

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

PRIMARY EDITION • FEB/MAR 2016

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

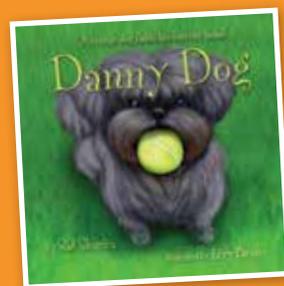
KIND TIME

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?

BOOK NOOK



Danny Dog: A rescue dog finds his forever home, by Sid Shapira is the heartwarming, true story of a lovable dog found wandering outside a store by two children. Realizing that they aren't able to keep him, the children are relieved when someone from an animal rescue group agrees to find him a home. But weeks go by as the little dog waits patiently for someone to adopt him. Children will rejoice when after a potential adoption falls through, Danny finally finds his forever home.



...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

A PUBLICATION OF



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

ANSWERS

February 23 is
World Spay Day!

FROM PAGE 7

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



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ACTIVITY SHEET

It's a Green Life

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2 a 4 d

CRITTER CLUES

Can your child guess the
mystery critter?

- 1 I have strong, short legs and clawed feet. They help me dig my underground home.
- 2 I have many calls, including yips, barks, chirps and squeaks.
- 3 My "barking" gave me my name.
- 4 We eat grass, weeds and flowers growing on our prairie home.
- 5 One of my relatives gets a lot of attention on February 2.

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 ground-hogs), 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 to help prairie dogs at prairiedogcoalition.org.



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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