

kindTM News

2023
NOV-DEC

Keeping
Animals
Safe
p. 3

Snake
Rescue
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THE GIFT OF
GIVING!

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? Where's Raja?
Find Raja, from *The
Restricted Adventures of Raja* app, hidden
in *Kind News*.



Help for Shy Kitties



There are cats without homes in just about every community in the country. Some will run to you and **bunt** your ankles — rubbing their heads on you to leave their scent and say hello. Others will run and hide. (Some people call a cat who acts this way **feral** or wild, but be careful with labels — a cat may act differently to different people!)

Cats who aren't social with people will not meow for help. You will not be able to get them into a carrier. But that doesn't mean they don't need people. Outdoors, they will face cars and diseases. Stray cats may sneeze with runny, squinty eyes or have **roundworms** — parasites that can live in a cat's intestines.

What can you do if you know a shy outdoor cat who needs help? Never approach a cat who is hiding or hissing. Have your family call your local animal shelter or animal control officer. See if they can help with TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return). In TNVR, cats are caught with cages that have doors that close when they step inside for food. Then they are brought to a veterinarian for **vaccines** or shots to keep them from getting sick, and **spay or neuter** operations to keep them from having babies. They are then returned outdoors. Sometimes, kind people will feed them where they live.



Do you want to learn more about cats and dogs through the adventures of Raja? Ask an adult if you can download *The Restricted Adventures of Raja* book and game apps!



All three apps are now free!

MUTTS

by
Patrick McDonnell

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SAFETY SCOUT!



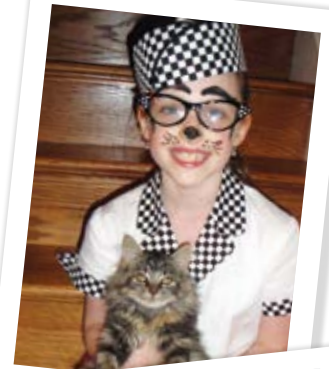
When Natalie Korzuch's cat, Roary, began munching on flowers in a vase in her bedroom, she knew that might be a problem. Lilies can be toxic to both cats and dogs. Thankfully, Roary was okay, and Natalie left her room with an idea. The senior in high school, board member at the Prince William SPCA in Virginia, and Girl Scout thought she should teach others about animal safety.

Natalie talked with a veterinarian about what food and flowers pets can't have, and learned how to be safe around dogs. She talked with experts at the Wildlife Center of Virginia about what everyday items are safe and not safe for wild animals. She then created activities for children at her local Boys & Girls Club. She led an animal safety scavenger hunt and had the students do coloring sheets and puzzles. They crafted "applesauce turtles" so they could all learn to help turtles cross a road in the direction they are going.

"All of the kids loved it," Natalie says. She then took the program to younger Girl Scouts, put all her materials online, and gave the link to her local schools. Last March, Natalie achieved the Girl Scout Gold Award for her animal safety project, the highest Girl Scout honor! But the biggest reward happened when her last presentation was done. "The kids were hugging me," she says, "I knew I helped them learn. And they would go tell their friends on the playground and teachers and parents. It's nice to know I made a difference."



Natalie's group, Prince William SPCA, sends Kind News magazines to over 13,000 children each year! Wow — talk about kindness!



Want to hear the articles read aloud? View our digital issue at KindNews.org/nov23.



FOR ALL YOU GET...

GIVE!



Are you thankful for animals?

Now is a special time to give back to them! There's National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week from November 5-11, the Thanksgiving holiday on November 23, and Giving Tuesday on November 28. Here are five Humane Heroes who show that with a little love and time, anyone can make an impact. Read about their work — and their advice for you. Then, ask yourself: what could I do?



Paisley (11) and Beckett (9) Kemmer give:

their time, volunteering with their grandmother to walk dogs and give food and water to pets at adoption events where they live in Colorado.

Their favorite part about giving:

Paisley: "Getting to know different dogs and their personalities, and getting to see everyone's smiles on their faces when they get a new pet."

Beckett: "Walking the dogs makes me feel good."

Their advice: "Don't be afraid; just call your shelter. It's so much fun."





Jayden Perez (14) gives:

school supplies and toys he collects to children in need; cat and dog food to his local animal shelter in New Jersey every year at his birthday.

His favorite part about giving: “You get this joy in your heart; it feels good, even giving one toy. I liked seeing [the children’s and animals’] faces and smiles. They were so appreciative and happy.”

His advice: “Just get involved. Help your neighbor or volunteer. Watch the news to see what’s happening and who needs help. Be kind. Smiling at someone is making a difference in this world and brightening someone’s day.”

Kaitlin Miyashiro (14) gives:

her knowledge of pet care to children at her community’s schools in Hawaii. She uses hands-on activities and trained dogs to teach a range of topics from approaching a dog to vet care.

Her favorite part about giving: “Being able to teach pet CPR. Most people don’t know how to do CPR, or that it can be done on animals. It can save lives.”

Her advice: “Don’t let anyone tell you that you’re too young. Dream big. Be fearless. And with every challenge is a chance to learn, grow, and come back stronger than ever.”



Cameron Daly (13) gives:

his talent for drawing to create logos that raised money for the shelter for people where he lives in New Jersey and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

His favorite part about giving: “It made me feel really good that my drawings brought people together in the middle of the pandemic. And I enjoy sketching — anything from country flags to pictures of me playing sports.”

His advice: “Follow your inspiration, whatever it is. There are so many ways to do good.”

'TIS THE TIME TO GIVE BACK TO OUR Animal Friends

The people in this issue found many ways to show their love with acts of kindness. Find words about giving and care throughout this issue.



ACROSS

1. a place animals can live freely and safely
3. operation to keep an animal from having babies
4. giving your time to help others, like Beckett and Paisley did
7. shots to keep an animal from getting sick

DOWN

2. Jayden Perez said the children and animals he gave to were "so _____ and happy."
5. flowers you need to keep away from dogs and cats
6. The highest honor a Girl Scout can get is the _ _ _ _ Award.





HONK!

IF YOU HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR!

Have you noticed Canada geese on a farm or park near you? Maybe you've heard their honks or seen the "V" shapes they make in the skies in recent weeks. Canada geese have flown south from their homes in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Canada and nearby Alaska, where the temperature is dropping. Many food sources there, like lakes, are freezing. They've **migrated**, or traveled — sometimes 1,500 miles a day! — to a new place. Southern lands mean milder weather — and that means more food choices and water where they are free to swim and escape predators.

How do Canada geese know the way? Scientists say they use rivers, mountains, and shorelines as guides as well as the sun and stars. Their honks often signal to others to change the lead bird at the front of the "V," taking turns at working the hardest to cut through the wind. In the spring, many Canada geese will fly back north. But some will stay because they find year-round food and safety in their southern homes.

Do you know of other species, or types, of animals who migrate?



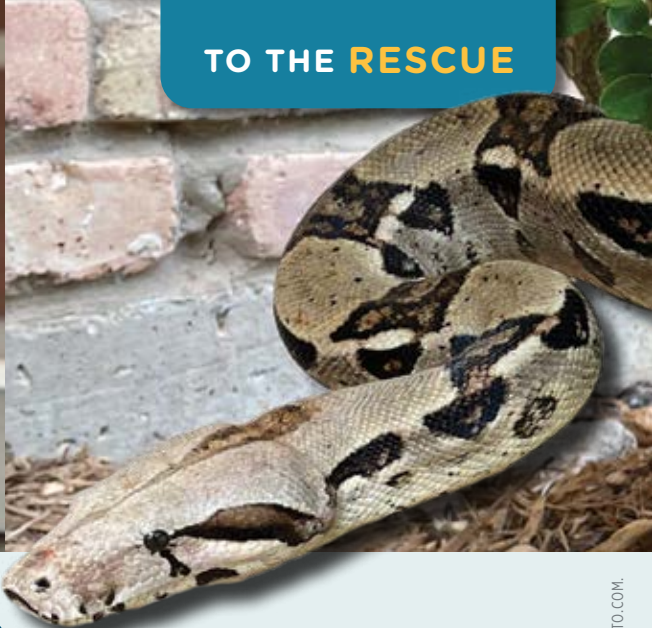
IDEA box: Make a log and write down animals you see around your home each day. Which animals are there year-round? Which animals are not? Find out where those animals go.

CRITTER CLUES

- 1 I'm not a pet, but I've been sharing homes with people for a long time — about 15,000 years!
- 2 My **species** (or kind) arrived in the United States after we hopped on ships with European colonists.
- 3 I often enter homes through cracks or tiny holes around pipes or wires.
- 4 I love to snack — sometimes 15-20 times a day! — and anything will do: seeds, nuts, fruits, veggies, and meat.
- 5 I am very **social**; I love to be in groups.
- 6 When I am scared, I will raise up my ears and make my eyes bigger.
- 7 If I am bothering you, keep your home clean and close up things that I find yummy, like bird seed and pet food.

WHO AM I?





Meet Scar

Scar struggled to stay warm in his cage. Scar is a pet **Boa constrictor** (bow-uh cuhn-strict-er). In the wild, these snakes live in tropical places in Central and South America. His owner had a small heat lamp to help, but when Scar got too close to it, his nose got burned!

Thankfully, Scar's owner called Steven Kennedy of Steve's Snaketuary (snake-chew-ary) in Louisiana. Kennedy runs the **sanctuary** — a place animals can live freely and safely — just for snakes! Kennedy saw that Scar needed a bigger space for his nose to heal. He welcomed him at the Snaketuary and began to get to know him.

"The more you handle snakes, the calmer they become," Kennedy says. "They like different things, just like people. They can become friends with dogs and cats. Scar is really friendly around kids."

At the Snaketuary, Scar gets breaks from his cage to slither around the grass and climb bushes and small trees in the yard. He gets to go on trips to schools and camps to help teach people about snakes. "And he loves hanging out on the couch with us," Kennedy says. "He'll fall asleep in our laps while we're watching TV."

THIS PAGE: HAILEY LAWSON; STEVEN KENNEDY. COVER: LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS/BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM.

KIND QUESTIONS

Now that you've read *Kind News*, challenge yourself with these questions.

1. After reading "For All You Get...Give!" who was your favorite giving person or people to read about? Why? What are some things you already do to give back and help others? Why do you do them? If you don't do this yet, what could you do to help animals or people?
2. After reading "To the Rescue – Meet Scar," how could you tell what Scar's personality is like? Would you want to get to know a snake like Scar? Why or why not? Do you know of another animal with a special or unusual personality? Describe the animal in one to two sentences. If you don't know an animal like this, describe a real or imaginary animal you'd like to meet.



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