

# kind News™

2011  
NOV - DEC  
SENIOR  
GRADES  
5-6

Kids go the  
distance  
to save seals  
p. 3

We want  
to hear your  
pet tales  
p. 5

The  
wonderful  
world  
of mutts!

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A PUBLICATION OF



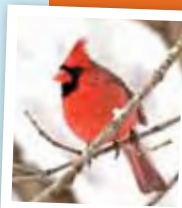
THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

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## EVERY PIECE OF KIBBLE COUNTS!

WHEN MIMI AUSLAND WAS 11 years old, she wanted to help feed animals at her local shelter. With the help of her parents, she launched *freekibble.com*. Ellen DeGeneres even teamed up with her to provide the kibble. Visit the website and play "Bow Wow Trivia." Each time you click an answer—right or wrong—10 pieces of kibble are donated to animal shelters. So far more than 6 million meals have been donated to hungry pets! Visit the website to play today.

## PET CORNER

# PLAY FOR PEACE



**YEOOWWW!! HISS!! SPIT!!** Sometimes homes with more than one cat can feel like a war zone. Kitties who are normally calm suddenly turn on each other. Why? Millie might not be happy about the new cat just adopted into the home or Dozer might not like sharing his favorite chair. Perhaps one of the cats isn't feeling well and needs to see a veterinarian. Or maybe it just plain feels good to act like a cat—and stalk, chase, and pounce on prey.

**PLAY, PLAY, PLAY!** If medical problems are ruled out, keeping the peace can be easy. Whether your home has one kitty or five, spend time playing with your cats each day. Use toys that allow them to "hunt." Let them attack a toy mouse tied to a string or chase the light from a small flashlight. When playtime is over, put toys with string attached out of reach. If the cats are still cranky, contact your veterinarian right away.



humane HEROES

# Seal of Approval

Kids dedicate three years to saving seals



## IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU TO CHOOSE

a project to make the world a better place, what would you choose to do? Students at a school near Syracuse, N.Y., are given that challenge each school year. Not surprisingly, they often choose to help animals.

Some students at the New School have helped their local animal shelters. They've built cat towers and raised money for homeless pets. Others focus on protecting endangered animals. Members of the Seal Savers Club have another goal: to end the Canadian seal hunt.

The Canadian government allows hundreds of thousands of baby seals to be killed for their fur each year. Often the laws against cruelty to seals are broken, and the hunters aren't punished. It also hasn't been proven that the seal population can survive such a hunt.

In 2008, the Seal Savers began collecting signatures on a petition to end the hunt. They explained to countless people that the baby seal hunt is cruel and unnecessary and asked for their support.

## Signing Off

After three years of hard work, the kids had collected 1,421 signatures! They mailed the petition to Canada's Prime

Minister Stephen Harper and Canadian Sen. Mac Harb.

Impressed with what the kids had done, the senator wrote:

*"I am really happy to see that you are standing up for the seals and for what you think is right. I am keeping your petition in mind so I will remember that there are strong voices speaking for the seals. ... I am going to keep working until we convince the government that it is time to listen to these voices and to stop the commercial seal hunt in our country."*

Listen up, Canada — these kids mean business!

## JACKIE EVANCHO

Mission: Humane Ambassador

## SINGING SENSATION JACKIE EVANCHO

is using her voice to speak up for animals—and wants you to join her. As Mission: Humane's new spokesperson, Jackie wants kids to know that you're never too young to start making a difference.

The animal issue closest to Jackie's heart is putting an end to the Canadian seal hunt. Now there's a Mission: Humane project aimed at doing just that. Check it out at [humane.society.org/kindnews](http://humane.society.org/kindnews).

## Tell us how you've been HELPING ANIMALS!

Send photos and details to [kindnews@humanesociety.org](mailto:kindnews@humanesociety.org) or mail them to:

**KIDS CARE**  
c/o Kind News  
The HSUS  
2100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Entries will automatically be entered in our Kind Kid Award contest. For more information, visit [humanesociety.org/kindnews](http://humanesociety.org/kindnews).

## MUTTS

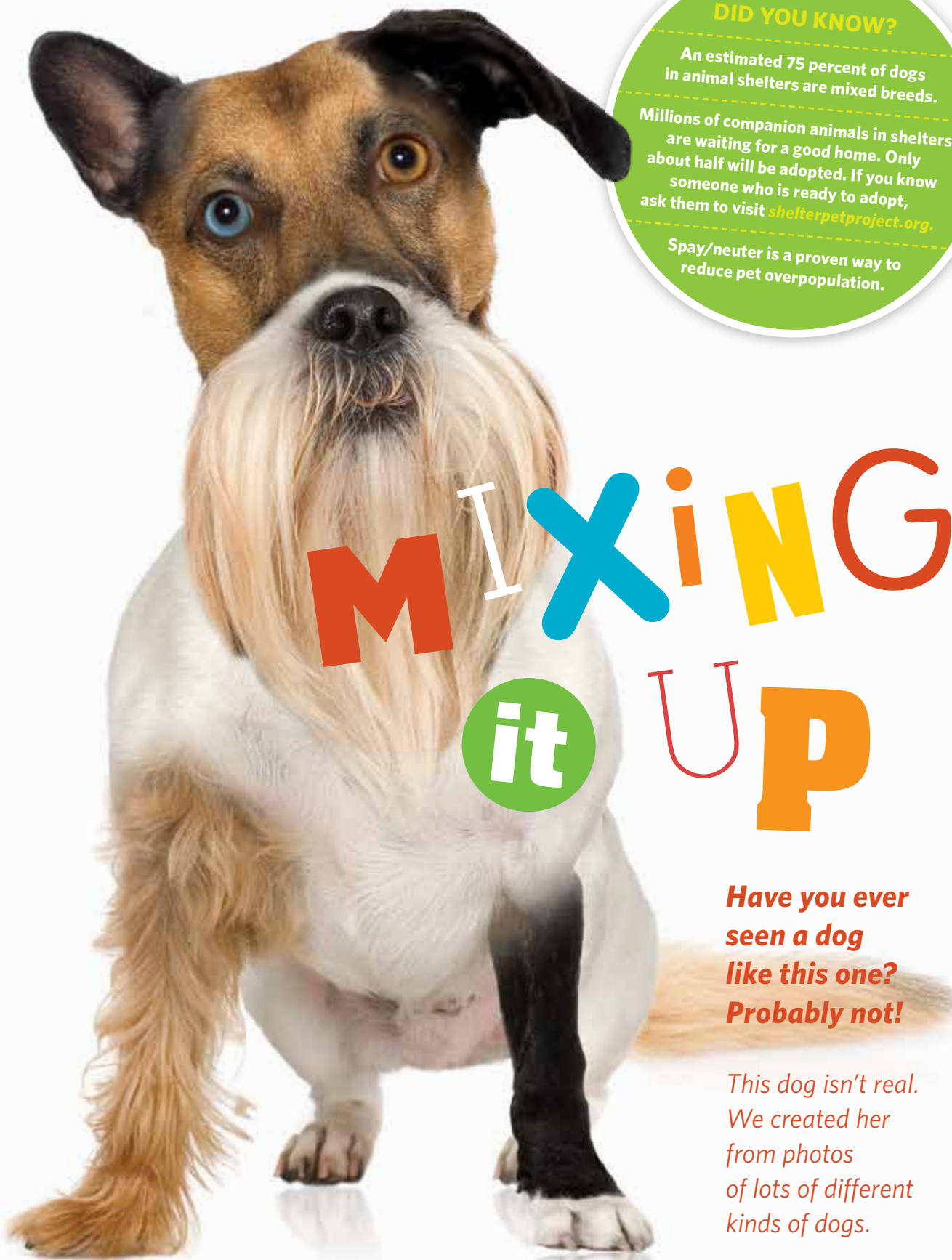
by Patrick McDonnell

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[muttscomics.com](http://muttscomics.com)



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# MIXING it UP

## DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated 75 percent of dogs in animal shelters are mixed breeds.

Millions of companion animals in shelters are waiting for a good home. Only about half will be adopted. If you know someone who is ready to adopt, ask them to visit [shelterpetproject.org](http://shelterpetproject.org).

Spay/neuter is a proven way to reduce pet overpopulation.

**Have you ever seen a dog like this one? Probably not!**

*This dog isn't real. We created her from photos of lots of different kinds of dogs.*



## OUR POOCH MAY BE A LITTLE UNREALISTIC,

but there are plenty of dogs who actually are a little bit of this and a little bit of that. They're called mixed-breed dogs, or **mutts**. You may even have one or two of them living in your home!

### Mixed Breed vs. Purebred

Dogs and cats are either mixed-breed or purebred. Mixed breeds are animals with two or more different kinds (**breeds**) of dogs or cats in their family tree. Just like people, their babies might look a little like mom and a little like dad. For example, a pup whose mom is a beagle and dad a poodle might have beagle ears and curly fur!

Purebreds have parents who are the same breed. They usually have "papers" with a list of ancestors going back several generations. Because their parents look very similar, all their babies look alike—and just like mom and dad.

Breeders of purebred show dogs try to produce dogs with the "best" characteristics of the breed. Their dogs' mates are chosen carefully. But breeding dogs to have special features has caused some to have health and behavior problems. Because mutts are a combination of different breeds, they may inherit fewer problems. What's more, if your pet is a mutt, you can be sure that no one else has one exactly like him!

### Buyer Beware

It's important to do your homework before you bring any pet into the home. Most people are unaware that puppies sold in pet stores,

over the Internet, or in classified ads most likely came from a puppy mill, a factory-style breeding facility where animals are housed in poor conditions. These puppies, sold as "purebred," often have or may soon develop serious health problems. Never buy a puppy without seeing where the dog and his parents were raised.

### Better Yet, Opt to Adopt!

Animal shelters have a variety of dogs, both mixed-breed and purebred, just waiting for homes. Shelters screen their pets for health and behavior problems before putting them up for adoption. Staff at your local shelter can work with you to find the perfect pet to add to your family.

Can't decide if you want a cuddly cocker spaniel, a brave boxer, or a playful pug?

**Get 'em all — adopt a mutt!**



THIS SPREAD, PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS: REBECCA HALLENBECK/THE HSUS

## PET TALES

**PETS GIVE US LOTS OF FUN — and great material to write about. Now's your chance to tell us about your favorite pet and possibly see yourself in *Kind News*!**

Write a few paragraphs describing your favorite pet or the pet of a friend or relative. Use plenty of adjectives so we get the picture. Include information about how the pet came into your life and how she has changed it. Tell us what you

like best about the pet and the things that make her special. Share funny stories and anything else you'd like us to know about your animal friend. If possible, include a photo of you and the pet (sorry, photos cannot be returned).

Send everything to:

**THE PERFECT PET**  
c/o *Kind News*  
The HSUS  
2100 L Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037

[kindnews@humanesociety.org](mailto:kindnews@humanesociety.org)

## Feeding our feathered friends

**WINTER CAN BE A TOUGH TIME FOR BIRDS.** Gone are the juicy insects and plump fruit they've been feeding on all summer and fall. You can help make sure birds have plenty to eat and drink this winter. **Create an outdoor cafeteria for them! Just keep these tips in mind:**

- 1 Place bird feeders where birds will feel safe from predators,** including free-roaming cats. Hang feeders away from shrubs or brush piles. Other animals can hide in these places and jump out to attack the birds.
- 2 Keep feeders clean and fresh.** Provide only enough food to last a couple of days. Birdseed that gets wet and moldy can be harmful to birds.
- 3 Remember the ground feeders!** Some birds prefer to eat near the ground. If there is snow below your feeder, stamp it down so that seeds won't sink out of sight.
- 4 Don't forget the water!** Fill a trash can lid or shallow bowl with water. Check it regularly to be sure the water hasn't frozen. Refill it with fresh water when you refill your feeders.



OPPOSITE PAGE: CARDINAL: WILLOWPIX/ISTOCKPHOTO; FINCH (BROWN BIRD): AND TITMOUSE (GREY BIRD): CHARLES BRUTLAG/ISTOCKPHOTO; BIRDSEED: ALASDAIR THOMSON/ISTOCKPHOTO; PEANUTS: OLGA POPOVA/ISTOCKPHOTO; BAGEL: JUANMONINO/ISTOCKPHOTO; THIS PAGE: SQUIRREL: BJORN BECH/ISTOCKPHOTO; PEANUT BUTTER: ROBYN MACKENZIE/ISTOCKPHOTO; PINECONE FEEDER AND ORANGE FEEDER: STEPHEN CORK; POPCORN: ALEXANDER MAKSYMENKO/ISTOCKPHOTO; RIDDLE RAT: DIGITAL ZOO/PHOTODISC/GETTY IMAGES



## Give Wildlife a Brake

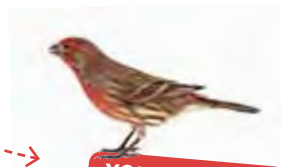
**HOMONYMS ARE WORDS THAT SOUND ALIKE BUT HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS.** For example, "Give Wildlife a Brake" uses the homonyms *brake* and *break*. It's a play on words to remind drivers to slow down and be aware of wildlife. The paragraph below has errors in the use of homonyms. Rewrite the paragraph on another piece of paper, correcting the homonyms.

*Animals are busy at this thyme of year—especially dear. They often cross rodes two look four food, water, oar mates. Sadly, many are hit buy cars. Remember, wear they're is won dear, there are likely others. If ewe sea an animal crossing the rowed, slow down and remain alert four more. Bee a friend too wild animals.*

## CRITTER CLUES

### Who is this mystery critter?

- 1 My coat is reddish-brown in summer, grayish-brown in winter.
- 2 Now you see me, now you don't!
- 3 Isn't my baby cute? I call him Spot.
- 4 Danger? Time to raise the white flag.
- 5 I eat leaves, grass, nuts, bark—and sometimes your favorite flowers.
- 6 Don't ask me to pass the buck. He weighs 400 pounds!



YOU CAN DO IT!

## HOLIDAY FEAST

Make holiday goodies for wild birds to eat! Hang the treats from trees and fence posts.



### FRUITY WREATHS

- stale bagel
- peanut butter mixed with a little cornmeal
- cranberries, raisins, golden raisins, nuts



Spread peanut butter/cornmeal on the cut side of a stale bagel. Decorate your "wreath" with the fruit and nuts. Tie a loop of string through the bagel.



**NOTE:** Remove and discard the wreath if the bagel becomes moldy.

### NUTTY BUDDIES

- pinecone
- peanut butter mixed with a little cornmeal
- birdseed



Tie a length of string onto a pinecone.

Smear the pinecone with the peanut butter/cornmeal mix and roll it in birdseed.



### POPCORN GARLAND

- cooked popcorn
- cranberries
- needle and thread

Using a needle, string popcorn and cranberries onto a thread.



### BREAKFAST BASKETS

- oranges
- black oil sunflower seeds
- raisins, apple chunks, peanuts

Cut oranges in half and scoop out the insides. Poke holes on opposite sides. Knot yarn through the holes and tie at the top. Fill each bowl with fruit, nuts, and seeds.



To the  
**RESCUE!**



## Kind Quiz



### OPOSSUMS

Opossums are **marsupials** (animals with a pouch). They're the only marsupial in the U.S.

They are mainly **nocturnal** (active at night). When in danger, opossums often "play dead."

## A Full Pouch

CAPE WILDLIFE CENTER | BARNSTABLE, MASS.

### LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE YOU CROSS THE STREET.

Staff at The Humane Society of the United States' Cape Wildlife Center wish wild animals would take that advice. Like the opossum brought to the center last spring.

Rescued from the side of the road, the female opossum had a surprise for her rescuers. She had five tiny babies (**joey**s) inside her pouch! Mom was lucky. She had a cut on her nose but would be fine. The furry family was looked after until the joeys were out of her pouch and walking around on their own. Then the whole family was released where they were found. Hopefully they've learned to wait until it's safe before crossing! We also hope the driver who hit them learned to slow down.

Orphaned opossums treated at the Cape Wildlife Center are housed in incubators and given fleece pouches.

Now that you've read *Kind News*, test yourself to see what you've learned!

1. True or false: Bread and birdseed that has become moldy can be harmful to birds.
2. What is a marsupial?
3. A joey is a baby
  - a) seal.
  - b) opossum.
  - c) hamster.
4. Name three reasons why wild animals might decide to cross a road.
5. Why are baby seals killed during Canada's seal hunt?
6. Why might mutts have fewer health and behavior problems than purebred dogs?
7. What's a good way to keep the peace in a multi-cat home?  
**Explain your answer.**



OPOSSUM: DAVID SOKOL; CATS: GANDEE VASAN/STONE/GETTY IMAGES

