

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

PRIMARY EDITION • AUG/SEPT 2016

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

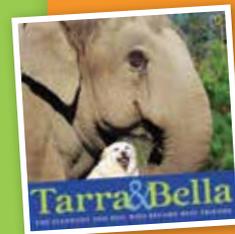
KIND TIME

EARLIER THIS YEAR, performing elephants at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circuses put on their final show and SeaWorld pledged to phase out the use of performing orcas at its theme parks. In addition, SeaWorld pledged to work with The Humane Society of the United States to combat threats to marine animals worldwide and increase its focus on rescue efforts for marine wildlife.

These decisions—which will have huge impacts on the future use of animals in entertainment—were made in large part as a result of increasing public pressure to end these practices. We hope that your family will enjoy discussing and reflecting on the topics in this issue of *Kind News*.

ASK YOUR CHILDREN to describe their own perfect “habitat.” They may envision a home with many luxuries, such as an indoor pool or basketball court. Then ask them what basic things they really need to survive. How would they feel if those things were taken away? Turn the discussion to animals’ survival needs and ask how we can keep from destroying animals’ homes and their habitats.

BOOK NOOK



Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends is the heartwarming true story of

a retired circus elephant and her unlikely best friend—a mixed breed dog named Bella—who spend their days side-by-side in an elephant sanctuary. When Bella suffers a serious injury, the elephant refuses to leave the little dog until help arrives. As she recuperates, daily visits from Tarra prove to be the best medicine for Bella, who recovers and resumes her life alongside her BFF. Students will enjoy seeing the full color photos of the duo roaming the sanctuary together.



...And more at humanesociety.org/kindnews

- ▶ Find more information about recent developments for captive orca whales and performing elephants
- ▶ Learn more about efforts to ban shark finning and programs to help beavers
- ▶ Download an activity page for your children

A PUBLICATION OF



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



CRITTER CLUES *Can your child guess the mystery critter?*

- 1 I'm the largest rodent in North America.
- 2 You bet I'm a busy builder. What I do creates habitats for many other animals.
- 3 Plants, leaves and tree bark—yum!
- 4 I live in and around water.
- 5 I use my flat tail to steer myself through water, to build my home and to send messages.

Our mystery critter is a beaver, the largest rodent in North America and second largest in the world. Beavers are strong swimmers and can swim underwater for up to 15 minutes. They build their homes, called lodges, from sticks and mud. The entrances to the lodge are underwater, providing beavers with protection against predators. 🦫 Beavers like to keep a high water level around their lodges. If the water isn't deep enough, they'll build a dam downstream that creates a pond around their lodge. They cut down trees for the dam and their lodge with their strong teeth. 🦫 Beaver dam building creates habitats for many wetlands animals. 🦫 Sometimes people feel beaver activity damages trees and may cause flooding, so they want to destroy the dams or harm the beavers. But that's not necessary. Ornamental trees can be easily protected and flooding can be prevented with flow devices, consisting of a pipe threaded through the beaver dam to keep the water flowing and keep a tolerable water level for the beavers at the same time.

Online Activity Sheet

Sarah loves her **pets**. Her **dog's** name is Lucy. Sarah throws a **ball** for Lucy to chase. Lucy runs after the ball and brings it **back** to Sarah. Then she **barks** really loudly so Sarah will throw it again.

Sarah also has a **cat** named Mac. Mac is a happy **cat**. He purrs when Sarah brushes his **fur**. Sarah wants **Mac** to stay safe so she keeps **him** indoors. Sarah spends **time** every **day** playing with Mac. She hangs a **toy** mouse on a string. Mac tries to catch the **mouse** with his paws. When playtime is over, Sarah puts the toy away so Mac can't get tangled in the **string**.

Animal Homes FROM PAGE 7

songbird > bird nest frog > pond spider > web
honeybee > hive ant > anthill

Protect Dory: DON'T BUY WILD-CAUGHT FISH AS PETS

Disney/Pixar's film *Finding Dory* hit theaters this summer, and many children will ask for a Dory of their own. Remind family and friends that blue tangs like Dory should live in the ocean—not in a fish tank. If you know people planning to buy fish, encourage them to download the Tank Watch app at forthefishes.org.

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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