

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

PRIMARY 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 *Finding Home* by Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks, a koala and her baby are forced to flee a devastating forest fire, leaving their

familiar habitat and home behind. As their search for food brings them closer and closer to people, the koalas are faced with new and potentially dangerous situations. Just when it looks like they will never find a suitable home, they find it in the most unlikely of places. The evocative text and watercolor paintings offer subtle lessons in the natural history of koalas and their native Australia, while also demonstrating that peaceful coexistence between humans and their wild neighbors is not only possible—it can be positive for all involved.



...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

ANSWERS

The Dog Park From Page 2
bark play tree

Match-Up Moms From Page 7

kangaroo/joey	bear/cub
goose/gosling	deer/fawn
frog/tadpole	cow/calf
seal/pup	goat/kid

WORKSHEET

A Tale of Two Critters

- 1 The family wanted to have a peaceful weekend at their cabin.
- 2 The mother raccoon wanted a safe, quiet place to raise her babies.
- 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.

CRITTER CLUES

Can your child guess the mystery critter?

- 1 You can find me in rivers and oceans.
- 2 I'm a very smart, playful mammal.
- 3 Members of my kind live in close family groups.
- 4 I never stop swimming—even when I'm asleep!
- 5 Whoosh! I breathe from a blowhole on top of my head.



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.

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 **Primary** edition of *Kind News*. If you prefer a more 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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