

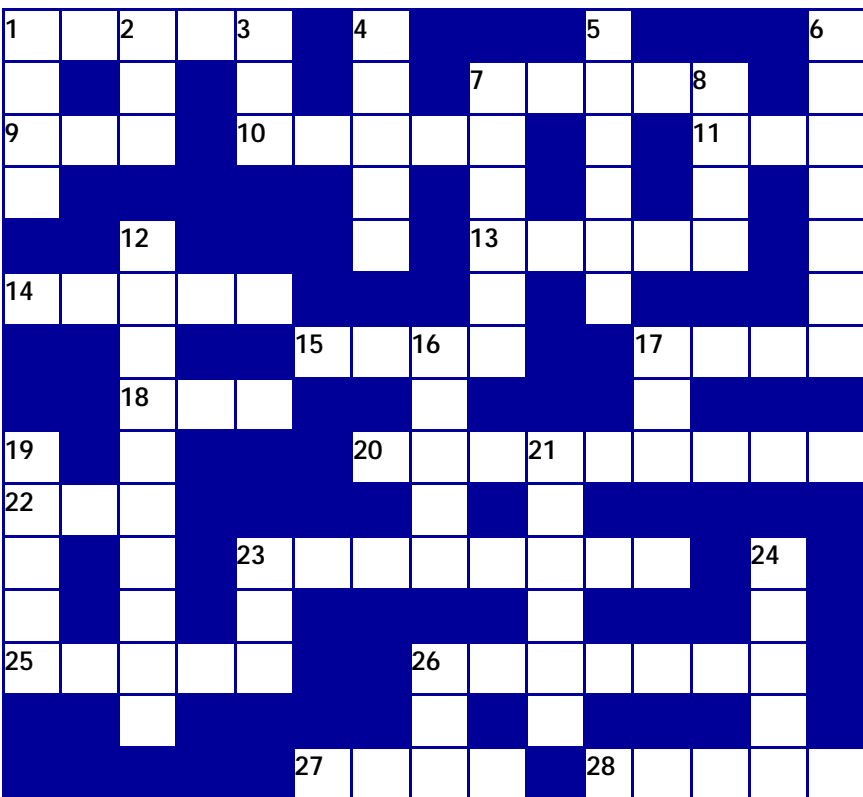
Hello!! Welcome to the second issue of *Animals & Us*. Kids all across Canada are reading this newspaper. Visit our web site at www.cfhs.ca for the online version. Let us know what you think. We want to hear from you. You can write to the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies at 30 Concourse Gate, Suite 102 Nepean, ON, K2E 7V7 or e-mail to cfhs@cfhs.ca.

Know Before You Go

Thinking of getting a pet? Remember it is best to learn about the animal you want before you go out and get it. Check out your local library or book store for detailed pet care guides. There's lots of good information on the internet too. Also, talk to someone who has the kind of animal you want and ask lots of questions. Ask what makes having the animal fun and what is not so fun - such as cleaning cages, going for walks in the rain and providing food and water every day.

Quick Fact
52% of Canadian households have companion animals. An estimated 3 million dogs and 4 million cats live in Canada.

When you are ready to get a pet, the first place to visit is your local SPCA shelter. You and your parents will find many different types of animals available for adoption to good homes. These animals are looking for a second chance and need your love and attention.



Across Answers on p. 4

1. What your dog will do if he runs into a skunk. (See p. 3)
7. Laws passed by a town. (See p. 1)
9. ___ patience when training animals. (See p. 2)
10. Baleen is one type of this mammal. (See p. 2)
11. Something all animals need.
13. ___ the SPCA shelter to find a pet. (See p. 1)
14. A hollow sharp spine. (See p. 3)
15. A male guinea pig. (See p. 2)
17. A guinea pig. (See p. 2)
18. German Shepherd.
22. Be careful when you ___ the garden that you don't cut worms.
23. Fertilizer left behind by worms. (See p. 3)
25. A training aid. (See p. 2)
26. A sea mammal who can jump very high. (See p. 4)
27. A baby sheep.
28. A dog's best protection. (See p. 3)

- Down**
1. Snail without a shell. (See p. 4)
 2. Dolly is one. (See p. 2)
 3. The Criminal Code. (See p. 1)
 4. One of the jobs of a responsible dog owner. (See p. 2)
 5. What you should say when you ask for something.
 6. An insect that glows.
 7. Canada's national animal. (See p. 4)
 8. It's hard to do. (See p. 2)
 12. An historical period that was bad for cats. (See p. 2)
 16. You can ___ a pet from the SPCA. (See p. 1)
 17. Can be used to rescue an insect. (See p. 4)
 19. A noise guinea pigs make. (See p. 2)
 21. Beavers sometimes dig these. (See p. 4)
 23. Animal first domesticated by the Egyptians. (See p. 2)
 24. Worms don't have any of these.
 26. A beaver's claim to fame. (See p. 4)

Legal Beagles: Laws for Animals

In Canada there are several different kinds of laws about animals. Some laws protect people from animals. Other laws protect animals from people.

Most municipalities have animal control bylaws with rules about keeping dogs and cats. Usually they say you must licence your dog or cat, keep it on a leash whenever you leave your yard, and clean up its droppings. Bylaws protect both people and animals.



Most provinces have a provincial law to protect animals. This law usually gives SPCA constables the authority to investigate cases of cruelty to animals. Your local SPCA can tell you what the law is in your province.

The *Criminal Code of Canada* is a group of laws that all Canadians must obey. One small part of the law talks about animals. It says people must not cause unnecessary pain or suffering to an animal. Anyone found guilty of breaking the law can be fined up to \$2000 or sentenced to as long as two years in jail. A judge can also rule that they can't own animals for up to two years.

The "Cruelty to Animals" section was written over 100 years ago. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies has urged reform of the *Criminal Code* "Cruelty to Animals" sections for more than 18 years. The way it is now, someone who badly abuses his dog could still get the dog back again or be able to own other animals. Also, the law only protects animals because they are someone's property.

Last fall, Justice Minister Anne McLellan announced new legislation to strengthen the "Cruelty to Animals" sections. If the new law is passed, people convicted of serious animal cruelty could go to jail for up to five years and be fined a lot more than \$2000. A judge could also ban them from owning animals for the rest of their lives.

The new amendments will also move animals from the property section of the *Criminal Code* to their own section, an important step that recognizes that animals should not be treated in the same way as nonliving things.

Changing the *Criminal Code* is an important step forward for animals. Now, if only there was a law that could make EVERYBODY love animals!



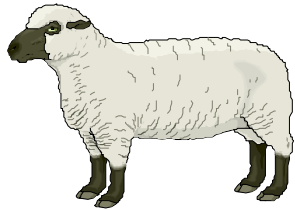
Q What do animals give people who want to save Antarctica?

A A seal of approval

Do you have an animal riddle or joke to share? E-mail it to animals&us@cfhs.ca

Test Your Ewe-Q

1. A female sheep is called a ewe. What's a male sheep?
2. The wool cut off a sheep is called a ____.
3. A group of sheep is called a ____.
4. Why is Dolly the sheep famous?
 - a) She starred in a movie
 - b) She was the first animal born from cloning.
 - c) She lived to be 40 years old.
5. How many domesticated sheep are there in the world?
 - a) <1 million
 - b) <1 billion
 - c) >1 billion



True or false?

6. A sheep has no upper front teeth.
7. A sheep has four stomachs like a cow.
8. Sheep were only recently domesticated.
9. Sheep are born without tails.
10. Sheep have scent glands in their hind feet.

A Pig in the Bedroom

A guinea pig, that is. Guinea pigs make great pets and, of course, they're not pigs at all. Officially called cavies, guinea pigs are rodents. No one seems to know why they are called guinea pigs but female guinea pigs are called sows and males are called boars, just like real pigs.

Guinea pigs are herd animals and are best kept in small groups of the same sex. If you have two males living together, never put a female in with them or they will start fighting. Like other herd animals, guinea pigs have a strong pecking order. The top guinea pig can boss all the others and so on down the line. It's important to make sure guinea pigs have enough room to escape any bullying that may happen.

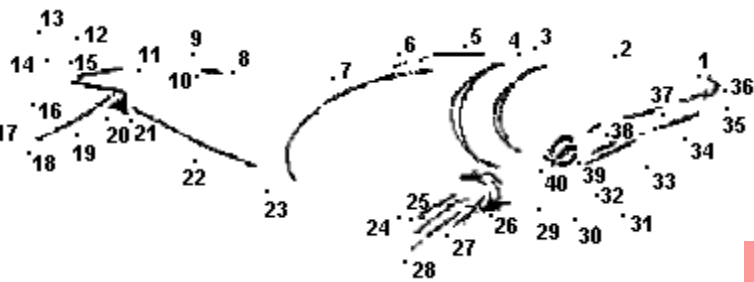


Guinea pigs communicate both by sound and body language. A contented guinea pig will grunt or coo. A lonely guinea pig will squeal for attention. An angry guinea pig rumbles. Guinea pigs make one sound only for humans. They "wheet" when they want food.

Have you ever seen your guinea pig leap straight up into the air while curving her back, or running across the floor and making several shorter leaps in rapid succession? This jumping is called "popcorning" and is the sign of a healthy and happy guinea pig.

Moby Digit

Minke whales are one of the smallest of the baleen whales. Baleen whales are toothless but have two rows of horny plates called baleen hanging from their upper jaws. They use the baleen to filter food from sea water.



Strange But True

The Canadian Cat Association lists only 40 breeds of cat but the Canadian Kennel Club recognizes over 160 different breeds of dogs. Cats of all breeds are about the same size. Dog breeds range in size from the tiny chihuahua to the huge Irish Wolfhound.

How to Train the Kind Way

It's great to have a well trained dog, but training can be very frustrating if not done properly. Successful training is done with patience and understanding, not force. Training with love is much more enjoyable for everyone involved!

It's important to remember a few simple rules when training a dog. First, you need to get the dog to perform the behaviour you want without using any commands. This may sound easy, but remember that it must be done without using any force.

Secondly, every time the dog does what you want him to do, you must reward him immediately so that he knows he did something right. Use treats that are very small so you can use a lot and you won't waste time waiting for your dog to chew.

Once the dog consistently does what you want, slowly introduce the command associated with that behaviour. Gradually eliminate the treats and you will have a dog who listens to your commands because he knows that it makes you happy!

Once the command is introduced, remember to give it only once. You do not want to teach your dog to ignore you.

Finally, remember to be cheerful and have fun. Do not

make the training sessions too long, or everyone will lose interest. Also, it's important to finish all training sessions with a successful response. Keep smiling and be positive...and you'll be amazed at what your dog can do!

Teach Your Dog to Sit

Take a small treat and hold it slightly above your dog's head. When your dog looks up, he will go into the sitting position. As soon as your dog sits, give him the treat and praise him.

Repeat the exercise many times until your dog starts to understand what you want. Only after he is sitting consistently should you use the word "sit". If the word is used too early, your dog will not associate the behaviour with the command. Also, remember to say the command only once, and then wait for the behaviour. Repeating the command teaches the dog that it is all right to ignore you.

When doing this exercise, resist the temptation to push your dog's behind down as this may actually hinder your dog's response to the command.



Cats and People

The cat was the last animal to be domesticated. First came the dog as hunter, then horse as transportation, and cattle and pigs as workers and sources of food.

Cats decided to make friends with people not for affection, but because they couldn't resist all the tasty mice that roamed the granaries of Egypt!

The oldest known evidence of a domesticated cat was found in an Egyptian tomb dating back 4,500 years. Egyptians considered the cat the most sacred of all animals. In 1890 archaeologists uncovered over 300,000 cat mummies in Egypt. The cats were still enclosed in their cases of engraved wood or wrapped in rich bandages of various colours.

While cats were revered for thousands of years, in the Middle Ages they went through a period of unpopularity because they were considered evil and linked to witchcraft. So many cats were destroyed they nearly became extinct.

The cat's popularity began to return in the 18th century as society became more knowledgeable about the intelligence of cats.

Today, cats are among the most popular pets. Each cat has his own character and personality, some more intelligent than others, some more affectionate, some more timid or placid.

Most cats like to be made a fuss of so long as they choose their own time. A cat may be waiting at the door for you when you come home. He will walk round and round your legs purring loudly and making a great fuss of you. The next minute he may see something of interest in the next room and be gone. That is how a cat is, affectionate one moment and off on his own business the next. And that's what we love about cats!



Coin Critters

Design a coin critter. Use coins from any country. Draw around the outside of the coins with a pencil. Add legs and features to your creatures. Erase the unwanted pencil marks (shown as broken lines below).

Bucks Bunny



Penny Caterpillar



Loonie Bird



Can you make a sitting cat from 3 coins? A bear from 4? How about a horse from 7 (draw in legs and tail)? See what other animals you can make using different sized coins.

Ouch!



Porcupines do not throw their quills. But if your dog chases and touches one, the porcupine's quills will come out of the porcupine and stick in the dog's nose. He will have to be taken to a veterinarian to have them removed. Protect your dog from this painful experience by keeping him on a leash.



Join Up!

Colour the picture then write to the Kindness Club at 65 Brunswick St, Fredericton, NB E3B 1G5 to get a copy of their new colouring book. It's free! The book is available in French too.

Many SPCAs and humane societies have clubs for kids who like animals. For example, the Calgary Humane Society has a Kids for Animals Club. They held a bake sale in February and raised over \$200 to buy a camera for the Protection Department.

If you're lucky enough to live in a community with an SPCA, find out whether they have a club. Ask the person who gave you this paper. You can join the Kindness Club no matter where you live. If there's no local club for you to join, maybe you could start a club at your school.

Phew!

Stand still if you see a skunk. Skunks do not like to spray you. They will warn you that they might spray by stamping their feet, holding up their tails and by hissing. Back away slowly.

Dogs are one of the few animals that will chase a skunk. If your dog gets sprayed by one,

wash him right away with one of the special "skunk off" shampoos available in pet stores. You can also use tomato juice but it's much messier.



Winding, Wiggling Worms

What could possibly be appealing about a slimy, crawling creature that lives in dirt? While we might not think earthworms are pretty, none of us would be here without them.

Earthworms are found all over the world, wherever there is dirt. Your own backyard may contain as many as 50,000 worms. That's like having 50,000 tiny gardeners working the soil. In one year, those earthworms will move tons of soil when they burrow through the ground eating dirt and dead leaves. The earthworm passes this food through its digestive system, leaving behind piles of dirt called "castings". These castings are rich in nutrients that fertilize the soil. And without healthy soil we would not have any trees or plants, which we need to live.

Did you ever notice that sidewalks and paved roads are littered with many earthworms after a spring rain? People used to think the worms fell from the sky. Actually, earthworms have to leave their flooded burrows or they could drown. They cannot remain above ground for long, though. Earthworms breathe by absorbing oxygen through their wet skin. If they remain above ground the sun will dry out their skin, and they will not be able to breathe.

There are over 3,000 kinds of earthworms. The giant Australian worm can grow to be 12 feet long! But most earthworms are only a few inches long. All earthworms, whether short or long, are basically alike. Earthworms have no bones. Their bodies are made up of rings of muscles and they move by stretching, then squeezing these muscles. They can twist into all kinds of shapes, even knots. Sometimes if a robin catches an earthworm by the tail, the worm will pull away and its tail snaps off. The earthworm can grow a new tail.

People often do not realize the importance of all animals in maintaining life on our planet. Earthworms may be small, but their job as "nature's gardeners" is a big one.

Help earthworms! After a rainstorm, most earthworms on pavement wiggle back to soil. However, if the sun comes out, move earthworms off paved areas to nearby soil before they get baked to death.

When a Pet Dies

The happiness our pets give us is always balanced by the pain of saying goodbye when they die. Whether your pet dies from old age, disease or through accidental death, you will feel upset, lonely, and maybe even a bit guilty about something you did or did not do for your pet. You may cry a lot, not want to eat much and you may not sleep too well for several days. You need time to grieve when a pet dies. It's normal even though some people may not understand.

What can you do now? You may want to buy a new pet right away or you may not want a new pet for awhile. Give yourself and your family some time to think about what is best.

When you feel up to it, make a memory book. Use a looseleaf binder, scrapbook or photo album. Write a poem about your pet or a story about the way you feel. Record memories of the good times you had with your pet, something about his or her personality - little things like treats, games, tricks that he or she liked. You might want to include your pet's licence or tags, along with photographs or drawings you made of him or her.

Plant a tree or garden in memory of your pet.

Maybe you want to give a donation in memory of your pet to an organization that helps animals such as your local animal shelter.

"Be Kind to Animals" and "Animal Health" Week

May 7 to 13 is *Be Kind to Animals Week* in many countries of the world. Here in Canada, it's also Animal Health Week. Make this a special week for animals.

- ☺ Spend extra time with your own animals this week.
- ☺ Find out whether your local SPCA and veterinarians are offering special programs. Take part.
- ☺ Make a "Be Kind to Animals" poster to put on a bulletin board in your school or library.
- ☺ Write a letter to the editor of your local paper reminding people to "Be Kind to Animals."

On the Net

When you're looking for information on the internet, a good place to start is **Ask Jeeves for Kids** at <http://www.ajkids.com>. It's a search engine. Take their **Pet Tour** or **Sea Mammals Tour** to visit interesting sites.

Check out the **BC SPCA** site at <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca> for pet care information and their **Youth Helping Animals** page at <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/kidshome.htm>.

You can find all kinds of interesting information about guinea pigs on the internet. To learn lots about guinea pigs, visit the **Guinea Pig Compendium** at <http://www.aracnet.com/~seagull/Guineas>. Another good place to visit is **Hunny's home page** at <http://www.jsite.com/hunny/default.htm>. You'll find tips and stories about guinea pigs.

To learn more about Canada's wildlife, visit the **Canadian Wildlife Service** at <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>. Drop in to **Owl Kids Online** at <http://www.owl.on.ca>. For environmental information, be sure to check out **Ecokids Online** at <http://ecokids.earthday.ca>.

Your Turn

What is your favourite animal and why?

Who is the nicest person you know and why?

Write your answer to one of these questions and send it to **Animals & Us**. You'll find the address on the front page. Here's what some of our readers at Elmer Park School in Calgary, Alberta had to say about the questions in the last issue.

1. What is the most amazing thing you ever saw an animal do?

One winter I was washing my hands to get ready for supper. To my great surprise, my cat jumped onto the counter and started to bite and fight the water. After he had finished, he looked up at me and meowed. I was about to call my mom to get the video camera so that we could phone "World's Funniest Videos" and win \$10,000, but then he jumped down. It would have been so funny for the world to see my cat fighting water.

Justine Houghton

Did you know that some dolphins can jump over 15 feet high? The dolphins in Sea World in San Diego, California, were amazing. They were doing flips and jumping really high. A dolphin jumped right over a 15 foot high rope!

Brandon Fogerheim

2. What is the kindest thing you ever say a person do?

I was in Canmore and I was going on a bike ride with ten kids and two adults. We biked through trees and through water. Then we started to go home, and I was way ahead of everybody. I didn't know that everybody turned onto a different path. I got to a bridge and I turned around and no one was there. I felt alone and scared and I started to cry.

Soon a woman approached me and asked if I needed help. I said that I did and I explained that I was lost. She offered to bring me to her house. I knew I wasn't supposed to talk to strangers, but I knew in my heart that she was a good person.

We walked to her house and I called my Mum and Dad. My relieved and thankful parents soon came and picked me up.

I was only lost for forty minutes but it seemed like forever. I would like to thank the kind stranger for helping me find my parents.

Megan



Busy as a Beaver

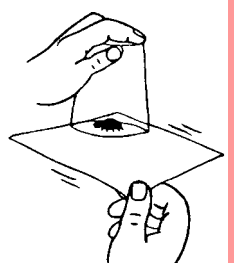
Are there some days when you're as busy as a beaver? Have you ever been an eager beaver? These expressions are good descriptions of Canada's national animal.

Using their powerful jaws and two sharp front teeth, beavers can cut down trees with trunks as much as 76 cm in diameter. Of course, they prefer smaller trees of 5 cm to 20 cm. They build "logging trails" to drag the trees to their pond. Sometimes they will build canals to float the trees back home.

Everyone knows beavers build dams. Did you know they only build them if they need to create a pond deep enough that it will not freeze to the bottom? Beaver dams keep the stream flow steady, prevent stream bed erosion, create trout ponds, and improve habitat for many forms of wildlife. The Canadian Wildlife Service's *Hinterland Who's Who* series calls beavers "nature's great conservationists."

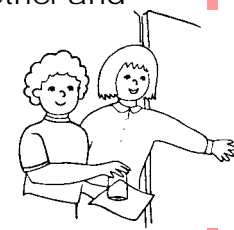
Give Bugs a Break

Spiders, insects, slugs, snails and other tiny creatures are important parts of the environment. Sometimes they get into trouble because they end up in places that are not safe for them like in the classroom or on sidewalks. You can help. Rescue them! By carefully moving a creature to a place that is safe, you may well have saved its life. Here is how to rescue insects.

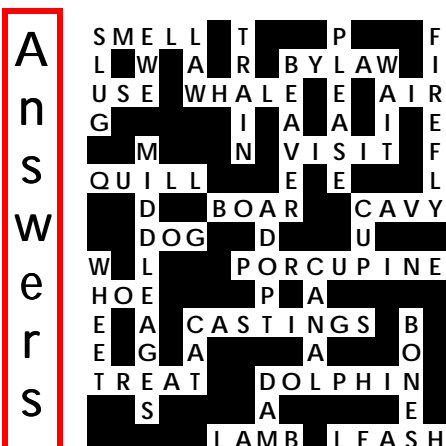
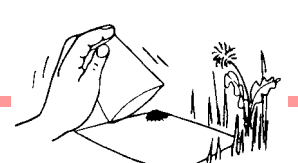


Carefully place a clear glass or jar over the creature. Be careful not to squash its legs under the rim. Gently slide a piece of stiff paper under the cup to make a floor. Lift the paper and the glass together and move the creature to safety.

Remember to ask a friend to hold the doors open for you as you walk outside.



Release the creature to a safe spot. Most insects prefer to be in a wooded area or on grass where people don't walk.



Test Your Ewe-Q

1. Ram
2. Fleece
3. Flock
4. b)
5. c) More than 1 billion
6. True
7. True
8. False. *They were domesticated 11,000 years ago.*
9. False. *Lambs' tails are usually docked (cut off).*
10. True

