

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

SENIOR 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



Middle school student Kelsey Case discovers three abandoned kittens thrown in an alley dumpster and

enlists the help of fellow students Becca Morales and techno geek Leo Polanski to discover the culprit—and *The Curious Cat Spy Club* is born. The book is the first in a series by author Linda Joy Singleton, who keeps her readers guessing as the young sleuths attempt to solve this mystery—and also find the answer to why so many pets are suddenly missing all over town. The the three youngsters band together with the common goal of helping animals—and end up learning the true meaning of friendship.



...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



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.

Kind Quiz FROM PAGE 8

- 1 Childrens' answers will vary.
- 2 Childrens' answers will vary.
- 3 Answers may include keeping them indoors with the rest of the family, grooming pets regularly, playing with them and providing them with healthy food and veterinary care.
- 4 Children's answers will vary, but may include performing their natural behaviors such as building a nest/home, foraging for food, migrating and living with others of their kind.
- 5 oceans
- 6 Possible answers include rats, pigeons, raccoons, rabbits, mice, squirrels, coyotes, fox, deer, ducks, geese, insects and people.

Habitat Chat

FROM PAGE 7

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|------|------|-------|
| 1. T | 5. T | 9. T |
| 2. T | 6. F | 10. T |
| 3. T | 7. T | |
| 4. F | 8. F | |

Online Activity Sheet

worth, cage, sold, ways, home



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 **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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