

## Happy New Year!

With a new year comes a new issue of *Kind Matters*! We're very excited to start the first newsletter of 2019 with the announcement of our November photography competition winners. There were so many amazing photos that we couldn't just choose one, so we have two winners for junior and senior ages!

Congratulations to our wonderful winners and thank you to everyone who entered! This issue we take a look into the world of rabbits, the importance of volunteering and how getting rid of plastic bags helps keep animals safe!

### Junior Winners

#### 1st place – Zaylah, age 8

Freedom to express normal behaviour



#### 2nd place – James, age 12

Freedom to express normal behaviour



### Senior Winners

#### 1st place – Natalee, age 16

Freedom to express normal behaviour



#### 2nd place – Esther, age 13

Freedom from fear and distress



## SPCA Competition

**Calling all artists - it's time to grab your paints or coloured pens and pencils and get creative!** We want you to draw your favourite animal doing something that makes them happy and keeps them healthy! It could be them with an enrichment toy, foraging for food, or even just playing. The winner will receive a super cool prize! Check out our Kids' Portal for inspiration.

Scan and email your creative masterpiece to [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz) or post it to Kind Matters, SPCA NZ, PO Box 15 349, New Lynn, Auckland 0640.

Please provide your name, age, school, contact details, and a description of your artwork!

## What's Inside



### A Closer Look at: Rabbits – Rāpeti

Learn more about our long eared, fluffy friends.



### Kind Conservation: Goodbye single use plastic bags

New Zealand's ban on plastic bags.



### Craft Time: Sock Bunnies

Make these cute sock bunnies yourself.

and much more...



Visit [www.kids.spcaeducation.org.nz](http://www.kids.spcaeducation.org.nz)



## Fostering

Kittens, kittens, and more kittens! Tabbies, black, white, ginger, and everything in between – there are always lots of adorable kittens in the summer at SPCA. Sometimes kittens, along with many other types of animals at SPCA, aren't quite ready for adoption – this is where foster parents come in!

Although we rely on our awesome foster families to help us all year round, summer is the busiest as during this time we can have about 500 cats and kittens out at foster homes across the country!

'Fostering' an animal for SPCA is when you provide them with a temporary home. Some animals that come into SPCA need additional care, treatment, and socialization before finding their forever home.

Volunteer foster parents help them recover from surgery, give them medicine, or help socialize them. Sometimes animals need additional care for several weeks or a couple of months depending on their circumstances.

Once these animals have made a full recovery and are ready for their forever homes, foster parents return their foster animals to SPCA where they are put up for adoption.

Foster families are then free to help more animals in need!



If your family would like to become a foster family, contact your local SPCA Centre at [www.spcan.z](http://www.spcan.z)



## A Closer Look at Rabbits – Rāpeti

Long ears and fluffy tails – rabbits are adorable and intelligent beings. Many people think that rabbits are a low maintenance companion animal, but this simply isn't true! Rabbits can live for up to 8 years and just like all other animals, have very specific needs and requirements in order for them to be happy and healthy:

Rabbits must have access to fresh, clean water. Their main food source should be hay, along with a nutritious mix of fresh grass and a variety of garden greens. These foods should be available at all times as they keep rabbit tummies happy, while also helping to keep their ever-growing teeth worn down!

Rabbits can also eat fresh vegetables in small amounts and good quality commercial rabbit pellets. Just be sure to always feed rabbits according to



their age, lifestyle, and health. Check that anything you give your rabbit to eat is safe for them. Your rabbits' vet can help ensure the best possible diet for them!

Some foods that rabbits love include dandelion leaves, thistle/puha, dock leaves, mint, parsley, broccoli and cabbage. Ensure that any leaves or plants given to or accessible to the rabbits have not been sprayed with poison or pesticides.

Rabbits also need a large home so they have plenty of room to hop around, as well as food enrichment, toys and things to do to so they stay happy and healthy and avoid boredom.

For more information on enrichment as well as the type of environment rabbits need, check out our Kid's Portal!

## Fun Fact: Why are rabbits' ears so long?

Rabbits are a prey species, which means they are hunted by other animals in the wild. This makes them naturally very alert. They can hear sounds from as far away as 3km, so their ears are a very helpful tool for staying safe! This awesome feature makes them expert detectors, as they can easily pick up a range of sounds! Unlike people, rabbits can move one ear while the other stays still, and they can also rotate their ears nearly 270 degrees – almost a full circle! Not only do rabbit ears make them great listeners, but they also help them keep cool in the heat!





# Lending a Hand

Volunteers are a major part of SPCA – we simply could not function without them! Young people all over New Zealand help SPCA by making enrichment toys, holding their own fundraisers, and donating much needed items. We wanted to show you what some of our wonderful volunteers throughout the country are doing to help animals in need!

> Mikayla is an 8-year-old SPCA volunteer superstar – not only did she volunteer for our Annual Appeal, but she also makes enrichment toys for the animals AND she raised close to \$700 for SPCA on Cupcake Day! Way to go Mikayla!



> Brittney, Cassie, and Andrew show the true meaning of dedication! Each Thursday, the students from Ferndale School help the managers at our Christchurch Op Shop. A big thank you for being a huge help to SPCA!



> Rosa, age 15, has raised approximately \$1000 for SPCA by selling her incredible artwork of SPCA foster animals! Her hard work has helped so many animals in need. Amazing job, Rosa!



## Do you want to help animals in need too?

If so, you can help collect money at SPCA's Annual Street Appeal taking place from 4-10 March 2019. Take a look at our Kids' Portal for details and other ways to help!

## Kind Conservation: Goodbye single use plastic bags

**Have you heard the wonderful news that single use plastic bags have been banned in New Zealand? This means big things for our animals!**

Single-use plastic bags are among the trillions of plastic items that end up in our oceans, parks, forests, and on our beaches. This rubbish causes serious harm to both companion animals and wildlife. Animals can eat or become entangled in plastic and other rubbish, leading to painful injuries and death.

Eliminating single-use plastic bags is a great start to helping our animals and our environment, but we don't need to just stop there – there are plenty of other ways you can help! For example, you can:

### Reduce, reuse, and recycle

- > Reduce the amount of waste you are producing. This includes buying and using less, as well as choosing packaging that is less wasteful.
- > Reuse and repurpose old items instead of throwing them away. For example, you can use old towels, blankets, toilet rolls, and tissue boxes to make enrichment toys!
- > Recycle items instead of throwing them in the rubbish. If you don't already recycle at school or at home, talk to your teacher and/or guardian about starting a recycling programme!

### Refuse and make the switch

Refuse single-use plastic items such as bags, coffee cups, water bottles, straws, plastic wrap, and toothbrushes. Instead, switch to reusable bags, water bottles, coffee cups, metal or cardboard straws, beeswax wraps, and bamboo toothbrushes.



### Organise a clean-up

Grab your friends and whānau and organise a clean-up! Head to your nearest park or beach, ready to pick up as much rubbish as you can. You can even turn it into a fun scavenger hunt. Remember to get the help of a parent, guardian, or teacher!

Can you think of some other ways that you can help? Remember, what you do makes a difference - start making a change today!



# Responsible Guardianship Tip:

## Bonded rabbits

Rabbits in the wild live in big groups and are very sociable animals, so it makes sense that they should live with at least one other spayed or neutered rabbit friend, never alone.

While many rabbits do enjoy human company, another rabbit is still the best companion for them. Bonded rabbits form extremely close attachments. They will groom each other, sleep, eat and play together. They also support, protect, and keep each other company when their humans are busy or away at school/work. These close relationships help prevent loneliness and boredom.

It is very important to remember that bonding rabbits takes time, patience, and understanding. You cannot just put two rabbits in an enclosure and expect them to immediately get along. They need time to trust and feel safe with each other. The best place to find your second rabbit is at SPCA or a local rabbit rescue centre. Not only will you be giving a home to a bunny in need, but a rescue rabbit is likely to be spayed/neutered and vaccinated already. Many rescue centres are experts at pairing rabbits – talk to your local SPCA Centre and visit the Kids' Portal to learn more about rabbit bonding!



# Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to reveal the animal!

- tribab
- tca
- orshe
- oagt
- ocw
- gip
- dgo
- niague gip
- khcinec
- eepsh

Did you solve them all?  
Answers on page 5!



# Book Nook

Have you seen the te reo Māori editions of our SPCA Storybooks? Our friend Bosco loves them!

One of the books “Te Mate o Tā Sione Spaghetti,” or “The Problem with Sione’s Spaghetti” features a story about Sione’s rabbit, Spaghetti. Spaghetti has a problem. Sione’s solution involves a pack of raging rhinos, but will it work?

Te Mate o Tā Sione Spaghetti

Nā John Carr i tuhituhi

Nā Mike Wilkin ngā pikitia

You can find the SPCA book series at your school or buy your own set online at:  
[www.spcan.z](http://www.spcan.z)



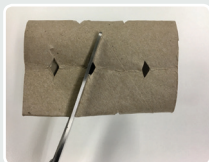
# Animal Alphabet Challenge

Can you think of an animal for each letter of the alphabet? Fill in the blanks with your answers!

Example, A – Alligator, B – Bird, C – Cat, etc.

A -	N -
B -	O -
C -	P -
D -	Q -
E -	R -
F -	S -
G -	T -
H -	U -
I -	V -
J -	W -
K -	X -
L -	Y -
M -	Z -





## Make it Yourself: Toilet Roll Stick Toy

This easy DIY toy makes for simple, fun enrichment for your rabbit that encourages self-directed play. Self-directed play is just like if you were to practice your skills with a soccer ball, read a book, or draw – they're all things that, when given the right equipment, you can do by yourself and they keep you from getting bored!

Make sure that the ends of the twigs are not sharp and that you ALWAYS supervise your rabbit while they are playing with enrichment toys!

### Materials needed:

- > Toilet roll, clean of adhesive
- > Scissors
- > Twigs (be sure to use twigs that are safe for rabbits. Twigs from trees such as willow, apple, pear, poplar and citrus or other untreated wood treats are safe and will help to keep their teeth worn down. Avoid trees which have been chemically treated or are close to sources of pollution. If you're unsure, always check with your veterinarian to make sure the wood is not toxic).

### Instructions:

1. Use your scissors to cut several small holes all over the toilet roll. Ask a parent or guardian to help you and use extra caution!
2. Push the stick through one hole of the toilet roll and out another.
3. Give you to your rabbit for hours of fun!



## Craft Time: No Sew Sock Bunnies

If you don't have bunnies of your own, you can make your very own adorable rabbits with these simple materials. This issue's Responsible Guardianship Tip taught us that rabbits need a friend, so be sure to make two!

### Materials needed:

- > A pair of socks (can be any size or colour!)
- > Rice
- > Scissors
- > Black felt tip pen
- > Ribbon
- > Cotton balls
- > Small elastics or rubber bands
- > Hot glue gun

### Instructions:

1. Start by filling the sock up to the heel with rice. It helps to put the opening of the sock around a roll of tape to make pouring the rice in easier.
2. Once the sock is filled, tie the top of the sock in a knot to stop the rice from falling out.
3. Start from the bottom and make your first ball shape. Wrap the elastic around the sock to keep the shape. Make a second ball shape on top by wrapping your elastic around the extra sock material.
4. Cut the extra material into the shape of rabbit ears.
5. Decorate your rabbit's neck with a cute ribbon!
6. Hot glue a cotton ball to the back of your rabbit to make a tail. Remember to ask an adult for help with this step!
7. Draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth to make your rabbit's face.
8. Place your rabbits in a safe place for you to enjoy!



## Share your ideas!

Is there something you've always wanted to know about SPCA? Do you want to learn more about a certain animal? We want to hear from you! Email [education@spca.nz](mailto:education@spca.nz) with your ideas!

Word Scramble Answers:  
 1. rabbit  
 2. cat  
 3. horse  
 4. goat  
 5. cow  
 6. pig  
 7. dog  
 8. guinea pig  
 9. chicken  
 10. sheep