

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

SENIOR EDITION • APRIL/MAY 2015

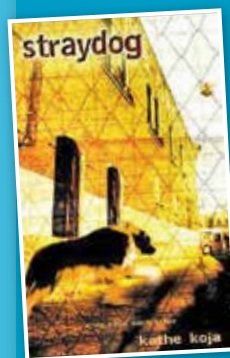
Teaching kindness to animals and respect for natural habitats while helping to instill good reading habits in children

KIND TIME

IN SPRING, MANY wild animals give birth and try to raise their young in a safe environment. But as we develop more and more land, building homes, businesses and the infrastructure to support them, we encroach on their natural habitats. Conflicts with wildlife occur, but it's important for children to know that there are ways to peacefully coexist with our wild neighbors. From sharing a beach with harbor seals to being courteous to wild critters near our homes, this issue encourages kids to respect the wildlife around them.

EARTH DAY AND Arbor Day are both celebrated in April. Put your children out on a limb by posing this question: What good is a tree? Challenge them to name ways in which trees contribute to the lives of all animals. Examples include: Trees help keep our air clean, provide shade, keep land from eroding, provide wood for homes, furniture, paper and other products, as well as food and nesting places for animals. Can your children think of ways we can protect the trees in our environment? Consider planting a tree seedling as part of a family celebration of the Earth, animals and the environment.

BOOK NOOK



In *Stray Dog*, by Kathe Koja, kids meet Rachel, a bright, sensitive young teen and self-proclaimed misfit. Rachel doesn't seem to fit in

anywhere, but she finds that her creative writing provides one outlet for her emotions. Volunteering at an animal shelter provides another. There, she meets a feral dog—a beaten, injured collie mix whom she is convinced she can socialize. This diary-like chronicle promotes appreciation for shelters, empathy for unwanted animals and insight into the life of a stray.



...And more at humanesociety.org/kindnews

- ▶ Find easy steps to keep wildlife out of your home and ways to humanely remove them if they decide to move in
- ▶ Learn more about the importance of spaying and neutering pets
- ▶ Download a worksheet to read and discuss with your child

Celebrating 60 Years



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

ANSWER KEY

Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

Our mystery critter is a dolphin. Dolphins are mammals, not fish. Like all mammals, they are warm-blooded and give birth to live young who feed on their mother's milk. 🐬 Dolphins are social animals who live in large groups (called pods), often remaining in close family groups throughout their lives. They can dive deep in the ocean, but must surface to breathe air through a blowhole on top of the head. If a member of the pod is injured or sick, others will nudge the animal to the surface for air. 🐬 Sadly, keeping dolphins in captivity for entertainment removes them from their families and prevents them from enjoying many of their natural behaviors.



Kind Quiz FROM PAGE 8

- 1 There are not enough homes for all of the cats and dogs born every day in this country. Spaying and neutering operations keep pets from adding to the problem.
- 2 Answers will vary.
- 3 Similar to most moms, wild animal moms want to raise their babies in a safe, warm place.
- 4 Like all marine mammals, harbor seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- 5 Babies may be left behind and the animals may face danger from predators and be unable to find food.
- 6 Answers will vary.

Online Worksheet

- 1 A raccoon family has moved into their cabin, disrupting their planned peaceful weekend.
- 2 The raccoon found a nice, safe place to raise her babies and the arrival of the humans may cause her to relocate.
- 3 There didn't appear to be anyone living in the cabin and the chimney was safe from the weather and predators.
- 4 Answers will vary.
- 5 Captions will vary.

Haiku! How About You?

Childrens' haiku will vary.

FREE WEBINARS!

Humane Society Academy is offering free webinars on humane education topics including "The Magic of Stories: Encouraging Empathy Through Narrative." Also available is a series on creating and maintaining a humane backyard. For details, visit humanesociety.org/HSAwebinars. Click on "Humane Education."

You are now receiving the **Senior edition** of *Kind News*. If you prefer a less challenging reading level, you may switch to the **Junior edition**. Please allow 6-8 weeks for your new edition to arrive.

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