

## Welcome to the November issue of Kind Matters!

Before we jump into this exciting issue, we are delighted to announce the winners of our August Kind Matters **Photography Competition**.

We were blown away by the incredible number of entries we received! It was heartwarming to see so many of you capturing your animals enjoying their safe spaces at home. Each photo showcased your creativity and love for your furry, feathered and scaly friends.

Choosing one winner for each category was a real challenge. Our head judge, Jo Moore, carefully reviewed all the amazing photos, and we are excited to share the winning entries below.

### 5-7 Years Winner



Isla, age 6

### 8-10 Years Winner



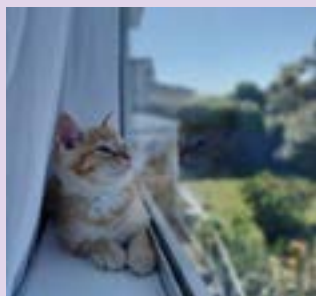
Max, age 9

### 11-16 Years Winner



Claudia, age 16

### Overall Winner



Maia-Akira, age 16

Congratulations to our runners-up: Finley, Annabelle and Lincoln and our spot prize winners. Check them out [here](#). Another huge thank you to our competition sponsors OPPO and EUGY by Dodoland.



## What's Inside



**A Closer Look: Dogs/Kuri**  
 Uncover cool dog facts and how to make your furry friend's life pawsitively pawesome.



**Competition Time:** Are you a dog expert? Take the quiz and be in to win a pawesome dog-themed prize pack!



**Craft Time: Plaited Tug Toys**  
 Turn some fabric into fun and show your furry friend how much you care!



Visit [www.sPCA.nz/kids](http://www.sPCA.nz/kids) for more animal information!

and much more...



# A Closer Look at: Dogs/Kurī



**Did you know that dogs are the second most popular pet in New Zealand? 34% of homes have at least one dog, and there are over 850,000 dogs all across the country!**

Dogs are amazing companions, but need lots of love and care to stay happy and healthy. Just like us, they



need plenty of clean water - about 80% of their body is made up of it! Water helps keep their bodies working properly. But here's a tip: don't give your dog milk! Most dogs are lactose intolerant, meaning their tummies can't handle milk and it might make them sick.



Dogs are very social animals and love spending time with their humans. They don't like being left alone for too long; it can make them feel lonely and

bored. That's why it's important to spend time playing with them.

Every dog needs exercise, no matter their size. Whether it's a tiny pup or a big dog, they all need to run, play, and stretch their legs every day. Just leaving them in the backyard isn't enough. If a dog spends a lot of time outdoors, they must have a safe space to play and a cosy shelter so they're protected from the weather.

Dogs need to learn good behaviour to be happy with their families. Teaching your dog to behave is one of the best things you can do for them! Just like for you, it's much easier for dogs to learn when it's fun. Check out a great method called "reward-based training" [here](#).

To keep your dog healthy, don't forget vaccinations. They protect against diseases that can make dogs sick. Also, there are more dogs than there are good homes for them, so it's best to spay (females) or neuter (males) your dog at around 6 months old to help prevent unwanted puppies.

## Fun Facts:

### Did you know?

1. Dogs only sweat from their paws, so you might see wet paw prints where they've been.



2. Puppy peek-a-boo: Puppies' eyes stay closed for about 12 days after they're born before opening up.



3. Super sniffers: Dogs can smell things 100 million times weaker than we can. Their noses are amazing!



4. Dogs dream like people do. Their brain waves while sleeping are similar to ours.
5. Calm cuddles: Petting your dog can help you feel less anxious and lower your blood pressure.



6. Smart Pups: Dogs can learn up to 250 words and gestures and even count to five!

## Are You a Dog Expert?



For more information about dogs and puppies, check out the [Kids' Portal](#).

Watch the videos and take a quiz to see if you are an expert!





# Understanding Dog Body Language



Body language is one way an animal can give us signals about how they are feeling. Knowing what a dog is telling you with their body can help you understand how they are feeling, so that you can respond in safe and positive ways.

1. Look at the pictures of the dogs and tamariki.
2. Think about what feelings or emotions each picture might show.
3. Draw a line from each picture of the dog to the correct picture of the child and then a line to the matching feeling/emotion words.



Anxious/Stressed/Worried



Aggressive/Angry/Very Unhappy



Relaxed/Happy



Playful/Excited

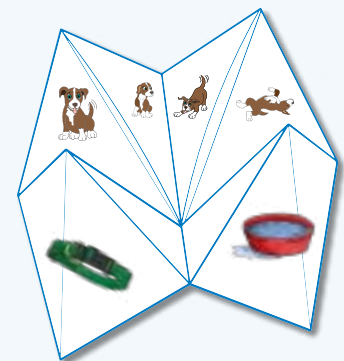
Answers on page 11



## Practise your understanding of dogs' body language with this cool pick a box activity!

### How to play

1. Find a friend and have them choose a dog care item.
2. Move the fortune teller back and forth as you spell out the letters of the item.
3. Ask them to pick a dog picture inside the fortune teller and have them guess how the dog in the picture is feeling based on its body language.
4. Ask them how they should respond to a dog feeling that way.
5. Lift the flap to reveal the correct answer!



Cut out and make our special Pick a Box to practise recognising some common dog body language.

Check out the template on page 12





## Kind Conservation: Fairy terns/tara iti

The New Zealand fairy tern/tara iti is one of the rarest native birds in Aotearoa. With fewer than 40 fairy terns left in the wild and only about 8-10 breeding females, they need our help more than ever. Let's learn why these birds are so special and how we can protect them!

When we visit environments where animals live and breed it is essential that we are careful not to disturb them or put them in any danger. Some birds, such as fairy terns, nest on the dunes at the beach.

The chicks and eggs of fairy terns are well camouflaged in the shells and sand which gives them protection from flying predators but not from people who might step on an egg or chick by mistake. They are also easily stressed, so people, dogs and vehicles can frighten them and cause them to abandon their eggs or chicks. Without the protection of both parents, the eggs and chicks are unable to survive.

Fairy terns nest during spring and summer, the busiest time for visitors

### Fairy tern breeding area



Image © DOC

to the beach. When at the beach, here are some key things you can do to keep shore birds, eggs and chicks safe:

- Stay well away from nesting birds.
- Watch where you walk; avoid shelly patches and walk on bare sand.
- Stay out of fenced areas and obey all signs.
- To reduce the stress that dogs may cause keep them out of wildlife refuge.
- Check the local rules and if dogs are allowed, they still must be kept under control. In areas where they are allowed, they may need to be on a lead and don't let them chase birds or wander into dune areas.

If you come across an injured shorebird, call the DOC Hotline (0800 362 468) for advice on arranging treatment for the injured bird.

### Fairy tern nest

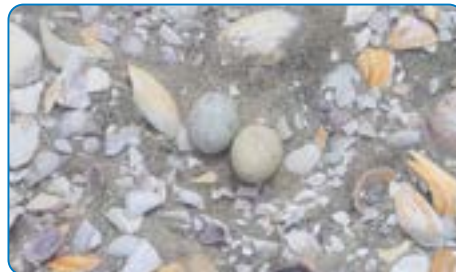


Photo © DOC

### Fairy tern chicks with parent



Photo © NZ Fairy Tern Trust 2020 | DOC

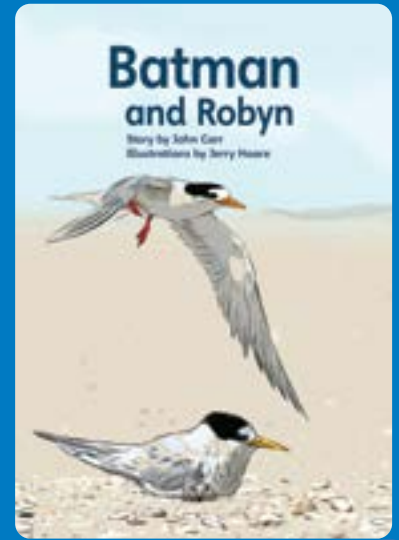
## Book Nook



**Title:** Batman and Robyn

**Author:** John Carr

**Illustrator:** Jerry Hoare



In *Batman and Robyn*, Aroha is camping at Mangawhai Heads where she visits a wildlife refuge near an estuary. In her excitement to explore the beach, Aroha almost steps on a fairy tern nest when she does not notice the signs or fences telling people to be aware and stay away from the nests.

What happens to the fairy terns and can Aroha help to save the day?

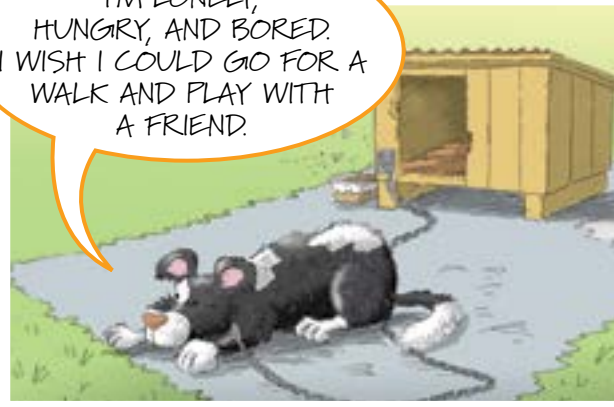
If you haven't already seen this great story, ask your classroom teacher if you can borrow a copy, or check at your local library!



# Storm Gets A New Family

Read the comic, then fill in the two empty speech bubbles with what you think Storm might be saying and feeling.

I'M LONELY, HUNGRY, AND BORED. I WISH I COULD GO FOR A WALK AND PLAY WITH A FRIEND.



BANG!



HI SPCA. WE HAVE FOUND AN INJURED DOG WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP.



OUCH! HELP ME!

TEAR!



WE WILL TAKE HIM TO BE CARED FOR BY SPCA'S VET. ONCE HE'S HEALED AND IF WE CAN'T FIND HIS GUARDIAN, HE'LL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION.



WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?

HI! MY NAME IS STORM. WILL YOU ADOPT ME?



LOOK DAD! STORM IS HEALED AND IS UP FOR ADOPTION.

I LOVE MY NEW FOREVER FAMILY!



Zzz



# Pawesome Supporters

SPCA is incredibly grateful for the pawsome support we receive throughout the year from people all across Aotearoa. This month, we want to give a special shout-out to an inspiring teacher and her class at Paraparaumu College. Their hard work and dedication have made a real difference for animals in need at SPCA.

At Paraparaumu College, some year 10 technology students took on a paws-itively exciting project that not only sparked their creativity but also helped animals in need! Led by their teacher, Mrs Shill, who was fostering for Levin SPCA, the students set out to design and build cosy cat cubbies for the Centre, which had more cats and kittens than dogs.



The students had the option to either create their own designs or follow a template. Some students even brainstormed ideas for a dog kennel, diving into problem-solving and teamwork.

The students said that they loved the chance to make something

meaningful for SPCA's furry residents. They enjoyed learning about design specifications, collaborating in groups, and seeing their ideas come to life.

*"It was a fun project to do and it felt good because we were able to do something to help the SPCA and the kittens there."*

Thank you Mrs Shill and year 10 Papaparaumu students for your fantastic cosy cat cubbies and for helping animals in need!

## Are you a pawesome supporter?

Have you done something at school with your teacher to help animals in need? We'd love to hear about it! Email us at [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz)



## Competition Time!

To celebrate our dog issue of Kind Matters, we've created a fun quiz that will test your knowledge of all things dog-related!

### Take the quiz and enter to win:

- 1 Have a good read through this issue.
- 2 Next, head to: [https://bit.ly/SPCA\\_dogquiz](https://bit.ly/SPCA_dogquiz)
- 3 Answer some simple questions to be in with a chance to win.



Pawesome prize pack to be won! 



**HINT:**  
Answers to the quiz can be found in this issue of Kind Matters. Good luck!





# Best Dog Walking Spots in Aotearoa

Are you and your family looking for fun places to explore with your furry best friend this summer? Here are some awesome dog-friendly walking spots where you and your pooch can enjoy the great outdoors together. Get ready for some exciting adventures and cool places to visit with your family and your four-legged buddy!



Photo © Curious George & Me

## Lake Ngaroto Waipa, Waikato

Lush wetlands, farmland and native bush - great for bird watching and there's a picnic and play area too!



## Rangatira Point Track, Taupō.

Native bush and lake views - great spots for picnics, a swim or a game of fetch!



Photo © Jaime Apolonio | DOC

## Maungauika North Head Historic Walk, Auckland.

Views of Waitemata and old defence remains to poke around.

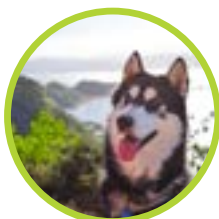


Photo © Wolves of Wellington

## Eastern Walkway, Wellington.

A popular walk with views over the south coast and a native bush track.



## Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway, Bay of Plenty.

An easy, flat 4hr hike along the historic railway.



## Barnicoat Walkway, Nelson.

A hilly loop track along a pine forest track.



Photo © Leon Berard | DOC

## Gentle Annie Track - Tararua Forest Park, Wairarapa.

At just over 4km of walking (3hr 30 mins), the beautiful views from the top will be worth it!



Photo © Matt Dillon

## Mt Crichton Loop Track, Queenstown.

A track with rivers, waterfalls, huts/tunnels, native bush and views!



## Awaroa/Godley Head Loop Track, Canterbury.

Great coastal views and historical WWII remains.



## Foveaux Walkway, Southland.

Check out Dog Island lighthouse and Rakiura (Stewart Island).



Photo © John Barkla | DOC

## Long Beach Walk, Otago.

A loop with caves to explore, white sand, native seabirds and rock climbing areas.



Photo © Jaime Apolonio | DOC



## SPCA ACTS TO HELP CHAINED DOGS

Every year, SPCA gets hundreds of calls about dogs that are chained up in backyards for long periods of time. These dogs are often lonely, frustrated, and have very little space to move around. Dogs need room to run, play, and interact with people, and they shouldn't be stuck in one spot every day, all day long.

Many of these dogs do have some basic things, like a shelter that keeps them dry and shaded, water to drink, and a spot far enough away to go to the bathroom. But just having these things isn't enough. Dogs need more than just the basics - they need space, exercise, and companionship (friends) to be happy and healthy.

To fix this problem, SPCA is pushing for new laws to protect these dogs. They want a rule that would allow animal welfare inspectors to step in and help a dog who is chained up for long periods of time. Right now, it is difficult for inspectors to help these dogs



*In New Zealand, there are thousands of dogs who spend their lives on chains.*

unless they are hurt, do not have enough food, water or a shelter.

SPCA has been working hard to make these changes. In 2021 they gathered evidence about how much these chained dogs suffer and pushed for new rules to protect them. Many people in New Zealand supported this effort and, in 2022, more than 20,000 people joined a campaign to call for change.

Dr. Alison Vaughan from SPCA says that thousands of dogs are waiting for the Government to give them a better life. "Life-chaining of dogs is a huge animal welfare issue in this country, and something SPCA Inspectors deal with every week," says Dr. Vaughan. "It's one of the most

difficult problems we face because the current laws don't let us help as much as we'd like."

In 2023, SPCA asked people to support them again by signing a letter to the Minister responsible for Animal Welfare. This time, 15,000 people joined in, demanding that the Government take action to improve the lives of these innocent animals. The government had asked for ideas on new rules for chaining dogs, but even though it has been a few months, they still haven't made a decision. SPCA is now urging the Minister to act quickly to protect chained dogs.

SPCA continues to fight for these dogs and hopes that with everyone's support, they can make a big difference.

## Update: Lottie and Stan's Happy Ending

In the last issue of Kind Matters - Kids' News you met Lottie and Stan, two sibling kittens who are now living their best lives after a tough start.

The pair was found abandoned in Whanganui, suffering from cat flu and in poor condition. Lottie had a tough time with a damaged eye and a birth defect that left her with a small stump on one of her hind legs.

Thanks to the local SPCA, Lottie and Stan received the care they needed and began to heal. Now, they have a wonderful new home with Daniel and his friendly black lab, Bingo.

Daniel couldn't be happier with his new furry family members. He said, "They are doing great at the moment. Stan is starting to go out exploring and becoming more adventurous now that he's settled in. I think he feels comfortable knowing his sister is safe here. They're very playful, always hungry, and incredibly cuddly!"

With kitten season approaching, many more kittens will need loving homes like Lottie and Stan's. If your family is



*Stan out exploring with Bingo.*

interested in adopting a pet, visit the SPCA's website to learn more: [SPCA Adoptions](#).

Lottie and Stan's story is a reminder of how love and care can make all the difference.



*Lottie relaxing at home.*



*Lottie before treatment.*

## Cupcake Day Success!



*Cupcakes made by a student at Pacific Coast Technical Institute.*

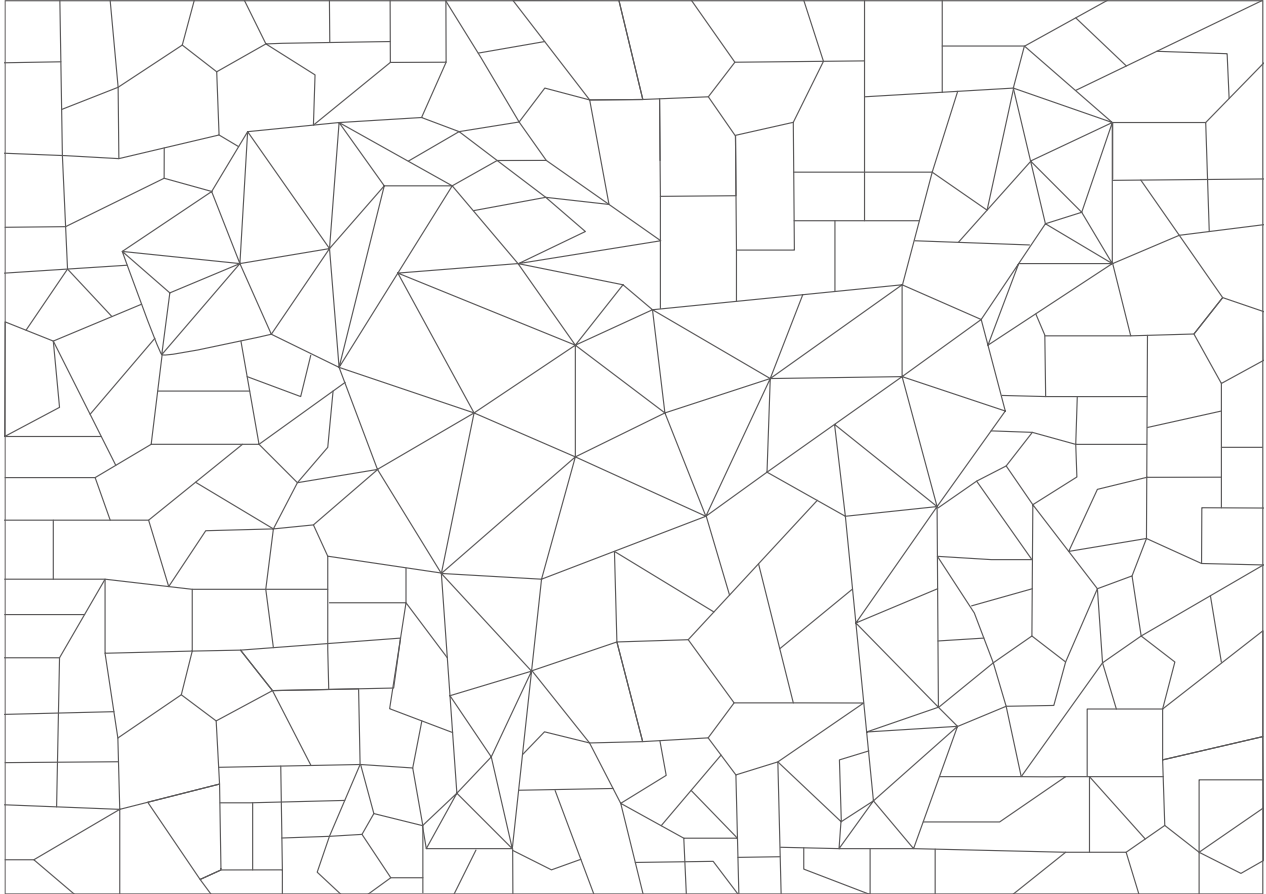
SPCA Cupcake Day, 18th September, raised over \$70,000 for the animals in SPCA's care. We're so grateful to the students, schools, companies and communities that showed their support, and baked a difference for animals in need.



# Triangle -Tangle



Colour in all the triangles, the shapes with only three sides, to reveal a hidden animal.



You have revealed a \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer on page 11

## Dog Jokes

1. What is a dog that sneezes? *A-choo-wawa.*
2. What is a dog's favourite breakfast? *Wooffles.*
3. Why won't Dalmatians play hide-and-seek? *Because they're always spotted.*
4. What do you get when you cross a dog with a calculator? *A best friend you can count on.*
5. What kind of dog can jump higher than a building? *All kinds - buildings can't jump!*



Got a funny animal joke to share?  
Send it to us at:  
[education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz)

HAHA!

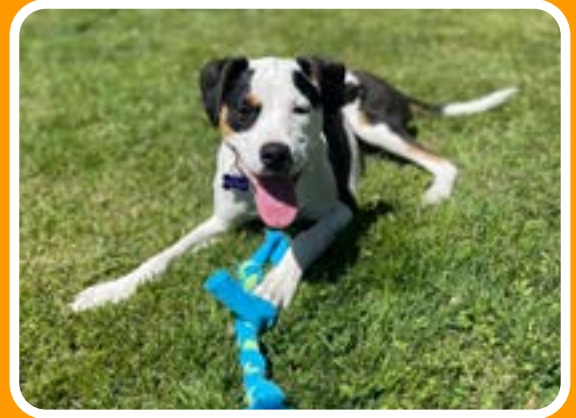


# Craft: Dogs and Puppies - Plaited Tug Toy

Dogs and puppies love toys to play with and this helps to stop them from getting bored. You can make a plaited 'rope' tug toy for a dog by tearing old, clean material into strips and plaiting them together. Follow the instructions below to make a fun tug toy!

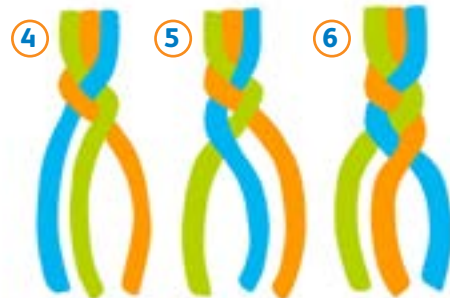
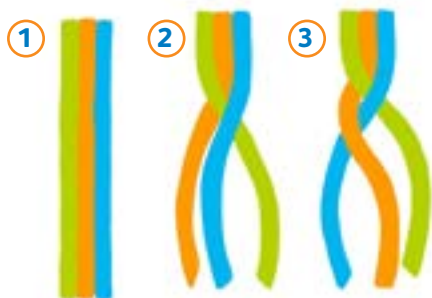
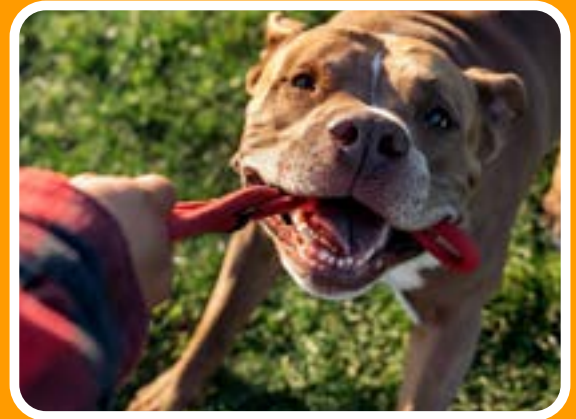
## Materials needed

- > Clean material - e.g. a bed sheet (make sure it is long)
- > Scissors



## Instructions

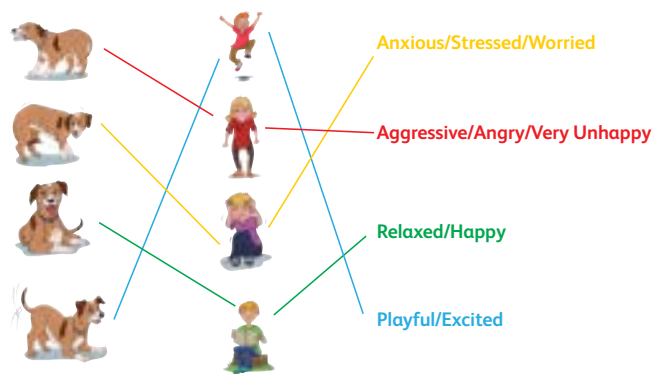
1. **Knot It Up!** Gather one end of your fabric and tie it into a big, strong knot. This will be the top of your plait.
2. **Cut Some Strips!** At the other end, carefully tear or cut the fabric into three long strips up to the knot. Be sure to ask for help if you need it.
3. **Start Plaiting!** Take the right strip and move it to the middle. Then, take the left strip and move it to the middle.
4. **Keep Alternating!** Keep switching sides: right to the middle, then left to the middle. Try to keep it tight so your plait is strong.
5. **Finish It Off!** When you're almost at the end, tie another knot to hold it all together.



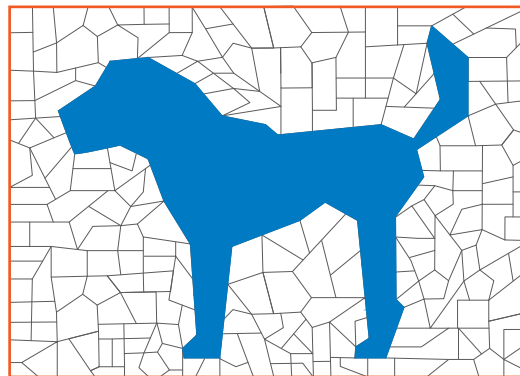


# Activity Answer Key:

## Understanding Dog Body Language (Page 3):



## Triangle - Tangle (page 9):



You have revealed a dog.

## Colouring

Colouring is a super fun activity, especially when you're colouring animals! Have fun colouring in [Flick the dog](#) and the rest of the SPCA Mascot gang!

We'd love to see your creations - email your finished works of art to: [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz)



Have you written a dog-themed story or poem? Got an awesome dog drawing at home? Made a cool enrichment toy for your furry friend?

We'd love to see your amazing work and share it with other tamariki. Share your creations with us at [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz) and it could be featured on the Kids' Portal!



## SPCA Storybook Jigsaw Puzzles

Have a go at solving these awesome puzzles featuring SPCA's Storybook Series. Just click on the images [here](#) to start solving the puzzles.



Check out the puzzle for our featured Book Nook story, Batman and Robyn, or enjoy some doggy goodness with Storm.



You can even adjust the difficulty level to challenge yourself and become a puzzle master!



## SPCA Education Webinars - Term 4

Have you heard of SPCA Education Webinars?

During these fun, interesting, and educational 30-minute webinars you will learn about a variety of topics, including animal welfare, responsible animal guardianship, and the role SPCA plays in the community!

Ask your teacher or parent/guardian to visit [www.spca.nz/schools](http://www.spca.nz/schools) and register for a world of animal welfare!



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](mailto:education@spca.nz) with your ideas!

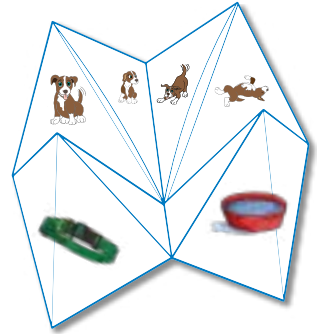
Share your ideas!



# How to make an SPCA Pick a Box

## Directions:

1. Cut out the template along the dashed line and place it blank side up.
2. Fold each corner to the centre to make a diamond shape, then flip it so the side with pictures is up.
3. Fold each corner to the centre again to form a smaller diamond.
4. Flip the diamond over to make a square.
5. Fold the square in half, bottom to top, then fold it in half again.
6. Unfold and use your fingers and thumbs to open and use your fortune teller.



**COLLAR**



**Relaxed  
Happy**

**WATER**



A dog that is feeling relaxed and happy can be approached with the permission of the dog and their guardian (owner).

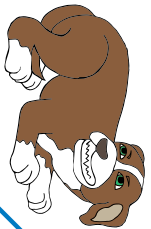
**Playful  
Excited**



A dog in the "play bow" wants to interact. This often signals a friendly dog - although it pays to be careful as they could accidentally knock you over with their excited play.

A dog displaying aggressive body language should not be approached or challenged.

**Very unhappy  
Angry  
Aggressive**



A dog with "worried" body language is likely to be feeling under stress. A worried or anxious dog should be given time and space alone.



**Worried  
Stressed  
Anxious**



**FOOD**



**TOYS**

