kind News™

Parents Guide

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

KIND TIME

CATS ROAM OUTSIDE in most neighborhoods in the United States. Some are pets whose owners let them outside, but many are community cats, who may be feral or one-time pets who are now stray, lost or abandoned. The more we understand the complicated issues related to outdoor cats, the more effectively we can help them, reduce cat overpopulation and protect wildlife. In this issue, readers will meet two girls who recognized a community cat problem in their town and put a plan into action to solve it.

WORLD SPAY DAY, an annual campaign of The HSUS, Humane Society International and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, spotlights the power of affordable, accessible spay/neuter to save the lives of companion animals, community (feral and stray) cats and street dogs. The 23rd annual World Spay Day is February 28, 2017. Spread the message!

NOW'S A GREAT TIME to plant some seeds of kindness with your kids. Visit a nursery to learn which native plants will attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Then let the kids get down and dirty planting the seeds in pots and placing them in a sunny window. Once the seeds have sprouted and the threat of frost has passed, they can plant them outdoors and watch wildlife enjoy the fruits of their labor!

BOOK NOOK

Nobody's Cats: How one little black kitty came in from the cold by Valerie Ingram and Alistair Schroff is based on the true story of the successful TNR program put into motion by Vivienne Thompson and Catrina Vanderwolf, featured in this issue's "Humane Heroes."

In *The Nine Lives of Travis Keating* by Jill MacLean, Travis, a young boy feeling lonely after moving to a new town, discovers a colony of feral cats and decides to help them. As he slowly makes friends and enlists their help, it becomes clear that not only are the kids making the cats' lives better, but the cats are also doing the same for them.

...And more at *humanesociety.org/kindnews*

- Learn more about trap-neuter-return programs and how you can get involved in World Spay Day activities
- Download an activity page for your children

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