

kind News

2024
MAY-JUN

Help
for a Lost
Dog
p. 3

Make an
Applesauce
Turtle
p. 6

EVERYONE
OUTSIDE!



A PUBLICATION OF

 **RedRover**
Bringing Animals from Crisis to Care

ISSN: 2575-0550

inside
**THIS
ISSUE!**



4

Get Outdoors
with Animals



6

Activity:
Applesauce
Turtle



7

Amazing
World: How Do
Fireflies Glow?

3 Humane Hero:
Robin Gets a Lost
Dog Home

8 To the Rescue:
Meet Fire Chief!

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



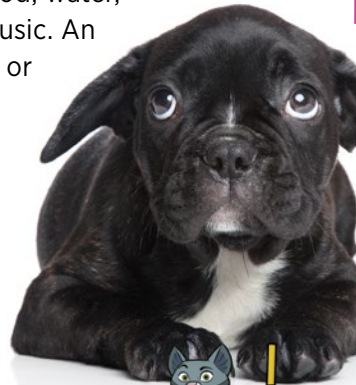
KEEP CALM AND BRAVE THE STORM

While you may enjoy watching fireworks, animals may feel differently! Many pets are scared of the loud “booms,” and it’s the same idea with thunder. But take heart: There’s lots you can do to help.

Plan Ahead. Scared pets often run off. A lost pet is more likely to get back home if he has a **microchip**, a tiny device under the skin that holds his person’s phone number. It can be scanned by a veterinarian or animal shelter. Ask your family if your pet has one with up-to-date information.

Calm is Cool. Just sitting with your pet in a quiet space like a bedroom can help her feel safe. Bring her food, water, and a toy or blanket. Try playing soothing music. An anxiety vest, a vest that fits snugly on a dog or cat’s chest, can give extra help to stay calm.

Pet Finders. If your pet ever goes missing, call your local shelters, ask a grown-up to post on social media, and put up “missing” posters with your pet’s photo. See “Humane Hero” for what to do if you find a lost pet.



IT'S A HOT AND STORMY ISSUE!

Count the number of times the word ‘fire’ appears in this magazine (not including this box, but do count bigger words that include ‘fire!’). Ask your teacher or other grown-up for the answer!

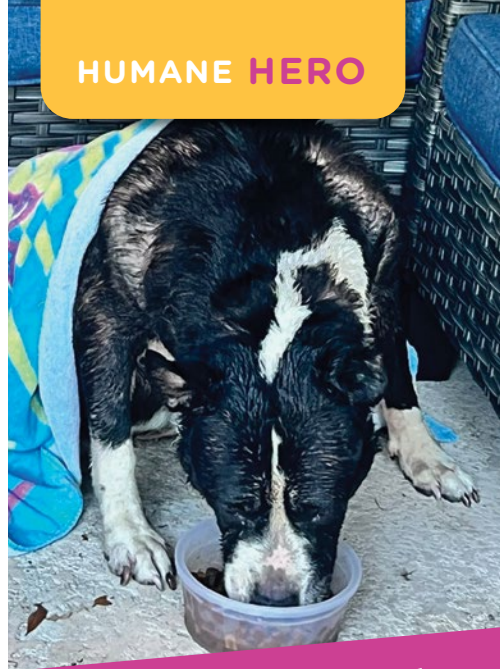


MUTTS
by
Patrick McDonnell
Distributed by
King Features Syndicate, Inc.
© 2022 Patrick McDonnell
muttscomics.com





Robin helps give America a quick bath.



HUMANE HERO

ROBIN TO THE RESCUE!



When Robin Sepega saw a dog walking alone on her drive to school last August, everything she learned at camp came to mind.

She had been part of Jacksonville Humane Society's summer camp where she lives in Florida. They had spent a lot of time learning what to do if you find a lost pet. Now she could use what she learned!

First, Robin, age 8, asked her mother to pull over so they could call the dog. She remembered to let a strange dog come to her, and watch body language, to avoid a bite. The senior pit bull-type dog came right over. She was panting, which Robin knew was a sign that the dog was stressed, thirsty, or both. Her tail and ears were relaxed, so she was not scared or angry.

Robin looked for a collar and tag to see if there was a phone number to call the dog's owner.

The dog had neither. With her mom's help, Robin called the pup into the car. She insisted on going back home to help take care of her and make lost-dog alerts. Robin offered water and food, and told her mother what to write for social media posts to alert their neighbors.

Robin and her mother waited, and kept checking the comments on their posts online. The dog's person answered on Nextdoor! She said the dog's name was America. She came right away, thanked Robin, and even handed her a few gifts! "It was worth being late to school that day," Robin said. "Saving an animal's life was more important!"



JACKSONVILLE HUMANE SOCIETY SAYS...

If you can't find a pet's owner around your area, bring him to your local shelter or veterinarian. They can scan for a microchip.



Want to hear the articles read aloud? View our digital issue at KindNews.org/may24.



OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP: FREEPIK; MELISSA KORZUCH; SOUPSTOCK/BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM; JAGODKA/BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM; (RAJA, APP IMAGES) BRYAN HUFF. THIS PAGE: ERIKA SEPEGA.



IN GOOD COMPANY, IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Long, summer days are on the way! A little outdoor time is good for all animals — humans included — bringing exercise, adventure, and togetherness with pets and wild neighbors. A new season brings new birds, insects, and other wildlife. Try these five ways to get outside with animals!



DOG DAYS

Throw a ball or stick to your dog friends for a game of fetch. “Just make sure your dog is in an enclosed area or on a long line,” says “Oh My Dog!” blogger Maggie Marton. Every summer, Marton sets up a sprinkler for her dog to jump through. “He runs through the spray,” she says, “and drinks quite a bit of it, too!”

Consider a dog picnic: All you need is a blanket, dog-safe, shareable foods like carrot sticks and popcorn, and your favorite green space. Or try a dog park — just be sure your dog gets along with others before unsnapping the leash!

MEOW TOO!

Should you leash your cat? As long as you use a well-fitted adventure harness and leash, says Jennifer McMillan. She is president of the Cats of Salt Spring Rescue Society in British Columbia, Canada. McMillan says that practicing with the harness inside first is important. “Make sure your cat likes it,” she says.

But McMillan’s favorite outdoor cat time happens in **cattios**, screened porches that let cats safely enjoy summer’s splendor. They range in size from a box attached to a window to structures as long as a house with trees and bushes (like McMillan’s).



SMALL PETS, BIG ADVENTURES

Many rabbits, ferrets, and other small pets want to run and explore and climb outside, too! Just take extra caution with the littlest pets. Because of predators on the ground and skies (think: hawks), stay with them at all times. Use a harness and leash, says veterinarian Shachar Malka of Long Island Bird & Exotics Veterinary Clinic in New York. There are also covered pens to help keep them safe.

Because extreme heat can be harmful to small critters, it's best to take them out on the cooler days, says Malka (from 65-78 degrees Fahrenheit).

Sixth-grader Jenna Repich of New York takes her rats outdoors on leash for fun and sun!



Hot Weather Alert! Make sure all pets have water and shade. On the hottest days, exercise your pet only in the early morning and evening.



LOOK FOR NIGHT LIGHTS

Summertime brings the warm, humid air that fireflies love. **Fireflies** (sometimes called “lightning bugs,” or beetles that glow in the dark) live around wet areas and long grasses. Try shutting off the lights at home. Or, ask a grownup to head out after sundown to places without **light pollution**, or unwanted, human-made light. Fireflies love the dark. Watch with wonder as they light it up!

DID YOU KNOW?
Light pollution can change the migration routes of birds!

BECOME A BIRDER

In summer, many wild birds fly in from their southern overwintering grounds. **Overwintering** is when an animal stays in a certain place during winter. Look for new arrivals!

Rasha Hamid wrote the book, *How to Bird*. She says that anyone can become a **birder**, or a person who observes wild birds. Go outdoors and listen — near water or trees if possible. What bird sounds do you hear (*chirps* or *woowos* or *gurgles*)? What are the birds' colors and shapes? Write down or draw what you observe!



APPLESAUCE TURTLE

You will need:

- one piece of green paper
- one piece of yellow paper
- individual empty applesauce container
- tape
- scissors



1. On the green paper, draw a basic turtle. Cut it out.
2. On the yellow paper, draw and cut out a thick arrow shape.
3. Using tape, affix the applesauce container upside down to the turtle, creating a "shell."
4. Tape the arrow to the applesauce container facing forward (in the direction of the turtle's head).
5. Use your "Applesauce Turtle" to show grown-ups how to help a turtle cross a road!



SPREAD THE WORD!

If a turtle is found on the road, she should only be moved in the direction she is facing. If you turn her around, she will come back onto the road!

Activity courtesy of Natalie Korzuch of Girl Scout Troop 1917 and Prince William SPCA



For fun animal videos made by kids, ask an adult if you can subscribe!



HOW DO FIREFLIES GLOW?

The light of a firefly is called **bioluminescence** (bye-oh-loo-muh-neh-sense), or light given off by living things. How does it work, and why?

A firefly has a special organ under her **abdomen** (lower part of her body) that takes in oxygen. In the **cells** (the smallest parts of the body which you cannot see with the eye), oxygen mixes with a substance called **luciferin** (loo-sih-fur-in) to make the glowing light that we see. Fireflies (also known as lightning bugs) use bioluminescence to light up their abdomen to **communicate** or “talk” with other fireflies.

If you live near wet areas and long grasses, you may see fireflies. And, you can help! “The main thing is to turn off or dim lights at night,” says Becky Yeager, a wildlife biologist and volunteer at Firefly Park in Utah. Firefly Park is a 20-acre nature park for local **native species**, or plants and animals that have lived in a certain region for hundreds to thousands of years. She says that our lights can disrupt fireflies’ habits. Plus, it’s easier to see them in the dark!



CRITTER CLUES

- 1 I make mewling and laughing sounds to call to others.
- 2 I might live anywhere in North America.
- 3 The shore is my favorite place to call home.
- 4 Stretched out, my wings can be as wide as 63 inches. That’s almost three times as wide as a school desk!
- 5 I eat insects and berries from trees, but have been known to take food from children.
- 6 I’ve been known to stamp the ground to sound like rain and get earthworms to come up!
- 7 I’m one of the few animals who can drink salt water.

WHAT AM I?



Patterson and Montgomery helped Fire Chief get well again. "The Chief" let his friends hold him, but don't try to pick up a big snapper in the wild!



Meet Fire Chief

For many years, firefighters in a small Massachusetts town watched the wetlands behind their fire station for a favorite friend. A snapping turtle they named "Fire Chief" lived there in the summer. When the weather cooled, he **migrated**, or moved to another place: a deeper pond for **overwintering** across the road. During his crossing in 2017, a truck hit him by accident. Turtle Rescue League was called, and rescuers came and caught the injured turtle just after he'd jumped into the pond!

Over five years of medical care and physical therapy at the hospital at Turtle Rescue League, Fire Chief made more friends. Staff and volunteers

cared for him and spent time with him. Two people who helped Fire Chief were author Sy Montgomery and artist Matt Patterson. They helped "The Chief" do his therapy to strengthen his legs. "Fire Chief looks as big as a dinosaur, but he's gentle as a puppy," Montgomery says. Fire Chief got well enough to leave the hospital, but stayed close to friends: His new home is down the road from Montgomery, at the pond behind Patterson's home!

Montgomery and Patterson created *The Book of Turtles* together!

COVER: HEARTS SPEAK AND MADDIE'S FUND; THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: SY MONTGOMERY, JEANNE URDA.

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

KIND QUESTIONS

1. After reading "In Good Company, In the Great Outdoors," which way to get outside with animals sounds the most fun to you? Why?
2. After reading "Humane Hero," imagine that you were in Robin's shoes and found a lost dog or cat. What would be your first step? Then what would you do? What safety tips do you think you need to keep in mind when you find an animal who needs help?



Subscribe at home!
Visit KindNews.org.



© REDROVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. *KIND NEWS* MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM REDROVER. STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE EDITED FOR READABILITY. THE CLASSROOM EDITION OF *KIND NEWS* IS PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES A YEAR, SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY. A CLASSROOM SUBSCRIPTION, SUBSIDIZED BY CHARITABLE DONATIONS, IS AVAILABLE AT \$30 PER YEAR AND EACH ISSUE INCLUDES 28 COPIES OF *KIND NEWS* PLUS A TEACHER GUIDE. *KIND NEWS* IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SINGLE-COPY HOME SUBSCRIPTION, PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES A YEAR, INCLUDING A PARENT GUIDE, FOR \$10 PER SUBSCRIPTION.