

Happy New Year

Thanks for checking out the first Kind Matters of 2020!

In 2019, SPCA's 40 Centres provided shelter, love, and care to almost 41,000 animals and attended nearly 8,700 animal emergencies. It was a big year advancing animal welfare and preventing cruelty in New Zealand. Thank you to all of our pawesome supporters for helping us speak for those who cannot speak for themselves!

Last year we launched our very first "Caption This Photo" Competition. Now we're excited to let our awesome readers know who the winners are!

Drumroll please...



Junior Category Winner:

"You got me, now you grow me!"
– Tatum

Senior Category Winner:

"This box must be my garden, because I'm diggin' it!" – Amber

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who entered – your captions were spectacular!

A big thank you to our amazing sponsors, Faber-Castell, Whittaker's, Mary Egan Publishing, and Wheelers for their generous prize donations for this competition!

SPCA Competition: Animal Portrait Photography

We had such a successful Photography Competition last year that we thought – why not do it again?! This year, we want to see your very best animal portraits! Your photo can be of a companion, farmed, or wild animal. Portraits focus on the face of the subject, so be sure that the animal's face is the main feature of your photo!

Email your photo to education@sPCA.nz with the subject "Photography Competition 2020" by 17 April 2020. 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 the SPCA Kids' Portal and within social media postings.

What's Inside



A Closer Look at: Goats – Nanenane

Learn all about the life of goats.



Kind Conservation: Bees - Pī

How we can help these awesome pollinators.



Craft Time: Bug Hotel

Build a safe space for bugs in your garden/yard.

and much more...



A Closer Look at: Goats – Nanenanes



Many people believe that goats will eat just about anything but this simply isn't true! It's a complete myth that goats enjoy munching on tin cans and garbage. Goats are actually quite picky eaters that will avoid eating food that is dirty – including food that other animals may have touched or walked on! A big reason for this is that goats are “browsers.” This means they prefer to browse around for their food, searching for the very best quality.

Goats need a specially prepared diet of fresh, healthy, goat-appropriate food – they can't just eat anything. One of the most important elements for a proper goat nutrition is hay

which makes up about 50 % of their diet. As herbivores, long green grass, roots, branches and other greenery/ forage should also be given to your goats daily to make up the other 25-50 % of their diet. Be careful not to let your goat have too much alfalfa or clover as this can cause bloat*. Bloat is a serious, life-threatening symptom that occurs when a ruminant* animal cannot burp. The rumen* produces a lot of gas from the fermentation* of food, and goats (as well as all other ruminants), usually burp to get rid of this gas. If something blocks the escape of gas from the rumen, the rumen will begin to expand. You will notice a large bulge on the animal's

left side, as if they had swallowed a soccer ball. If you think your goat may have developed bloat, call your veterinarian right away.

Your goat can also occasionally have a small amount of safe vegetables. Proper daily nutrition also includes minerals which can be given as supplements. This all helps ensure your goats are getting everything they need to make them strong and healthy.

Just like us, goats drink water and need access to fresh, clean water at all times. It's important to ensure that their water is in a place where it won't get too hot in the summer, or freeze in the winter.

To learn more about your goats' dietary needs, take a look at our [Kids' Portal](#)

Glossary

***Ruminant** – an animal with hoofs that chews cud and has a stomach made up of usually four chambers.

***Rumen** – the first compartment of a ruminant animal's stomach.

***Fermentation** – the process of food being broken down in an animal's stomach.

***Bloat** – a serious, life-threatening symptom that occurs when a ruminant animal cannot burp.

Fun Fact: Have you ever noticed that goats' eyes look different than your own?

This is because their pupil (the black part) is a horizontal rectangular shape. This is likely because goats are a prey species. This means they need to keep themselves safe from predators and their specially shaped pupils help them do just that!

Thanks to their pupils, and the fact that their eyes are on the sides of their heads, goats can see an amazing 320-

340 degrees around them. Their field of vision is much wider than that of a human. To give you an idea, imagine if you were to take a panoramic photo – goats see the world kind of like that!

Goats' eyes are also able to rotate when they move their heads up and down, so that they're always parallel to the ground. This special skill keeps them extra safe while they're eating!



Happy Tales: Walnut's Rescue

Little Walnut was only three days old when he was found in a bush behind someone's house. He was crying out for his mum, but there was no sign of her anywhere. Luckily, the people who found Walnut brought him into SPCA where he could receive the care that he desperately needed.

Because of his age and size, Walnut needed to wear a jersey to keep him warm, round the clock feeding, and close supervision. One of the farm

attendants became his new foster mum, taking him home so that he could get his feedings and gain some weight.



After a while, Walnut was introduced to lots of other animals on SPCA's farm, including other goats, pigs, and chickens. He especially loved to chase chickens, run around, and try jumping and climbing on whatever he could!

It wasn't long before Walnut captured the hearts of a wonderful family who brought him to their home to be part of the family. Walnut now spends his days roaming around and playing with his best friend, Charlie the goat, as well as the family dogs and sheep!

Kind Conservation: Bees – Pī

Did you know that there are an amazing 28 different species of native bees in New Zealand? In addition to these native species, there are also 13 introduced species.

Bees are insects which means they have three body parts and six legs. A bee's home can vary depending on the species. Some will build nests in the ground while others will live in a hive above ground.

Bees play such a vital role in conservation – because they feed on pollen and nectar, they are a main pollinator of plants and flowers that are used by both humans and animals. Without them, many plants would not survive.

A few ways we can help encourage the population of bees and allow them to continue their important work are:

> Don't swat or squash bees when they land on you or you see them nearby. Unlike wasps, honeybees can only sting once. When they do sting they die as a result, therefore they only sting as a last resort to protect against threats. If

you don't swat or squash bees, they won't sting you!

- > Plant plenty of bee-friendly flowering plants like lavender, forget-me-not, borage, calendula, cornflower, blue bells, and rosemary (they especially love blue and yellow flowers!)
- > Avoid using pesticides – they kill bees. Instead consider natural alternatives for the garden like planting onion, garlic or marigolds.

- > Provide a bee friendly source of water.
- > If you find a bee swarm, the best thing to do is leave it alone and call a beekeeper who can collect and relocate swarms. They will assess the swarm and remove it safely with no harm to the bees.
- > Build this issue's Craft Time Bug Hotel, as bees can enjoy versions of these too!



Spread the word about the importance of all bees!



Responsible Guardianship Tip:

Goats LOVE to play, climb, dig, and explore!

Goats LOVE to play, climb, dig, and explore! As we learned when we took a closer look at goats, as browsers, one of their favourite exploring activities involves searching for food.

Responsible goat guardians must provide their goats with opportunities to express these normal behaviours as they not only keep goats physically fit, but it helps with their mental health as well! A great way to promote these behaviours is to set up a

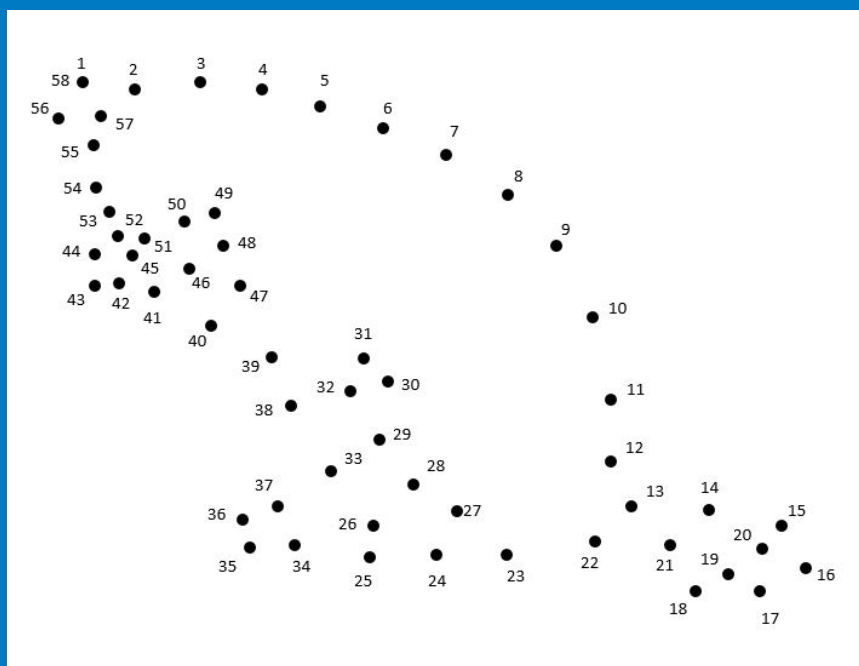
safe and fun goat playground with logs, barrels, tires, wooden platforms, etc.

They also need a friend to carry out these activities with. Goats are extremely social so they need at least one other companion of their own kind.

These are great examples of two of the five freedoms, however guardians need to provide their animals with all five freedoms so they can live happy and healthy lives!

Connect the Dots

Find out what the below animal is by connecting the dots!



Book Nook

Title: Garry the Goat's Escape

Author: John Carr

Illustrator: Philip Webb

Garry the goat's day had begun as usual with him chained to a fence beside a country road. However, it soon takes an exciting turn!

You can find these storybooks at your school or local library, or you can buy your own sets online at: <https://spca-shop.mystorbie.com/>



True or False

After reading all about goats and bees, do you know which of these statements are true or false? See pg 5 for answers.

1. **Goats will eat anything and everything.**
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. **Bees are the main pollinators of plants and flowers**
 - a) True
 - b) False
3. **Goats have the same pupils as humans.**
 - a) True
 - b) False
4. **There are 10 species of native bees in New Zealand**
 - a) True
 - b) False
5. **Goats are solitary animals that like to live alone.**
 - a) True
 - b) False





Make it Yourself: Goat Hay Bag

Have an old t-shirt you don't wear anymore? You can repurpose it and provide your goat with enrichment at the same time. How you ask? By turning it into a hay bag! This enrichment is great for keeping your goats' food clean and it allows them to express their natural browser behaviour.

Materials needed:

- > Old t-shirt
- > Scissors
- > Black marker

Instructions:

1. Cut a small strip from the bottom of the t-shirt
2. Fold the t-shirt in half so the sleeves are touching. Draw a line along the sleeves and neck.
3. Cut the sleeves and neck from the t-shirt.
4. Turn the t-shirt inside out and secure a knot at the bottom of the shirt by using the strip you cut in step one.
5. Turn the shirt back the right way and draw a circle in the middle.
6. Cut the circle out of the t-shirt. This will be where your goat will eat the hay from.



Now your hay bag is ready! You can add hay and use it with your own goats or donate the bag to your local SPCA!

Always be sure to supervise your goat with an adult while they're using any and all enrichment to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Craft Time: Bug Hotel

You can help bugs this summer by providing them with a safe haven – a bug hotel! You can use any number of different recycled and natural materials to build a welcoming new home for our bug friends. Here we've used...

- > Glass jar
- > Ice cream container
- > Milk carton
- > Cardboard
- > Sticks
- > Rocks
- > Leaves
- > Pinecones
- > Bark
- > Twine



Instructions:

Grab a bag and gather a variety of leaves, sticks, pinecones, rocks, etc. from outside.

1. Prepare your containers – you can repurpose a wide variety of items and any size that you want!
2. Build up your containers with your materials. It helps to put heavy items on the bottom and then fill the spaces with leaves, moss, and sticks!
3. Get creative and design a sign for your bug hotel
4. Attached your sign to your bug hotel and then place them in your garden/yard for the bugs to enjoy!
5. If you want to attract certain kinds of bugs, you can do some research to see what they like best and then fill your bug hotel with their favourite things.



Share your ideas!

What animals would you like to learn more about? Let us know by emailing education@spca.nz!