kind News™

Parents Guide

JUNIOR EDITION • FEB/MAR 2016

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

KIND TIME

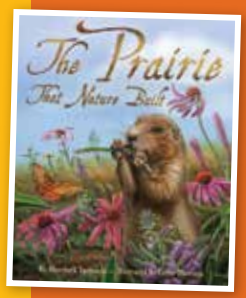
EACH YEAR IN SPRINGTIME, people make the mistake of giving live baby animals (rabbits, ducklings and chicks) as gifts. They don't realize that these animals require special care and often end up being dropped off at animal shelters or simply abandoned when the novelty wears off and the reality of long-term care sets in. We hope the tips in "What's Somebunny to Do?" this issue will help you determine if a rabbit is the right pet for your family.

SKUNKS OFTEN GET A BAD RAP, but they are actually very helpful to humans—they eat many insects and rodents often referred to as garden pests. Can your children name other unpopular or maligned animals? Their list may include bats, spiders, rats, snakes, bees, wolves, coyotes and sharks. Choose one or two of these animals to research as a family. Find several fascinating facts about the animals. Remind your children that all animals play a role in nature and deserve respect.

AS WINTER MELTS INTO SPRING, many changes are occurring in nature, and soon we'll begin to see, hear and smell signs of the season. What are your children's favorite signs of spring?

JAECEE RAE CARR IS CONCERNED about pets waiting for homes in animal shelters. What animal issue concerns your children most? Why? What can be done about it?

BOOK NOOK



After your children have guessed the mystery critter, share with them *The Prairie That Nature Built* by Marybeth Lorbiecki. Gorgeous illustrations by Cathy Morrison as well as the author's rich, repetitive verse give readers a clear vision of life on the prairie and how its plants and animals rely on the prairie ecosystem for survival. The author provides a "Prairie Primer" and activities at the back of the book to supplement your discussion. A free app is also available from the publisher.

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

- Explore humane ways to resolve conflicts with skunks
- Learn more about rabbit housing and care
- Find information about low-cost spay/neuter surgery
- Download an activity page for your children

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ANSWER KEY

Critter Clues

FROM PAGE 7

Our mystery critter is a prairie dog, named by early pioneers for the way the animal barks and yips. Their different calls are a prairie dog's alarm system, warning other prairie dogs of danger. Members of the rodent family (that also includes groundhogs), prairie dogs live in large "towns" or colonies, with each family occupying its own underground house or tunnel system. A burrow has areas that serve as the kitchen, bathroom, living room and bedrooms. Considered by some as pests, prairie dogs are often poisoned and shot for sport and their colonies are bulldozed to make way for new construction. But prairie dogs need our protection. Scientists have named them a "keystone species" because so many other animals depend on them as food or for shelter. Many other animals move into and live in prairie dog burrows. Learn how you can help prairie dogs at ***prairiedogcoalition.org***.

Kind Quiz

FROM PAGE 8

1. The author used Jaecee Rae's last name (Carr) as a play on words. Students' answers will vary.
2. It should be at least 5 feet long.
3. People often don't realize the amount of care that rabbits require. As a result, they lose interest in or are unable to care for the animals.
4. Obey the skunk's warning and move away slowly and quietly.
5. They observed her pouncing on her food as she would in a hunt.

February 23 is World Spay Day!

FROM PAGE 7

R E D U C E
H E A L T H
N U M B E R
B E H A V I O R
I M P R O V E
C O S T
S A V E

Spaying and neutering are good for **rabbits** too.

Online Activity Sheet

IT'S A GREEN LIFE

1 c
2 a
3 g
4 b
5 f
6 d
7 e

THIS PAGE: KATHY MILANI/THE HSUS

You are now receiving the Junior edition of *Kind News*. If you prefer a more challenging reading level, you may switch to the **Senior edition**. If you prefer a less challenging reading level, you may switch to the **Primary edition**. Please allow 6-8 weeks for your new edition to arrive.

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KIND NEWS

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