, donating and fundraising for us, you are helping SPCA to prevent cruelty, educate, rescue, shelter, rehome, reunite and seek justice.

For your health and safety as well as SPCA staff and the animals in our care, you need to be at least 16 years old to volunteer in an SPCA Centre. But not to worry, if you are younger than this, there are still many ways you can support your local SPCA and help the animals in their care.

There are so many fun things you can volunteer your time making and doing. By making enrichment toys and rags, fundraising, and donating much needed items, you're helping SPCA animals while they wait for their forever homes! Check out the ways you can get involved [here](#).

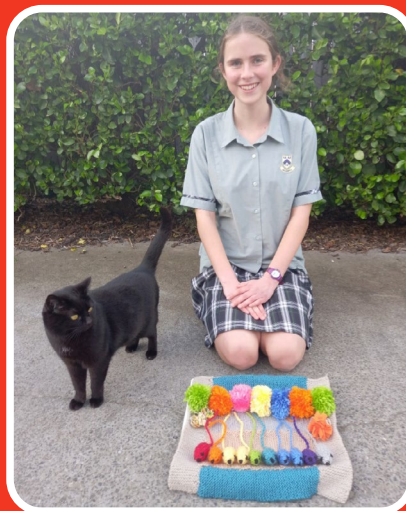
A huge thank you to all our pawesome supporter for their generosity this year, you've been amazing! A special shout out to these awesome tamariki who have been involved with the William Pike Challenge and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



For the William Pike Challenge, Calvin created some terrific enrichment toys.



Isabella fostered a rabbit as part of her hours towards the William Pike Challenge.



Kayla created beautifully knitted cat enrichment toys for her Duke of Edinburgh hours.

For more information about SPCA voluntary service hours for either the Duke of Edinburgh Award or the William Pike Challenge, email education@spca.nz



For her Duke of Edinburgh hours, Percy has made a range of fantastic enrichment toys to be donated to SPCA Centres in Auckland.

Going on Holiday?

School holiday time is here! Are you going away for a trip? How fun - we're jealous! Your animal, on the other hand, may not be.

While you might be sad to be away from your animal, your animals may be more stressed by joining you! Think about their needs before deciding whether to take them along with you.

Think about:

- > Where would your animal be happiest?
- > Finding a reliable family member, friend or pet-sitter.
- > If they join you, making sure you've got plenty of supplies to keep your companion happy and comfortable. It's going to be a hot summer!



Check out the [Going on Holiday](#) section on the Kids' Portal to find out more and to take the QUIZ!

Keep Your Animals Cool in Summer



Lots of us love to spend the long, sunny days of summer outdoors with our furry companions, but spending too much time in hot weather can be dangerous for animals. Here are some tips for keeping your animals cool while the sun shines. For more information, check out the [Kids' Portal](#).

Keep your animals hydrated!

In hot weather, animals may drink more water than usual. Make sure you check their water bowls and fill them with fresh, clean, cool water more often. Remember to take water with you when you're exercising your dog.

TIP: Try adding ice cubes to the water to really cool it down

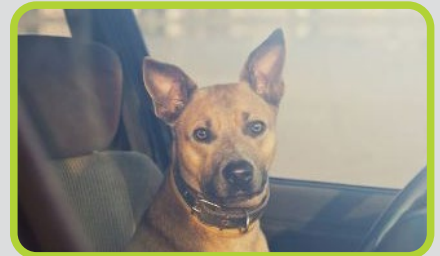


Apply sunscreen!

We all know to SLIP, SLOP, SLAP to make sure we don't get sunburnt, but have you thought about protecting your animal's skin from the sun? Animal sunscreens are made especially for animals and can be applied to sensitive areas, like pink noses, ears and bellies.

No parking!

Never leave your animal in the car on a hot day, even with the windows open. Very quickly a parked car can become extremely hot and dangerous.



Safe swimming!

Does your dog like swimming? If the answer is yes, then swimming is one of the best activities you can do when the weather is hot. Make sure you dry them well after swimming to keep their coat and skin clean and healthy.

Care for their coat!

Different dogs have different types of coats. Some help them to keep cool in warm weather. Check with your vet to see if your dog's type of coat needs a trim.

If you have a cat, brushing their fur regularly can help them to lose hair and keep them cool.



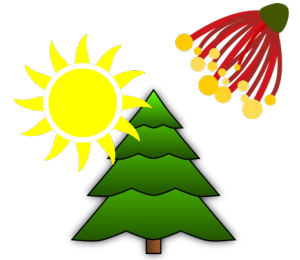
Poor paws!

Is the ground hot for your bare feet? Your animal companions can feel the same pain on hot surfaces. Be careful to not let them walk on hot sand or concrete - it can burn their paws.

DIY Christmas Treats For Your Animals

Do you love to cool down with a popsicle on a hot summer day? Guess what? Many animals also love a frozen treat. Like many desserts, pupsicles can be as simple or as fancy as you like.

Unlike human ice cream treats, pupsicles aren't always sweet. They may be sweetened with fresh fruit but your dog or animal can also enjoy them savoury with meat, broth or ice cubes with bits of their favourite meats included.



Frozen treats

Frozen treats are easy to make and can be used in hiding games or simply as a fun, cooling, tasty treat for your dog.

Frozen treats can be made with various dog-friendly foods, however here's a good recipe to start with:

1. Mix low sodium (salt) chicken or beef stock with dog friendly peanut butter and hot water.
2. Place the mixture in different moulds and put a dog biscuit or two on top.
3. Cover it and freeze.

You can also try a sweet option with plain yoghurt, blueberries and banana.

TIP:
You can make cat and dog treats using a mix of different wet food, biscuits and stock.



Want to get creative?

You could try using small amounts of these healthy dog foods. Get creative and see what your dog prefers!

- Kumara
- Banana
- Pumpkin
- Carrot
- Cabbage
- Brown rice
- Quinoa
- Parsley
- Peas
- Broccoli
- Cooked potatoes



Food your dog CAN'T eat

- Chocolate
- Garlic
- Onions
- Grapes and raisins
- Avocado
- Coffee
- Salt
- Dairy
- Xylitol (sweetener)



TV Dinners

A TV dinner is a frozen whole meal. They can be made in various moulds such as ice cream containers, silicon baking moulds or small buckets or tubs. This food enrichment is great in summer to keep dogs cool in the hot sunny weather!

How to Prepare TV Dinners:

1. Make sure the mould has been carefully cleaned before preparing the meal.
2. Put two cups* of dry kibble into a mould.
3. Add a few tablespoons of wet food (gravy-based wet food is best). You can also use chicken or beef stock instead.
4. Mix thoroughly.
5. Cover it and then freeze.
6. Once frozen, serve it up to your patiently waiting pooch!

**this recipe is for a medium-large size dog. Reduce the recipe for smaller dogs.*

TIP: Make sure the floor area is easy to clean as this food enrichment can make a mess!



Christmas Gingerbread Recipe

The festive season (and school holidays) are the perfect opportunity for you to create these delicious Christmas cookie treats for your human friends and family.

Ingredients:

- 350g flour
- 175g soft light brown sugar
- 1tsp baking soda
- 1 egg
- 100g softened butter
- 4 Tbsp golden syrup
- 2tsp ground ginger



Method:



Mix flour, baking soda and ginger in a bowl.



Add the butter and rub it in with your fingers



Add brown sugar and golden syrup.



Stir in the egg with a wooden spoon.



Form the mixture into a firm dough.



Wrap the dough in cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.



Grease a baking tray and pre-heat the oven to 190°C. While the oven is heating, roll out dough to 1/2cm and cut out shapes.



Place shapes on the tray and bake for 15 minutes.



Cool on a wire rack before decorating.



TIP: To decorate, you could use melted white chocolate, icing or MMs!

Kiwi Book Corner Craft

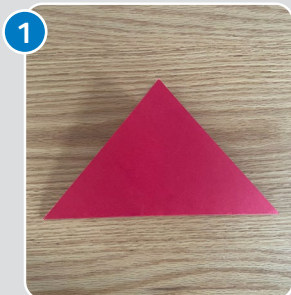


Keep losing your page in your book? Want to make a cute Christmas gift for someone?

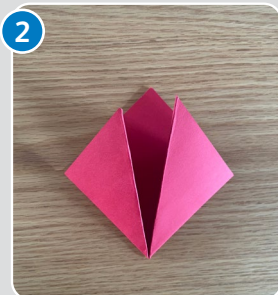
Follow the directions below to make these origami book holders!

Materials needed:

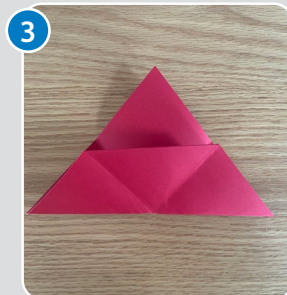
- > Square origami paper 15cm x 15cm
- > Light card for beak and feet
- > Glue stick or cello tape
- > Pens for eyes and whiskers



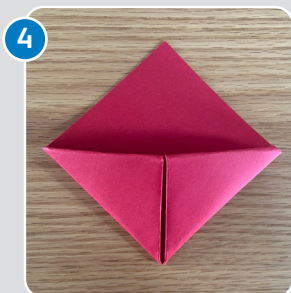
1 Fold your origami paper in half to make a triangle.



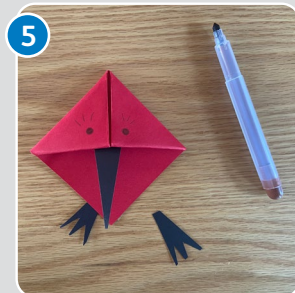
2 Next, take the opposite corners of the base of the triangle and fold them up to meet at the top.



3 Open the flaps out again and fold under the top part of the large triangle.



4 Fold the side flaps again and tuck the ends under. You've made the book corner!



5 Finally, add details to your book corner. Cut out a beak and feet from card and stick into place.



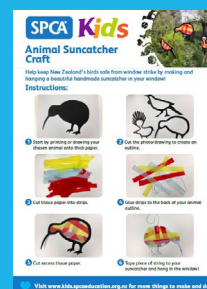
Activity: True or False?

- Kiwi have amazing eyesight T/F
- The biggest threat to kiwi chicks are stoats T/F
- It's safe to keep a dog locked in a car T/F
- Kiwi can live for between 75 and 100 years T/F



Sun Catcher

Help keep New Zealand's birds safe from window strike by making and hanging a beautiful handmade suncatcher in your window! Check out the instructions in the [Wildlife Learning at Home Booklet](#).



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

Email education@spca.nz



True or False Answers
1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F