

Welcome to the November issue of Kind Matters!

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

We received so many colourful creations, it was incredibly difficult to choose only one winner per category. However, after carefully looking at the amazing techniques and beautiful ways you chose to colour, the judges are pleased to share with you the winning entries below. Tino pai to everyone and a huge congratulations to all of our winners!

5-10 Years Winner



Kaylee, age 8

11-16 Years Winner



Alice, age 11

5-10 Years Runner-Up



Xander, age 7

11-16 Years Runner-Up



Manmeet, age 11

Congratulations also go out to our spot prize winners: Odette, Fergus, Laila, Edith, Cailly, Emily, Noa, Maleah, Naomi, Christina, Grace, Zara, Robbie and Ivy. You all did a fantastic job! Another huge thank you to our competition sponsors, Elastic Island Adventures, Faber-Castell NZ and EUGY by Dodoland.

We hope you enjoy this new issue of Kind Matters!



What's Inside



Kind Conservation: Cats/ Ngeru - Learn how to keep your cat happy at home AND protect wildlife.



Meet an SPCA Feline Care Attendant: An interview with Rebecca Tasker.



Craft Time: Enrichment Toys for Cats - Design and build a cardboard box cat tower.



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

and much more...



Animals and Fireworks

Around this time of year, people all across Aotearoa are celebrating different occasions, such as Diwali and Guy Fawkes, and often these celebrations can involve fireworks.

Fireworks can be great fun and exciting, but for a lot of animals, fireworks are terrifying and dangerous. Fireworks can have a negative impact on companion, farmed and wild animals.

Every year SPCA Centres around New Zealand respond to calls about fireworks involving animal injuries, frightened and missing animals.



Check out the [Keeping Animals Safe Around Fireworks](#) section of SPCA's Kids' Portal to learn more.

Fireworks Tips

Animals are sentient beings, meaning that they are able to experience their own thoughts, feelings and emotions, positive and negative. This means that the flashes, loud booms, and whistling of fireworks can cause animals to feel fear, anxiety and stress.

Below are a list of important tips that will help responsible animal guardians keep their furry friends safe during fireworks season.

Create a safe and calm environment - Could you turn on the TV or play some calm music? Is there a treat-ball for your dog to chew on to help them relax? Can you make a 'den' for your animal where they can hide and feel safe?



Natural behaviour - Never punish your animal for any damage/bad behaviour they may show while fireworks are being set off. Being fearful is a natural response that animals can not control.



Keep animals safe and secure - Doors, windows, gates and curtains should be closed as this will help block the lights and sounds of the fireworks and helps to stop animals from running away in fright.



Microchipping - Both cats and dogs should be microchipped with up to date contact details and have a collar and identification tag with your contact details on it.



Fireworks Quiz

Are you an expert on how to care for your animals during fireworks season? Find out by taking the quiz!

- Sometimes animals escape during fireworks. As responsible guardians, which of the following should you do before fireworks season?
 - Buy some back-up fireworks.
 - Make sure your animal has a microchip and the details are up to date.
- Fireworks are terrifying for many animals.
 - T
 - F
- Which of the following is a good idea for creating a calm, safe environment for your animals?
 - Prepare a den or safe place for them to hide.
 - Leave the curtains open so they can see the lights.
- Animals should not be punished if they behave badly or cause damage during fireworks.
 - T
 - F

Answers on page 9



Kind Conservation: Cats/Ngeru

Why keep your cat at home?

Cats can be naturally curious creatures and their natural instinct is to explore their surroundings. They may also like to wander to mark and defend their home. They may do this in search of food, mates or because they are curious.

There are many reasons why you might choose to keep your cat at home, such as your cat's safety. 'Stay at home' cats will not get lost or injured and you can also monitor their behaviour and health closely.

Another reason you might keep your cat at home is to prevent them from causing harm to other animals, in particular, native wildlife. Cats are skilled hunters and are known to kill all kinds of native wildlife including birds and bird eggs, bats, lizard, wētā and other insects.

If you have a companion cat, there are many things you can do to protect native wildlife. Read on to find out!



How You Can Help to Protect Wildlife



1. Build a Catio

This is an outdoor enclosure where cats can get some fresh air while staying secured from wildlife. From their cosy spot, catio cats can watch the birds and other creatures without the potential to harm them or be harmed by them. Win-win!



2. Microchip

A tiny computer chip that a veterinarian places just under an animal's skin. This contains all the information that would also be on a collar and identification tags: name, address and phone numbers. If your cat was ever to become lost, a microchip with up to date details helps ensure their safe and quick return home.



3. Well-fed

Cats need the right food in the right amounts in order to be healthy and happy. Remember to also give them fresh, clean water daily. Small amounts of food during the day recreates a cat's natural way of eating, and will reduce possible boredom and frustration.



4. Safe Release Collars and Bells

Reflective safe release collars with a bell will help to alert birds and other animals of your cat's presence, giving them a better chance to escape. If your cat's collar become stuck on something, a safe release collar will allow them to free themselves.

Meet an SPCA Feline Attendant: Rebecca Tasker

Did you know SPCA has many different careers that you can choose to enter into after you leave school that allow you to help animals in need?

The role of an SPCA Animal Care Attendant is extremely varied. At SPCA, there are dogs, cats, small animals and farmed animals that need care every day.

Rebecca Tasker is one of SPCA's dedicated animal care attendants that are making a difference in the lives of animals each day. We had a chat with Rebecca and she shed some light on what it's like to be an SPCA Feline Attendant – check it out below!

What is your role at SPCA?

I am a fulltime feline attendant.

How did you become a feline animal attendant?

I previously volunteered with another rescue centre, and after falling in love with the cats at the shelter, I developed a passion for animal welfare, and so decided to do an animal care qualification. Towards the end of my course I applied for a part time feline attendant position, and have been with the SPCA for almost 2 years now!

What's a typical day at work?

The day starts with the morning feed and clean, so we ensure all our cats receive fresh food, water and litter trays, and tidy up their enclosure a bit (or a lot if it's kittens, they make a mess!). Once all the cats are sorted, it's usually a busy day of vet appointments, meet and greets with potential adopters, cleaning, and spending time with the kitties. At the end of the day we ensure all the cats have enough food, water, toys and litter trays, and wish them goodnight.

What is one thing that you wish everyone knew about cats?

I feel that cats are often misunderstood, because they aren't usually as outgoing and excited to

see you as dogs are. They need a bit more time and reassurance, and every cat is different.

"You need to get to know each cat for their individual personalities and quirks, and earn their trust."

What is your favourite part of being an animal care attendant?

I love watching the journey of a cat in our care - earning their trust, getting to know their likes and dislikes, and seeing them recover from illnesses or injuries, and finally finding their forever home.

What is your favourite part of working for SPCA?

I work with wonderful, compassionate people, who all have the same vision - ending animal cruelty, promoting desexing, and upholding animal welfare standards.

What is your favourite animal?

Although I love cats, my favourite animal has got to be the noble sloth! I admire their chill outlook on life, and the fact they've survived billions of years of evolution despite doing almost nothing at all! I think we can all learn a lesson from them about taking it easy and not sweating the small stuff.



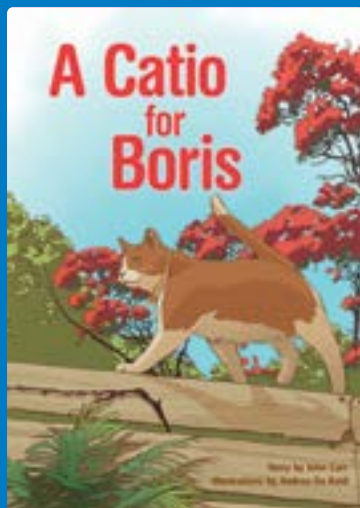
To find out more about being an SPCA Animal Care Attendant, visit the Kids' Portal [here](#).

Book Nook

Title: A Catio for Boris

Author: John Carr

Illustrator: Andrea Da Rold



Boris the cat lived with his guardian Mr Midgen, who had no idea about the daily mischief that Boris was getting himself into. The neighbours were determined to do something to keep Boris safe and stop him from causing trouble around the neighbourhood.

The story is a great example of how we can keep cats safe at home while still giving them the opportunity to express their natural behaviours.



*Every primary and intermediate school in New Zealand was sent 6 copies of **A Catio for Boris**, so if you haven't seen this great story already, ask your classroom teacher if you can borrow a copy!*

Pawesome Supporters

SPCA is extremely thankful for the pawesome support we receive during the year from tamariki across Aotearoa. This month we're shining the spotlight on Percy and the fantastic enrichment toys she has made.

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Percy kindly spent many hours creating various types of enrichment toys for the animals at SPCA. Once Percy completed making the toys, she dropped them into her local SPCA centre where animals could use them to fulfill their needs.

To participate like Percy, have a look at the Get Involved section on the Kids' Portal [here](#).

A reminder that when you're creating your own enrichment toys, safety is extremely important. Enrichment should be positive, fun, and safe!



We love to see tamariki helping animals in need so don't forget to take a photo of yourself or activity and send it in to us at: education@spca.nz



Snippy - SPCA's Mobile Desexing Clinic

Did you know that by about four months of age, cats can have kittens and dogs can have puppies?

Every year in New Zealand, thousands of abandoned and unwanted dogs and cats enter SPCA Centres and other animal rescue shelters. They become overpopulated trying to care for these homeless companion animals, but this can be prevented with desexing.



SPCA spay and neuter every animal adopted from their centres. There's even a brand new mobile desexing clinic on a 10-week trip around Northland providing free desexing services in remote communities.

If you're up north in November and see this caravan, come and say hi!



Enrichment for Cats

Help! Boris the cat is bored. What does he need to be happy and healthy?
Draw what he needs in the box below!



Enrichment Tip for Cats

Enrichment is very important for animals as it allows them to express their natural behaviours, an essential part of their welfare. Not only do enrichment opportunities provide your cat with occasions to play, but they keep their minds busy as well. Here are a few tips!



1. **Spend time brushing and stroking your cat** - Touch is a very important part of your cat's enrichment and helps keep them mentally and physically healthy.
2. **Train and play with your cat** - Playing with your cat is not only fun for them, it's fun for you too!
3. **Cat towers** - Cats naturally want to climb up high so that they can see their environment and feel safe.
4. **Hiding spots** - Provide cosy hiding spots for when your cat wants a nap or if they are feeling anxious.
5. **Scratching** - If your cat doesn't have access to trees, scratching posts in your home give them a way to release their emotions.



SPCA's Education Webinars

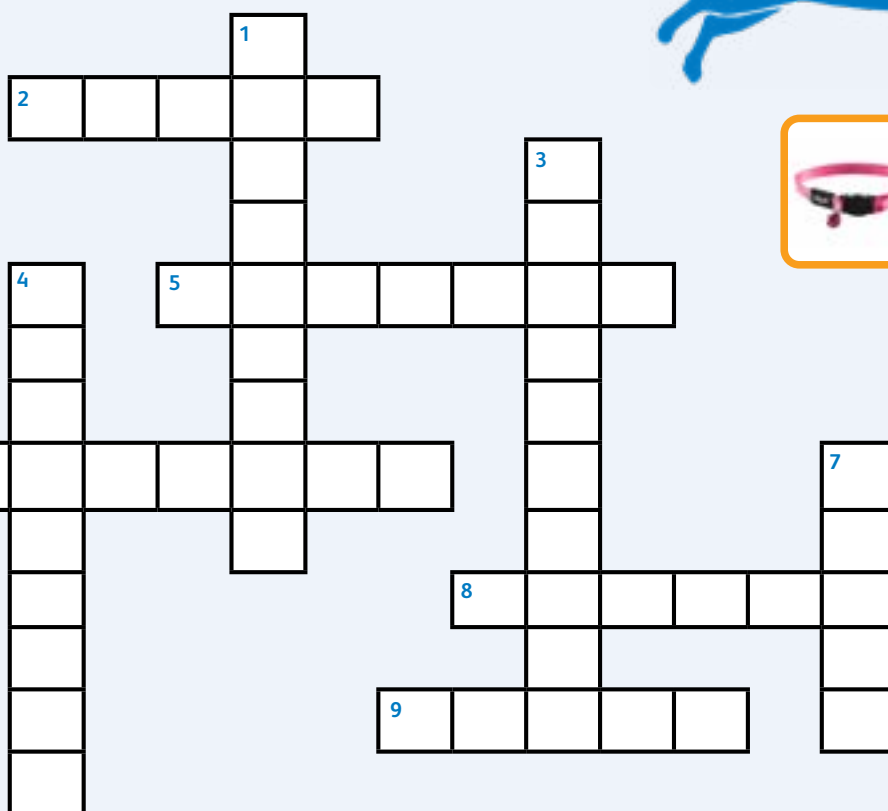
Have you heard of SPCA's Live Education Webinars?

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, parent or guardian to visit www.sPCA.nz/schools and register for a world of animal welfare!

Crossword

Using the clues, solve the crossword puzzle below!



ACROSS

2. A Catio for _____ - the feature Book Nook title
5. A cat can wear these with a bell to help alert birds
6. Feline animal attendants do lot of this
8. Another name for a cat
9. An outdoor enclosure for a cat

DOWN

1. A tiny computer chip used to track animals
3. Is important for helping animals to express natural behaviours
4. Many animals are terrified by these
7. Te reo Māori word for cat

Animal Origami - Cat/Ngeru



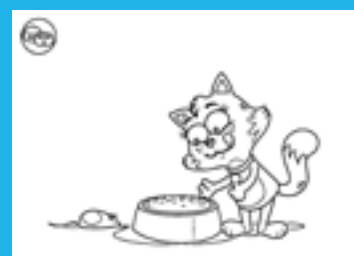
Origami is the Japanese art of making shapes and figures out of pieces of paper - you can even make animals.

Grab some paper, visit the Kids' Portal [here](#) to download instructions, and have fun making your very own origami cat!

Lucky Colouring

Have fun colouring in Lucky, SPCA's cat mascot. Download the colouring page [here](#)

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



Craft: Cat Tower

Many cats LOVE boxes. You can create an epic cat tower for your furry friend to play or hide in. Make sure you remove staples from boxes to ensure they're safe and ask a parent/guardian for help!

Materials needed

- > Carboard boxes
- > Craft knife
- > Felt-tip pen
- > Strong tape
- > Small plate



Instructions



Collect boxes large enough for your cat and arrange them into position.



Draw entry holes on the boxes. You can use a plate to make circlce shapes.



Carefully use a craft knife to cut out the entry holes. Ask an adult for help.



Line up the entry holes to connect boxes together.



Tape the boxes closed.



Tape the boxes together. Make sure you use plenty of tape!



Check the boxes are secure.



Optional - add some ears and whiskers to decorate.



Take a photo or make a video featuring your cat tower and send it to us at: education@spca.nz

World Kindness Day



World Kindness Day takes place each year on the 13th November. Kindness is all about showing your care and concern for others, and World Kindness Day is the purrfect opportunity to celebrate kindness through good deeds!

Not only do people deserve kindness, but our animal friends deserve kindness as well! This World Kindness Day, how can we show kindness to animals? Here are some ideas!

1. Pick up a little extra rubbish - Picking up rubbish when you see it not only helps save animals from



getting tangles and suffering as a result - it also helps keep our planet tidy!

2. Volunteer - There are so many ways that you can volunteer. Young tamariki all over New Zealand help SPCA by making enrichment toys, holding their own fundraisers, fostering animals and donating much needed items.

3. Make your companion animal (or a friend's) a tasty treat! For example, why not try making these pupcakes which are tasty muffins you and your dog can enjoy?



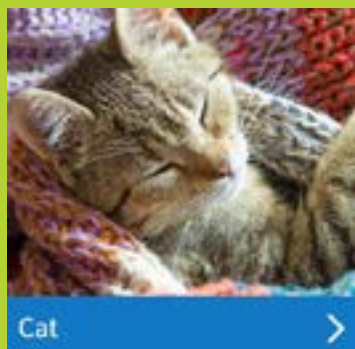
4. Help spread the word of animal welfare - Spreading kindness can be as easy as a click! SPCA has loads of information about animal welfare advice, tips and ideas all with improving the lives of animals in mind! Check out the Kids' Portal [here](#) and if you find something you think your friends could be interested in, please share it with them.

Remember, no matter how big or small, kindness is always appreciated by our planet's animals!



Cat Puzzle

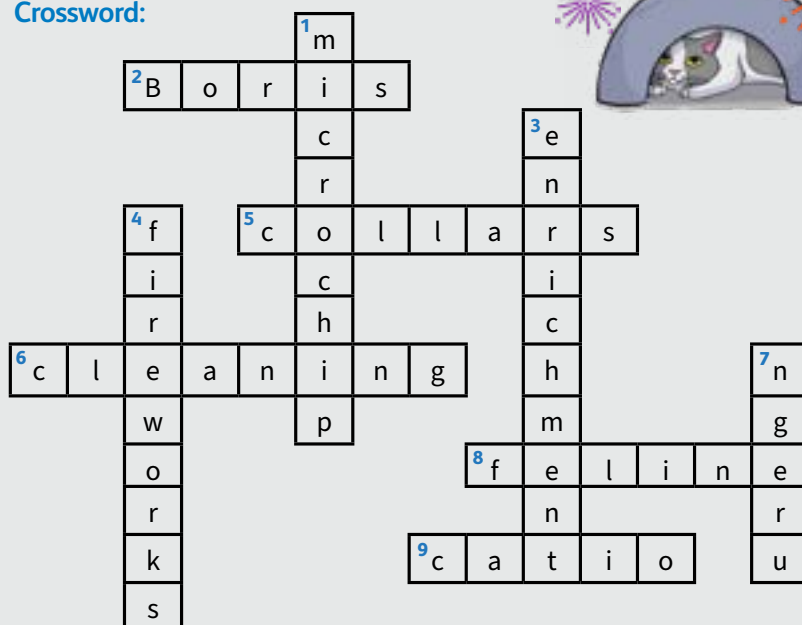
Have a go at solving this awesome puzzle [here](#) on SPCA's Kids' Portal. You can adjust the difficulty level of the jigsaws so you can work towards being a puzzle master!



Cat

Answers:

Crossword:



Fireworks Quiz: 1. B 2. A 3. A 4. A



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!

Share your ideas!

