

SPCA[®] Kids

Kind Matters

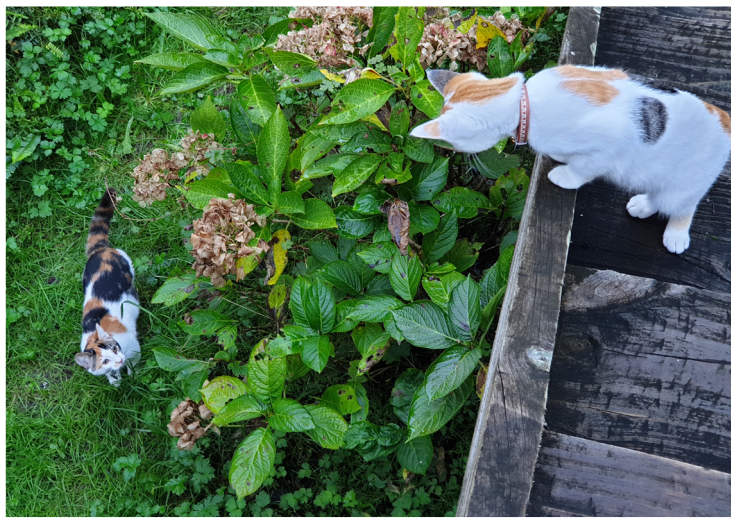


Welcome to the Term 4 issue Kind Matters!

We're thrilled to reveal the winning photographs for our Term 3 Kind Matters **Photography Competition!**

We were amazed by all the awesome entries! Everyone did a fantastic job capturing animals expressing their unique natural behaviours. It was a tough job choosing, but here's the overall winner - and check out the age group winners on the next page. Tino pai to everyone who entered, and a huge congratulations to our winners!

OVERALL WINNER



Emily, age 15

Huge thanks to Press Photographer Alden Williams (IG @aldenwilliams) for being our guest judge! He's an award-winning photographer who was named New Zealand Geographic Photographer of the Year in 2020. Alden had this to say about Emily's awesome photo: "Well done Emily, this photo is perfect. You have captured the tension and surprise of this moment. Your photo is very fly on the wall/documentary style. Excellently composed."

Congratulations to our pawesome Highly Commended prize winners: Isla (9), Alexis (12), Konrad (11) and Riley (15). Another huge thank you to our competition sponsors, XP and EUGY by Dodoland.



What's Inside



A Closer Look: Goats -
Clever, curious and full of character!



SPCA Kids NEWS

The latest animal updates from around Aotearoa
Monday 3rd November 2025, Issue 7



New Rules to Stop Life Chaining of Dogs

SPCA is celebrating some exciting news: the government has recently announced new rules that will help protect dogs from being chained up for too long.

In New Zealand, many dogs spend months, years, or even their whole lives tied to chains. This is called prolonged tethering, and it causes mental and physical suffering. Dogs need to run, play, and be part of the family - not stay stuck in one place. Previously, the law made it very difficult for SPCA to step in unless a dog had physical wounds, was suffering from lack of food, or had no access to shelter or water. Even though SPCA had the power to help in these severe conditions, no animal should suffer the harm that comes from being tied.

observable signs of suffering because of the prolonged tethering, also, puppies and pregnant dogs cannot be tethered at all, with exceptions of supervised while their owner is completing short-term tasks, like bringing in shopping from the car. For the first time, SPCA Animal Welfare Inspectors will have stronger powers to help dogs who are trapped on chains.

Dr Aileen Vaughan from SPCA says, "These regulations send a loud message that chaining dogs long-term is not okay. Dogs deserve to be part of the family, not chained up and forgotten." SPCA has been fighting for this change for years, along with MPI (Ministry of Primary Industries) and work with other animal welfare supporters also joined in through the "Break the Chain" campaign, writing letters to the Minister of responsible for animal welfare. Together, their voices made a real difference.

This is a big win for animal welfare, but SPCA



SPCA Kids News: Check out the latest animal news from around NZ.



Craft Time: Bird-friendly sun catcher - a creative way to protect birds by decorating your windows!



Visit www.sPCA.nz/kids for more animal information!

and much more...



Photography Competition Winners!

Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to everyone who entered - you are all pawesome! Check out these animals expressing their natural behaviours!



UNDER 5 YEARS WINNER



Bodhi, age 3

5-7 YEARS WINNER



Olivia, age 7

8-10 YEARS WINNER



Jaxson, age 10

11-13 YEARS WINNER



Cooper, age 13

14-16 YEARS WINNER



Maia, age 14



Go to the [Kids' Portal](#) to check out more winning shots and read the judge's comments!



A Closer Look at: Goats - Nanenane



Goats are amazing animals with loads of personality! These smart and playful creatures love exploring, climbing, and spending time with their goat friends. If you've ever thought about having goats as a companion, or you just want to learn more about them – read on for a closer look at what makes goats so unique!

Many people think goats will eat anything but that's actually not true. Goats are browsers, not grazers like sheep. That means they like to nibble on a mix of shrubs, trees, hedges, grasses and leaves. They're picky eaters and will often ignore anything they think looks boring!

Goats are herbivores, so they only eat plants. But just like us, not all plants are safe for them to eat. Some plants can actually make goats very sick, so it's important that their guardians know exactly what to feed them – and what to avoid.



Home Sweet Home for Goats

A goat's environment is super important for their wellbeing. They

need plenty of space to move, climb and play. A good goat home includes:

- Shelter that's dry, warm and off the ground
- Climbing equipment like logs, rocks or wooden platforms
- Secure fencing to stop them from escaping or getting hurt

Bored goats can become unhappy and destructive, so it's important to give them an interesting space to explore.

Because they're so curious, goats will often chew or taste new things – even if they shouldn't. It's important their space is safe, with no sharp tools, plastic bags, or poisonous plants lying around.

Goats are great communicators. They make a loud noise called a bleat to talk to each other (and you!). A happy goat will bleat now and then, but if your goat is constantly calling out, it might be feeling stressed, lonely or unwell.

Goats are also social animals. They don't like to live alone and are much happier with a goat



friend or two. If a goat is kept by themselves, they can become lonely, stressed and even sick.

With the right food, a safe and exciting environment, and a goat friend to play with, goats can make amazing animal companions!

Learn more about goats and goat care on the [Kids' Portal](#).



Book Nook

Title: Garry the Goat's Escape

Author: John Carr

Illustrator: Philip Webb

Garry the goat's day begins as usual with him chained to a fence beside a country road. However, it soon takes an exciting turn! Follow Garry the goat's journey after he escapes from a life of loneliness and neglect.



Find this awesome story at school or your local library!



Fun Facts: Goats

1. Goats have accents! Goats from different regions have different sounding bleats.
2. Goats have four stomach compartments to help them digest tough plants.
3. A single goat can drink up to 27 litres of water a day. That's more than most people!
4. Goats chew their food, swallow it, then bring it back up to chew again. It's called "chewing cud."
5. Goats can be taught their name and to come when called.



World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is celebrated on 13 November each year, and it's all about showing care and doing good deeds for others - and not just for people, but for the planet and animals too!



Kindness means showing care and concern for others, and animals deserve just as much kindness as we do. So, this World Kindness Day, how can we show animals the kindness they deserve?

For animals in the wild, we can keep their habitats clean and rubbish-free, give them space, and plant native trees and flowers.

For our companion animals, we can show kindness by giving them what they enjoy - like walks, pats, treats and play. Also, by making sure they have a happy, healthy life every day.

One fun way to be kind is by making enrichment toys! These toys help animals do what comes naturally - like chewing, sniffing, digging, and foraging. Visit the [Things to Make or Do](#) section on the Kids' Portal for ideas you can try at home. You might even want to make a toy to donate to an animal waiting for their forever home at SPCA!

You can also help animals simply by spreading the word. SPCA has heaps of helpful info on the Kids' Portal, from animal care tips to fun activities. If you find something cool, share it with a friend! Spreading kindness can be as easy as a click.

Don't forget to try out the Kindness Bingo on Page 6 to see how many acts of kindness you can check off!

Remember, no matter how big or small, kindness always makes a difference - for animals and people.



Competition Time!

To celebrate this issue of Kind Matters, we've created a fun quiz to test your knowledge on everything you've learned.



Take the quiz and enter to win:

- 1 Have a good read through this newsletter issue.
- 2 Next, head to: https://bit.ly/SPCA_quiz_Nov2025
- 3 Answer the quiz 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!



Goat Scramble

Unscramble these jumbled-up words - they're all to do with goats! Use the hints to help you!

Example: HECW = CHEW

1. ERIVREHBO _____

Hint: A plant-eater.

2. TLEAB _____

Hint: A sound goats make.

3. SEEHLTR _____

Hint: Needed to stay warm and dry.

4. CBLMI _____

Hint: Goats love to do this on rocks.

5. SWEORRB _____

Hint: To nibble on.

6. DCU _____

Hint: To chew, swallow and chew again.

7. UCIROUS _____

Hint: Goats are very...

8. LAISOC _____

Hint: Goats don't like being alone. They are very...



Answers on page 10

Kind Conservation: Helping Native Birds Nest and Thrive

Spring is a super important time for native birds in Aotearoa - it's when many of them build nests, lay eggs, and care for their chicks. But it's also a time when they're extra vulnerable and need our help to stay safe. Want to know how you can be a bird buddy this spring? Check out the list below for easy ways to protect and support our feathered friends!

1. CREATE A SAFE BACKYARD HABITAT

- Plant native trees and shrubs such as kōwhai, harakeke (flax) and mānuka to provide food and shelter.
- Let some parts of the garden grow wild - birds use twigs, leaves and grass for nesting material.



2. KEEP CATS INDOORS OR IN ENCLOSURES

- During nesting season, try your best to keep your cat inside, especially at dawn and dusk when birds are most active.
- Consider using a bird-safe collar (bright colours or bells can help warn birds).

3. WATCH WHERE YOU WALK

- Stick to paths when walking in bush areas or sand dunes - ground-nesting birds like

the tōrea (oyster catcher) or pīpīwharau (shining cuckoo) may be hiding nearby.

4. REDUCE LITTER AND PLASTIC

- Pick up rubbish - birds sometimes mistake plastic for food or use it in their nests, which can harm chicks.
- Encourage your teacher and classmates to have litter-free lunches and tidy-up walks.

5. PROVIDE CLEAN WATER

- Place a shallow birdbath up high in your garden and keep it topped up. Clean it regularly to prevent disease and mosquito larvae.



Animals and Fireworks



Around this time of year, people across Aotearoa celebrate events like Diwali and Guy Fawkes – and that often means fireworks!

Fireworks might look exciting to us, but for animals, they can be scary and even dangerous. Every year, SPCA Centres hear about animals getting hurt or going missing because of fireworks.

Animals are sentient, which means they can feel emotions like fear, stress and anxiety – just like us.

Help keep animals safe:

- Keep pets inside and calm.
- Don't leave animals alone.
- Make sure they have ID tags and are microchipped.
- Close windows and curtains to block out noise and light.

Learn more about keeping animals safe around fireworks [here](#)

Goat Puzzle



Have fun solving this cute goat puzzle on the [Kids' Portal](#).

You can adjust the difficulty level so that you can work towards being a puzzle master!



SPCA® Kids

SPCA Kindness Bingo

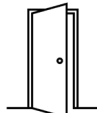


Kindness makes a big difference – to animals, people, and the planet!

Every kind action helps someone (or something!) and can brighten your day too.

How many bingo squares can you complete? Give it a go and see how kind you can be!

B I N G O

Read or watch a video about how to care for animals on the Kids' Portal. SPCA Kids	Pick up 5 pieces of rubbish (safely). 	Do a task around the house without being asked. 	Make an enrichment toy for your pet or animals at a shelter. 	Create a kindness to animals poster for home or school. 
Prevent birds from crashing into your windows (check out the activity on pg 9). 	Help clean up after an animal (e.g. litterbox, paddock, cage). 	Plant something (a seed, herb or flower). 	Draw a picture of an animal. Where do they live? What makes them happy & safe? 	Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. 
Learn about an endangered species and tell a friend. 	Do one thing to make your companion animal's life better today. 	FREE Choose your own kind act.	Avoid using single-use plastics. 	Watch an animal-friendly movie like Finding Nemo or Babe. 
Share with a friend or family member. 	Donate old towels, blankets or sheets to an animal shelter. 	Create something new from recycled items around your home. 	Visit the Kids' Portal where you can learn about how to volunteer with SPCA. SPCA Kids	Try a plant-based snack or meal. 
Turn off the lights when you leave a room. 	Create an emergency pet plan in case of an emergency. 	Hold the door open for someone. 	Create a comic or story about an animal being rescued or helped. 	Say something kind to three people. 



New Rules to Stop Life Chaining of Dogs

SPCA is celebrating some exciting news: the government has recently announced new rules that will help protect dogs from being chained up for too long.

In New Zealand, many dogs spend months, years, or even their whole lives tied to chains. This is called prolonged tethering, and it causes mental and physical suffering. Dogs need to run, play, and be part of the family - not stay stuck in one place.

Previously, the law made it very difficult for SPCA to step in unless a dog had physical wounds, was suffering from lack of food, or had no access to shelter or water. Even though SPCA had the power to help in these severe conditions, no animal should endure the harm that comes from being tied to a chain for most of their life.

The new rules say that people cannot chain a dog if it results in two or more observable signs of suffering because of the prolonged tethering.

Also, puppies and pregnant dogs cannot be tethered at all, with exceptions if supervised while their owner is completing short term tasks, like bringing in shopping from the car.

For the first time, SPCA Animal Welfare Inspectors will have stronger powers to help dogs who are trapped on chains.

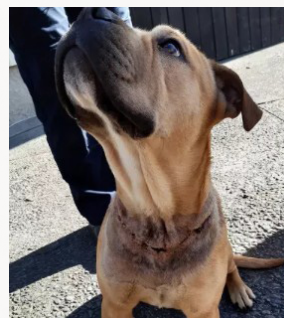
Dr Alison Vaughan from SPCA says, "These regulations send a loud message that chaining dogs long-term is not okay. Dogs deserve to be part of the family, not chained up and forgotten."

SPCA has been fighting for this change for years, along with MPI (Ministry of Primary Industries) and work with other animal rescues. Supporters also joined in through the "Break the Chain" campaign, writing letters to the Minister responsible for animal welfare. Together, their voices made a real difference.

This is a big win for animal welfare, but SPCA isn't finished. We want to see similar rules to protect dogs kept in cages for long periods.



Above: Rupert - chained up.



Left: DD - neck wound from tethering.

Runaway Sheep



Sam with Baa-bara the sheep



Baa-bara in her forever home

In Johnsonville, Wellington, a very unexpected visitor caused quite a commotion - a runaway sheep wandering through busy streets! Luckily, with help from SPCA staff, local heroes, and even a clever dog, the sheep's adventure had a happy ending.

SPCA Canine Attendant Sam was driving home when she saw the sheep right after it had been clipped by a car. Luckily, she wasn't injured but was very confused. Sam pulled over to help and soon two other passers-by joined her. In a stroke of luck, one was a farmer, and the other had a Huntaway/Collie dog who knew just how to herd!

Together, the unusual team - Sam, the farmer, the dog and its owner - carefully guided the sheep through four streets and into a park, away from traffic.

Animal Control officers were then called in to catch her safely and transport her to their Moa Point shelter.

Staff nicknamed her Baa-bara, and she spent seven days at the shelter in case her owners came forward. No one did, so she was transferred to SPCA's Masterton Centre to find a new home.

By then, Baa-bara already had fans on the local community Facebook page. And in a happy twist, one of the commenters ended up adopting her!

Her new owner, Kate, renamed her Freeda but admits she still gets called Baa-bara most of the time. "She loves being around people and is always trying to sneak up to the house," Kate says. "She's very affectionate, and we all love her."

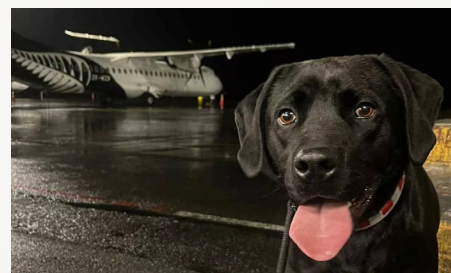
Vegas: From SPCA to Airport Hero!

Meet Vegas, a clever and energetic dog who has just started an amazing new job as an Explosive Detector Dog at the airport!

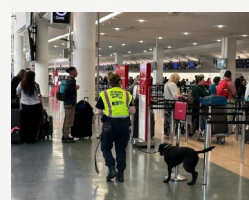
Vegas was returned to SPCA after her first adoptive home didn't suit her high energy and intelligence. Canine Attendant Jo recognised that Vegas wasn't "hard work" - she was special. With experience in recruiting working dogs, Jo suspected Vegas might thrive in a role that challenged her mind and body.

After assessments and training, Vegas impressed the Aviation Security team so much that she was officially adopted by them. She's now training with a new handler, loving her work, and returning home each day to a caring forever family.

Jo says, "Vegas is thriving in the perfect environment - she's happy, motivated, and showing everyone just how capable she is."



Left: Vegas during one of her assessments at Auckland Airport.



Meet a Pawesome Supporter!

SPCA is extremely thankful for the pawesome support we receive from tamariki across Aotearoa. This month, we're shining the spotlight on Emilie - an inspiring 11-year-old who turned her love for animals into action through some amazing fundraising! Keep reading to learn about her creative idea, her big heart, and how she made a real difference for animals in need. Thank you, Emilie!

What gave you the idea to make lemonade for SPCA?

I love animals and wanted to help SPCA. Around the same time, we had to cut down our lemon tree and ended up with nearly 700 lemons! That's when I thought of the lemonade stand... and that funny song about the duck at the lemonade stand popped into my head!

Why did you choose to support SPCA?

I love animals, especially big cats! Even though I usually have bad cat allergies, I didn't have any problems with my grandparents' rescue cat in Japan. She was very scared of people, but I spent time sitting quietly and talking to her. Before I left, she came close and even let me feed her. That made me feel really happy and made me want to help more animals like her.

What was the most fun part of running your lemonade stall?

Selling lemonade with my friends at the beach was so much fun! I loved making and drinking it, talking to customers, and being my own boss with lots of fun ideas.

How did you come up with your lemonade recipes?

I spent about a week testing different recipes, from simple homemade ones to fancy versions from dessert chefs. I tried things like brown sugar, honey, and even cooked lemons. The hardest part was making the slushy so that it tasted good frozen and melted. And my secret ingredient... sea salt!

Who helped you and how did they support you?

My sister helped pick and clean the lemons which was a big help. I didn't like the sharp, mean prickly branches! Friends from the Rarangi Life Saving Club helped me run the stand, and our lovely customers supported me by buying lemons and lemonade.

How did you feel when you found out you'd raised \$500?

I was so happy! My goal was \$300, so raising \$500 was amazing. Lots of people gave extra when they heard it was for SPCA, which really helped. It made me feel proud. I knew I had to take good care of the money because it came from such kind, generous people. I also wanted to bring SPCA warm fluffy beds and toys from Kmart.

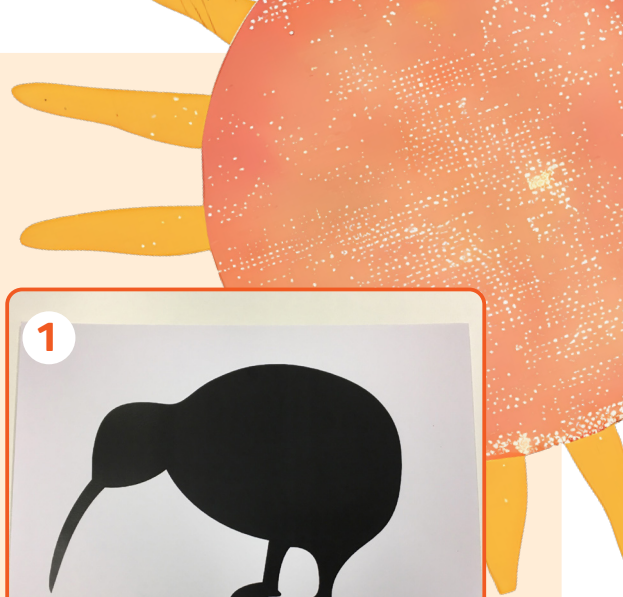
Do you have any advice for other kids who might want to fundraise for SPCA?

Any small donation would help the animals at SPCA. It's really fun to visit the local SPCA and there's so much to learn and to see what is happening. It's nice to talk to the staff and find out what you can help with.



If you have done something to help animals in need, we'd love to hear about it! Send us a photo of your amazing efforts to education@spca.nz

Sun Catchers



Window strike is when a bird accidentally flies into a window. Windows often reflect the clouds, sky or trees, meaning birds can't see them and they fly into them. This can cause serious injuries or the bird may even die. To help stop birds flying into your windows you can hang items in them, so birds can see them.

For this activity you will be making a sun catcher to hang in your window to help prevent window strike.

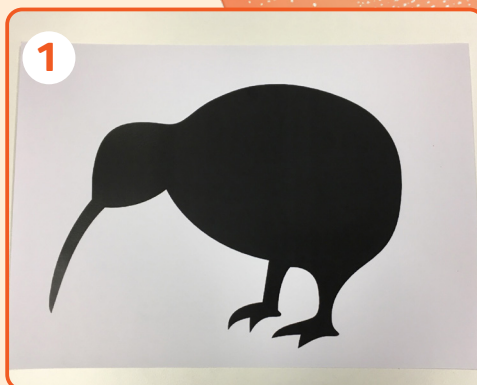
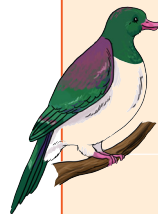
Materials needed:

- Thick paper or card
- Tissue paper or cellophane
- Cellotape
- Scissors
- Glue
- String



Instructions:

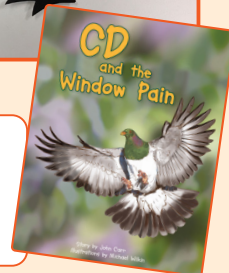
1. Start by printing or drawing your chosen animal onto thick paper.
2. Cut around the image or drawing and inside the image, leaving a 2cm border.
3. Cut tissue paper or cellophane into strips.
4. Glue around the animal border and place the strips of tissue paper or cellophane across the back of the animal outline.
5. Cut off the tissue paper or cellophane that is hanging over the side.
6. If you like, repeat steps 1 and 2 and then glue the second border to the back of your animal sun catcher.
7. Tape a piece of string to the back of your sun catcher and hang it in your window!



Learn more about how to prevent window strike [here](#)



Check out this story in your school or library about how a class protects birds from window strike.

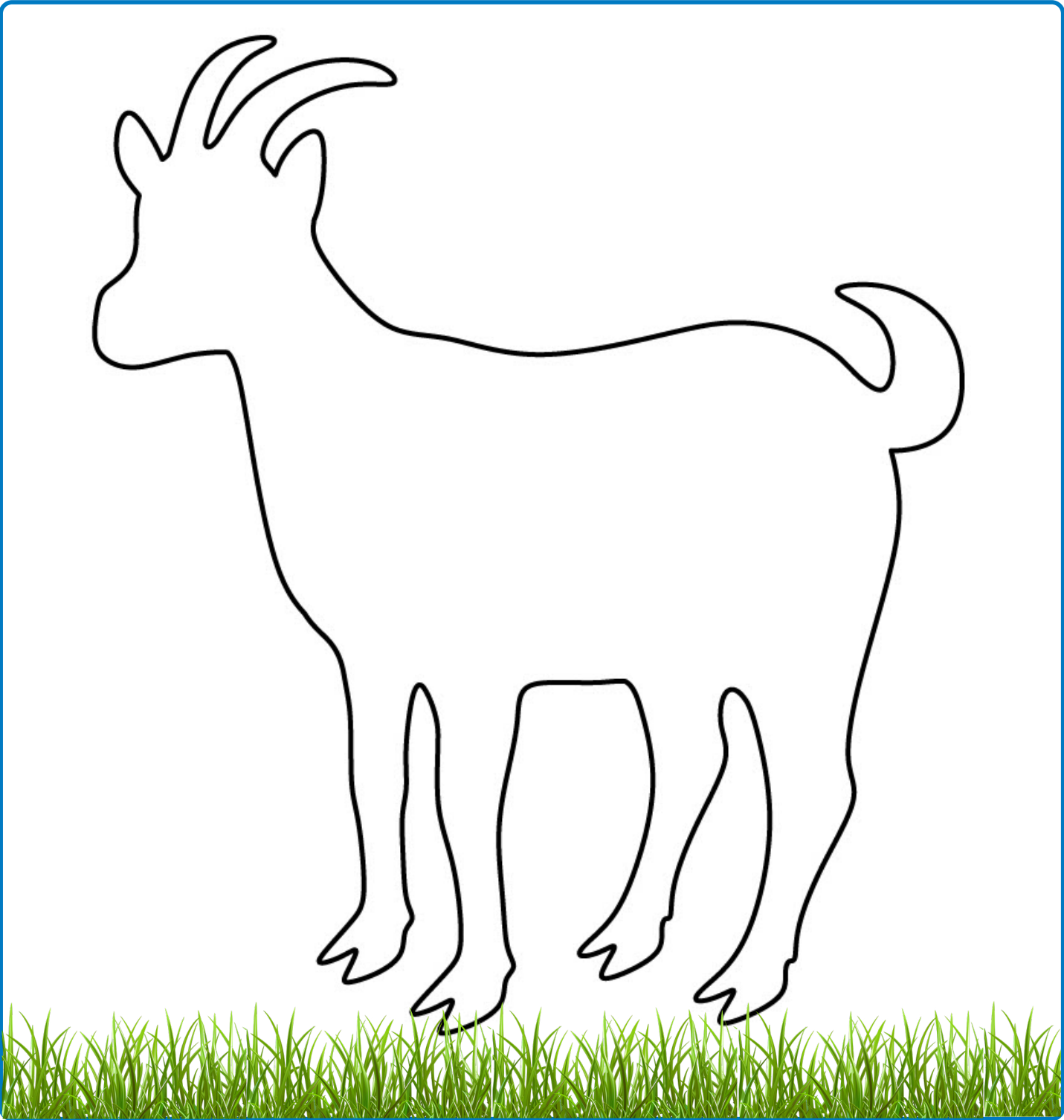


Take a photo of your sun catcher and send it to us to at: education@spca.nz

Goat Care



Watch the goat care videos on SPCA Kids' Portal [here](#) and then draw, list or cut and paste all the things goat guardians need to provide for their goats to keep them safe, happy and healthy.



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 your ideas!

- 1. HERBIVORE
- 2. BLEAT
- 3. SHELTER
- 4. CLIMB
- 5. BROWSER
- 6. CUD
- 7. CURIOUS
- 8. SOCIAL