

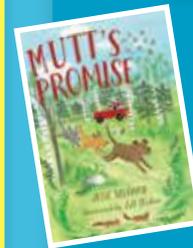
Teaching kindness to animals and respect for natural habitats while helping to instill good reading habits in children

### 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](http://audubon.org).

### BOOK NOOK



Young readers who love animals, adventure and suspense will find all three in *Mutt's Promise* by Julie Salamon. The story follows two puppies, Luna and Chief, whose mother, Mutt, was a stray taken in by a farmer. Luna and Chief begin life as carefree farm dogs, nurtured and trained by Gilbert, the young son of migrant workers on the farm. But when Gilbert's family must move on, the pups are unwittingly sold to a con man who imprisons them in a puppy mill. Desperate to return to their mother, the puppies find help from unlikely sources. The storyline takes many twists before its satisfying conclusion.



...And more at [humanesociety.org/kindnews](http://humanesociety.org/kindnews)

- ▶ The HSUS asked kids where puppies come from. Share their answers with your children in an enlightening video, then take the Puppy Mill Pledge; inspired youth can find information on taking action to help stop puppy mills
- ▶ Find more information on animal-safe holiday decorating
- ▶ Download an activity page for your children

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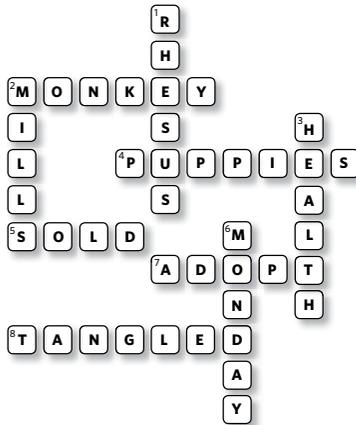


# ANSWER KEY Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

**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.

## Kind crossword

FROM PAGE 7



## Online Activity Sheet POLLY THE PUPPY MILL PUP

- 1 Polly was a puppy ...
- 2 Before long, Polly got sick ...
- 3 Finally, a woman came and took Polly out of the cage ...
- 4 Alone in the crate, Polly felt sick and lonely ...
- 5 After a while, the truck stopped ...
- 6 A man came to the pet store and bought Polly ...
- 7 The man took Polly back to the pet store ...
- 8 Polly was sold a second time ...
- 9 It took a long time, but the medicine finally made Polly well ...

## Kind Quiz FROM PAGE 8

- 1 Many people are unaware that pet stores sell puppy mill dogs. Answers will vary.
- 2 Pet stores that refuse to sell puppy mill dogs help put puppy mills out of business. Adoption centers in pet stores allow shelters to find homes for more of their animals.
- 3 They're sold on the internet and in newspaper ads.
- 4 Call your local animal control agency, state wildlife office or a wildlife rehabilitator for help.
- 5 Answers will vary but may include cutting down on health problems for people, less harm to animals, a reduction in pollution and using fewer natural resources like water and energy.
- 6 grooming

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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