

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

PRIMARY EDITION • DEC/JAN 2016-17

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

KIND TIME

CAN YOU IMAGINE forcing your dog to live his or her entire life in a small wire cage with no friendly human contact, toys or comfort—and little hope of ever becoming part of a family? That is what life is like for a puppy mill breeding dog. The problem of puppy mills is certainly troubling for anyone who cares about animals—especially young children. However, youngsters can come away feeling positive about the subject and empowered to do something about it. This issue of *Kind News* introduces the topic to children, encourages them to take the Puppy Mill Pledge, and reminds them that the best place to get a new furry friend is at an animal shelter. Adopting a pet from an animal shelter helps put puppy mills out of business.

THE AUDUBON BIRD COUNT takes place each year from mid-December to early January. People all over North and South America count birds in their area to help the Audubon Society estimate bird populations. How many birds can your children name? Remind them that when they see a bird, they can look closely to try to identify it. What color and shape is it? What is the shape of its beak? What special spots does it have? Use a field guide to try to identify birds in your neighborhood. To learn how you can participate in the annual bird count, visit audubon.org.

BOOK NOOK



A Home for Dakota

by Jane Zita Grover is the story of Dog No. 241 who has never known life outside her small, lonely

wire cage in a puppy mill. After she is rescued and brought to live in a foster home, she is named Dakota, an act that marks the beginning of her metamorphosis from a fearful, confused dog into a loving and lovable companion. Although the sights, smells and sounds of her new surroundings are at first unfamiliar and scary, Dakota slowly progresses and is soon ready to join her forever family. She finds it with Sweetie, a young girl who is on her own journey of recovery, and together they help each other heal.



...And more at humanesociety.org/kindnews

- ▶ The HSUS asked kids where puppies come from. Share their enlightening answers with your children and then take the Puppy Mill Pledge
- ▶ Find more information about animal-safe holiday decorating
- ▶ Download an activity page for your children

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CRITTER CLUES

Can your child guess the mystery critter?

- 1 You'll find me in some cold regions of the planet.
- 2 My coat has two layers to keep me warm.
- 3 My wide hooves help me walk on snow and swim.
- 4 Since I weigh more than 200 pounds, being able to fly would really be magical!
- 5 We often travel thousands of miles every year. Some say we can circle the globe in one night.

Our mystery critter is a reindeer. Reindeer are well-suited for life in the cold arctic regions of Europe, Asia and North America. Their thick coats are made up of two layers. The one closest to the body consists of fine, soft, warm hair that's covered with a layer of hollow hairs that prevent heat from escaping and help reindeer stay afloat as they swim. 🦌 Both male and female reindeer have antlers. The antlers fall off and regrow each year. The new antlers are covered with soft fur called velvet. When the velvet dries up, reindeer rub it off against rocks or trees. 🦌 Reindeer have large, broad hooves that act like snowshoes to keep the animal from sinking when walking in snow. Reindeer's wide hooves also help propel the animals through water when they swim. 🦌 Thousands of reindeer may gather together for migration, traveling thousands of miles annually. Traveling in herds protects individuals from predators. Herbivores, reindeer eat grasses, leaves and lichens.

ANSWERS

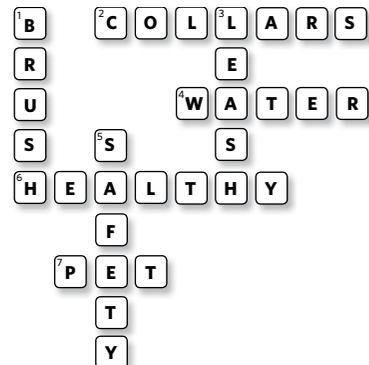
Online Activity Sheet

SHARING OUR WORLD

It's important to respect and protect animals!

Pet care crossword

FROM PAGE 7



1. brush
2. collars
3. leash
4. water
5. safety
6. healthy
7. pet

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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