

# kind NEWS™

## Parents Guide

PRIMARY EDITION • AUG/SEPT 2015

Teaching kindness to animals and respect for natural habitats while helping to instill good reading habits in children

### KIND TIME

**SUMMER FUN IS** wrapping up and it's time to prepare children for another year of learning. But first, let's take a moment to look back 10 years ago this month, when Katrina came calling on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Even though our young readers won't remember the horrific storm, the lessons learned in its aftermath are valuable for all. Many people refused to heed the mandatory evacuation order because their pets weren't allowed in shelters for humans and they wouldn't leave pets behind.

Less than a month after Katrina hit, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act was introduced in Congress and signed into law in 2006. It requires that states seeking Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance must include pets in their emergency response plans.

Remind children that an emergency requiring your family to leave home may never happen, but it's important to be prepared, and to include pets in emergency plans. Thanks to lessons learned from Katrina, we no longer have to leave our pets behind.

**WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY** defines *humane* as *kind or gentle to people or animals*. As a daily dinnertime activity, have family members share kind, gentle or helpful things they have done for people or animals.

### BOOK NOOK



In each issue of *Kind News*, we showcase the work of staff members—including wildlife rehabilitators—at the animal care centers operated

by The Humane Society of the United States and The Fund for Animals. Give students a better understanding of what wildlife rehabilitators do by sharing with them *Animal Helpers: Wildlife Rehabilitators* by Jennifer Keats Curtis. The photographic journal takes readers on a tour of some of the day-to-day duties of wildlife rehabilitators as they ready the wild animals in their care for release back to the wild. Use the additional information at the back of the book and educational activities at [sylvandellpublishing.com](http://sylvandellpublishing.com) to supplement your class discussion.



...And more at [humanesociety.org/kindnews](http://humanesociety.org/kindnews)

- ▶ Watch a video of the river otter's recovery and release
- ▶ Take the Humane Backyard pledge
- ▶ Download an activity page for your children

Celebrating 60 Years



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES



# CRITTER CLUES

## Can your child guess the mystery critter?

- 1 As a baby, I'm pink and bald.
- 2 I can jump 12 feet or more.
- 3 I'm one of the best-known animals on Earth.
- 4 I plant a lot of trees.
- 5 I use my bushy tail as an umbrella, a blanket and a flag.

## ANSWERS

### Be Your Pet's Best Friend

From Page 3

**Pet owners should:** give pets food and fresh water; keep pets clean and groomed; play with her pets every day; take pets to a veterinarian for checkups; keeps cats indoors and walk dogs on a leash. **(10)**

**Pet owners should not:** leave dogs tied up in the backyard most of the time; allow pets to roam free; forget to have pets spayed or neutered. **(3) 10 - 3 = 7.**

### Watching Them Be Wild

From page 7

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| 1 park   | 5 jump  |
| 2 listen | 6 home  |
| 3 pond   | 7 pets  |
| 4 rocks  | 8 happy |

**Found in most parts of the world, our mystery critter—a squirrel**—is among the most familiar wild animals. Squirrels' small, curious faces and daring acrobatics make them one of the best-loved animals. Ironically, they also rank as some of the least popular, considered by some as pests in backyards, attics and gardens. There are a number of squirrel species, including gray, red, fox and flying. 🐿️ Squirrels use their long, bushy tails to balance as they jump and climb, steer as they swim and to cover their bodies to keep dry and warm. They also wave their tails to send signals to other squirrels. 🐿️ Burying seeds and nuts throughout their territory, they're credited with replanting forests. Learn ways to solve common problems without harming squirrels at [humanesociety.org/kindnews](http://humanesociety.org/kindnews).

## WORKSHEET

### Ready for Anything

- |              |                 |          |
|--------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1 kit, photo | 3 escape, leash | 5 window |
| 2 collar     | 4 neighbor      |          |

We would love to hear what you think about *Kind News* and how we can make it even better. We welcome comments and suggestions from our readers and their families. Email your thoughts to us at [kindnews@humanesociety.org](mailto:kindnews@humanesociety.org).



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#### KIND NEWS

EDITOR, CATHERINE VINCENTI; ART DIRECTOR, JENNIFER LAUMANN; DESIGN CONSULTANT, KALICO DESIGN; EDUCATION ADVISORS, HEIDI COLONNA, STEPHANIE ITLE-CLARK, ED.D., KAMA EINHORN

#### HSUS PUBLICATIONS

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, JENNIFER BEEL; EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, CARRIE ALLAN; OPERATIONS MANAGER, BETH MCNUITY

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