kind News™

Parents Guide

PRIMARY EDITION • FEB/MAR 2015

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

KIND TIME

MANY PEOPLE HAVE fond childhood memories of feeding ducks, geese and swans at a local park or pond. In this issue, we examine the problems caused by feeding waterfowl food lacking the proper nutrients the birds need for good health. In addition to creating empathy and responsible behavior toward waterfowl, it can be a springboard for discussion of proper nutrition in humans as well.

A GREAT WAY TO EAT healthier is to go meatless one day a week. It's an effective way for your family to eat a healthy diet, go green and help animals. To learn more about participating in Meatless Monday and sign up to receive a weekly Meatless Monday recipe, visit **humanesociety.org**.

TIE ONE TOGETHER. Even if you don't have a cat of your own, you can still create the cat bed in this issue with your child. They're easy and fun to do. Make one or more and donate them to a local animal shelter or rescue.

BOOK NOOK

Its timely and important message makes *The Forgotten Rabbit* by Nancy Furstinger, illustrated by Nancy Lane, a worthwhile book to share with children before the Easter holiday. It's the story of a rabbit born at a farm and then sold as an Easter pet, only to be forgotten and neglected after the holiday. Fortunately for this rabbit, a young girl comes into the bunny's life and gives her the love and attention the little rabbit deserves. Information at the back of the book and at **thegryphonpress.com** reminds us that adoption of a rabbit should be a commitment for the life of the animal, not an impulse purchase, and explains the care rabbits require.

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

- Watch a video about angel wing
- Learn more about creating a Humane Backyard
- Download a worksheet for your child

Celebrating 60 Years

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

CRITTER CLUES

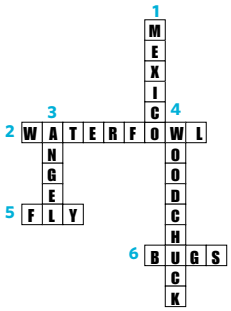
Can your child guess the mystery critter?

1. I build my nest on the ground, usually near water.
2. Dad's much brighter than mom. In fact, mom's kind of dull.
3. When I eat, it's often "bottoms up."
4. Drake is my brother's name—and my dad's and all my uncles.
5. My webbed feet help me move smoothly through water, but not on land.

Our mystery critter is a mallard duck. With webbed feet and broad, boat-shaped bodies, mallards propel themselves easily through the water, but their body shape is also responsible for the way they waddle on land. Male mallards are called drakes; females are called hens. Drakes have bright-colored plumage—a green head, white neckband, brown breast and black tail. Females are dull in comparison, with shades of brown and tan. Females' coloring, however, allows them to blend in with their surroundings, keeping them safe from predators when nesting. Mallards tip forward in the water, tail feathers in the air, and use their webbed feet to steady themselves while searching for food underwater. This is called "dabbling" or "upending."

WORKSHEET

Kind News Crossword

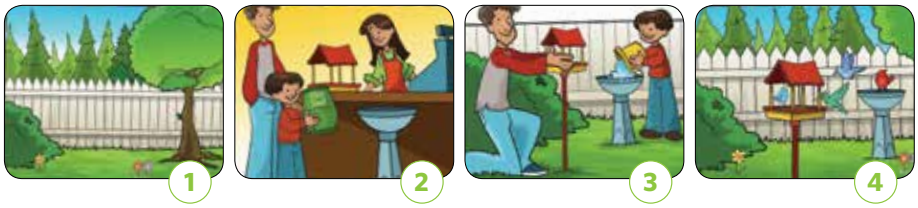


ANSWER KEY

Love is in the Air!

When giving Valentine treats to those we love, don't forget pets. But remember, people food, especially ***chocolate***, can make pets very sick. Give pets treats made just for them.

Owen's Humane Backyard FROM PAGE 7



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