

Animals, Eh

www.cfhs.ca/Kids

Animals, Eh? is a newspaper for kids who like animals. Young people all across Canada are reading it. We'd like to know what you think. You can write to the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies at 30 Concourse Gate, Suite 102, Ottawa, ON, K2E 7V7 or e-mail to info@cfhs.ca. We want to hear from you .



Back Home at Last

Recently the pet detectives at the Calgary Humane Society were able to reunite a lost cat with his owners. Not that unusual for an organization that returns 850 lost pets to their homes every year. So what was so special about this cat? He had been missing for six years!

A lady called the shelter concerned about a stray cat she had been feeding for the last few months. She thought he was walking stiffly and seemed unwell, but she couldn't catch him.

The Cat Concerns Officer set a cat trap on the property where the stray cat hung out. The trap had yummy salmon inside as bait. What cat can resist an open can of salmon? The stray went inside the trap, had a picnic on the salmon, and there he sat, ready for his trip to the shelter.

At the shelter, the veterinarian examined him. The cat looked rough with tangled mats down his back, but he was a wonderful love bug. He gave everyone kitty head butts, hugs and little kisses.

Shelter staff found a tattoo in his right ear. That meant the cat was neutered and, best of all, he had a record. The staff looked up his information. The tattoo records said he was fifteen years old and his name was Gus. Most importantly, the records had his people's address and telephone number. The shelter called the number.

The people had moved but kept the same phone number. As soon as they got the call, they rushed to the shelter to see the cat. Could he be their Gus who had gone missing six years ago? He was! Gus finally got to go home all because of the tattoo in his ear. How great is that?



What kind of identification does your pet have? A microchip? A tattoo? An ID tag? None? Better get some right away!

If you lose your pet, check with your local animal shelter.

Look on www.petlynx.com as well. It's a web site where people can register their pets and report ones they've lost or found. Soon, lost animals brought to humane societies will be listed too.

Harry Potter and the Owls

The owls in Harry Potter have created quite a stir. Where would Harry and his friends be without them? We have snail mail, they have owl mail. The owls have many fans and some animal welfare groups are worried people will get owls for pets.

Of course, in the real world, we know that owls are wild animals, not mail carriers or pets. But in the magical world of Harry Potter, it's fun to think of owls swooping in with letters and parcels in their beaks or claws.

While the way the owls behave is imaginary, J.K. Rowling makes them look real. When you were reading, did you notice how many different species of owls she names? At Eeylops Owl Emporium, young wizards can buy a tawny owl, screech owl, barn owl or snowy owl. Later on in the books, we hear about more different species: eagle owl, scops owl, great grey owl.

Harry's owl, Hedwig, is a female snowy owl. The snowy is the heaviest North American owl. An average female weighs 2.3 kilograms, stands almost half a metre tall, and has a wingspan of almost 1.5 metres. Adult males are white. Females are white with bars of dark brown running across their feathers. Younger birds have more brown than older ones. The top of a snowy owl's head looks round.

Snowy owls are native to northern Canada, but don't live in England where the Harry Potter books take place. The snowy owl is the official bird of Quebec.

Draco Malfoy's owl is an eagle owl. Eagle owls are not found in North America or in England, but they are found in Europe. They are the largest European owl. They are dark-coloured, with ear tufts and orange eyes. Eagle owls are close relatives of the great horned owl, a common bird of prey in Canada.

Why do you think J.K. Rowling made Harry's bird a snowy owl and Draco's an eagle owl?

If you like owls, you can learn lots of neat information about real owls and mythical owls at www.owlpages.com.

Owl Trivia

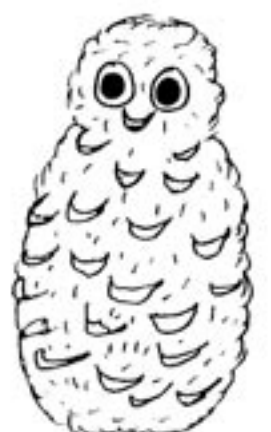
- Owls' eyes do not move. Instead, owls can twist their heads almost three quarters of the way around without moving their bodies.
- The great horned owl is one of the skunk's few natural predators.
- No owl builds its own nest.
- Female owls are larger than males.
- Sixteen of the world's 146 species of owl live in Canada.

Cone Snowy Owl

Materials:

- one pine cone that is flat on the bottom
- polyester toy stuffing
- eyes: plastic, felt, paper or lima beans
- glue

Poke bits of stuffing in all the spaces between the bracts or leaves of the cone. Leave the ends of the bracts showing. Tease the stuffing so it is fluffy-looking. Glue eyes on either side of a bract used as a beak.



What's wrong with this picture?



Answers on p. 4

If you enjoy these stories and puzzles, you'll find lots more online at www.cfhs.ca/Kids.

Dogs Can Bite!

Dogs are our best friends, but they can also bite. Here's how to love dogs and be safe at the same time.

Why dogs bite

Dogs don't go looking to bite any more than drivers go looking to hit with their cars. Dogs are safe. We can count on them to love and protect us. But even a friendly dog may bite if threatened, angry, afraid or hurt.



Dogs protect things

Just as humans do, dogs protect things they care about—food, puppies, favourite toys. They also protect spaces—their own and their owners'. Dogs will defend eating and sleeping areas, yards, porches and parked cars. And they protect people.



What might a dog in a car do if you reached through the window to pet him? Right. He might bite your hand to protect his car! What might a dog do if you ran into his yard to get a ball you just hit over the fence?

Dogs bite in play

Your dog may get excited while playing and think you're another dog. When dogs play-fight with each other, they use their mouths and teeth. You don't have a fur coat to protect you, so don't wrestle with your dog. Don't play chase or tug-of-war either. Instead, teach him to fetch a ball.

Dogs may bite out of fear

Cornering, crowding or standing over a dog may make him feel threatened. Stand back and never put your face close to a dog's mouth.

A loose dog may be lost, frightened or injured—and more likely to bite. If you see a stray dog, stay away and call an adult to help the dog.

Sick or injured dogs may be afraid or irritable. Leave them alone and get an adult to help.

Elderly dogs may not be able to see and hear very well. You may startle them. Let them know you are there.

Good Idea or Bad Idea?

1. Staring at a dog.
2. Hugging a dog.
3. Taking your dog for a walk.
4. Teasing a dog.
5. Patting a dog on the head.
6. Leaving your dog alone when she doesn't want to play.
7. Teaching your dog to take a treat from your mouth.
8. Running past a dog.
9. Taking your dog to obedience school.
10. Playing tug-of-war with your dog.

Answers

1. **Bad idea.** To a dog, a stare is very threatening. In dog language, it's an invitation to fight.
2. **Bad idea.** Your own dog may accept your hugs because he trusts you, but most dogs don't like to be held. Never hug anyone else's dog.
3. **Good idea.** Take your dog for a walk at least twice a day. Let her use up some of her energy and see lots of different places and people. Make sure she's on a leash, though.
4. **Bad idea.** Sometimes children tease a dog without realizing it. For example, playing just out of the reach of a dog that's tied up.
5. **Bad idea.** Many dogs are afraid of a hand coming from above. Instead, stroke the dog on the chest or under the chin. And of course, ask the dog's owner for permission first. In dog language, when one dog puts part of his body on top of another dog, he's saying he's the boss of the other dog. If the bottom dog doesn't agree, he'll fight.
6. **Good idea.** Respect your dog's need for time to herself.
7. **Bad idea.** He could easily nip you by mistake. Keep your face away from your dog's mouth. That goes for licking too. Let him kiss your hand not your face.
8. **Bad idea.** It's natural for dogs to chase. Walk past dogs. If a dog approaches you, stand still with your arms by your sides.
9. **Good idea.** You'll learn how to get your dog to listen to you and behave himself.
10. **Bad idea.** Rough games teach your dog to be aggressive. You will make him more likely to bite.

Just in Case

Sometimes disasters happen such as forest fires, tornadoes or ice storms. People have to leave their homes in a hurry. Can you think of other times when people have to evacuate their homes? Perhaps it's something much smaller, like your furnace breaks down in the winter and you have to move in with friends. What happens to pets?

Be prepared. Pack a pail with supplies for your pets. You may have to leave them in a temporary shelter, so include a sheet of information too.

Collar or harness and leash



Make sure your pets always wear ID.

Information Sheet

- Pet's name.
- Basic words your pet understands.
- Type of food he eats.
- Feeding routine.
- Any other information that will help caregivers look after your pet until you get him back.



Q How does a cat get his own way?

A With friendly persuasion!

Dream Career: Canadian National Park Warden

Has your teacher ever asked you to write about what you'd like to be when you grow up? Wes Olson's grade four teacher asked the students to describe their dream. She made a booklet of all the compositions and gave every member of the class a copy. Mr. Olson still has his more than thirty years later. In grade four, he said he wanted to be a forest ranger. Today, he's a National Park Warden.

Park wardens work in Canada's thirty-nine national parks. Wardens look after the land and the animals, keep park visitors safe, and make sure everyone follows the rules. If you enjoy camping and other outdoor activities, being a park warden may be the career for you. You'll need a university degree in one of the sciences and lots of experience in the outdoors: canoeing, camping, mountain climbing, skiing.

According to Mr. Olson, you have to be determined and stubborn to get a job, but it's worth it. "Park wardens get to live and work in the nicest parts of this country. National parks are set aside because they are special places. They are the best this country has to offer as far as wild and unique places, and we're paid to live and work in them."

Mr. Olson is a warden in Elk Island National Park near Edmonton, Alberta. It's the only national park that is fenced. The earliest parks were set aside to protect scenic wonders, like the hot springs in Banff. Elk Island was the first set aside to protect wildlife. It's best known for its herds of bison.

For more information about becoming a park warden, visit the Parks Canada web site at www.parkscanada.gc.ca. Whether you're in grade four or junior high, it's not too early to start thinking about your dream career.

Protecting Park Visitors

Wardens protect wildlife from people and people from wildlife. Sometimes park visitors do very dangerous things.

One day, park warden Wes Olson came upon a man who thought he was helping a bull bison take a dust bath. The bison was rolling in the dirt, having a good scratch, and the man was standing next to him, kicking dirt on his back. The man didn't seem to realize that bison can be very dangerous, especially during rutting or breeding season, which this was.

Suddenly, the big bull lurched to his feet and charged. The man fled into the bush and stood behind a little tree. Luckily for him, the bison went back to rolling once the intruder was out of his space. (Read "Bison Bubbles" on p. 4 to see why.) But the man came back and started throwing dirt again.

Who knows what would have happened if Mr. Olson hadn't driven his truck between the bull and the man! It's unfortunate that people feed or otherwise interfere with wildlife. They may think they're helping the animals, but actually they're hurting them, and may end up hurting themselves too.



Horses work in many of the national parks. In the mountains, horses are the best way to check out the backcountry trails. They can take wardens where vehicles can't go.

In Elk Island National Park, horses are popular with park visitors. Here a crowd gathers as park warden Wes Olson gets Judge ready to ride through the campground to make sure everything is okay.

Rescuing Animals

Rescuing people is one part of the job. Rescuing animals is another.

Once, Wes Olson had to rescue a bison that was upside-down in a ditch. He knew it was a dangerous job even for someone as experienced as he was.

The bison was thrashing on his back, unable to get up. He was bloated, his body cavity filled with air like a balloon. There was no time to waste. If a big animal like that can't get up, it will die from the weight of the internal organs.

Mr. Olson flipped a rope around the bison's horns and fastened the other end to his truck. Then he used his knife to cut a v-shaped notch in the bison's side at just the right place to let all the air out.

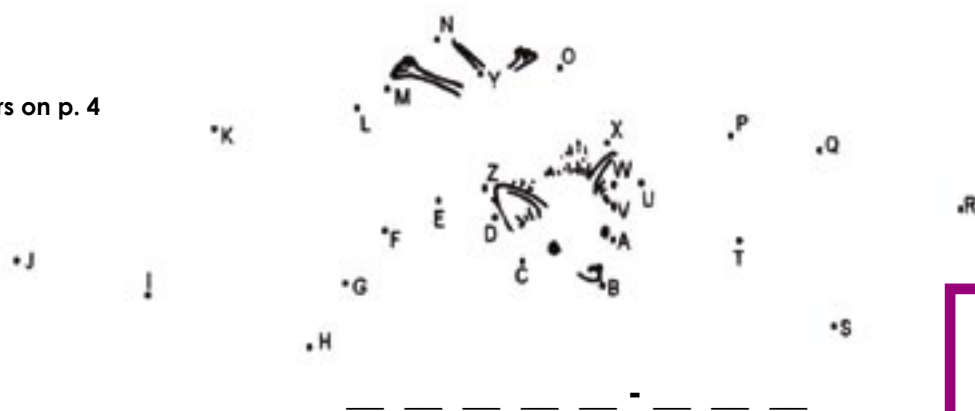
Now that the bison was no longer bloated, Mr. Olson used the truck to pull the big animal onto his chest. He then propped up the bison with sandbags so he could stay on his chest, the way you see cows lying in a field.

After awhile, the lucky bull bison was strong enough to get up and trot away. Park Warden Olson had saved his life.

Puzzles Answers on p. 4

Join the dots

Follow the letters to find the only mammal capable of true flight. Can you guess the title of this puzzle?



Break the code

Do the math then write the letters in the boxes to reveal the hidden message.

2+7= <u> </u> A	6-4= <u> </u> E	6×3= <u> </u> I	12÷2= <u> </u> N	15÷5= <u> </u> S
5×2= <u> </u> B	5×1= <u> </u> F	18+2= <u> </u> K	16-5= <u> </u> P	11-4= <u> </u> T
6+8= <u> </u> D	4+4= <u> </u> H	10-6= <u> </u> M	1+0= <u> </u> R	9+6= <u> </u> U

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6	2	15	7	2	1	2	14	11	2	7	3	4	9	20	2
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7	8	2	10	2	3	7	5	1	18	2	6	14	3		

Some cold-blooded animals survive the winter by producing their own antifreeze.

The opossum is the only marsupial native to Canada.

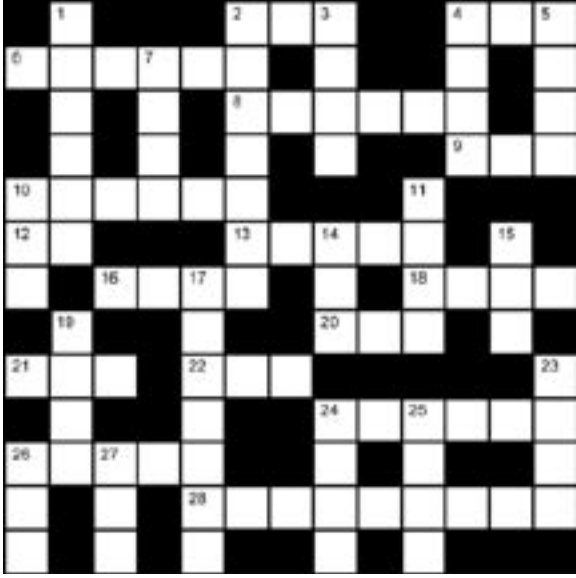
More animals live in the sea than on land.

Only 5% of all animal species have backbones.

QUICK FACTS

Cats cannot chew. They use their teeth to cut and tear their food.

Crossword



Across

- 2 A gentle touch.
- 4 Something a dog will protect. (See p. 2)
- 6 What dogs and cats should wear to hold their ID tags.
- 8 The colour of an eagle owl's eyes. (See p. 1)
- 9 Mr. Olson's first name. (See p. 3)
- 10 Kind.
- 12 You and me.
- 13 Don't encourage your dog to do this. (See p. 2)
- 16 Where a bird lays its eggs. (See p. 1)
- 18 What the man stood behind when the bison charged him. (See p. 3)
- 20 He was missing for six years. (See p. 1)
- 21 Popular pet.
- 22 Female sheep.
- 24 Our personal space is like being inside one of these. (See p. 4)
- 26 Body swelling caused by gas. (See p. 3)
- 28 The only national park that has a fence around it. (See p. 3)

Down

- 1 Animals that help wardens in the national parks. (See p. 3)
- 2 Something dogs do. (See p. 2)
- 3 Sometimes SPCAs will use a special one of these to catch lost animals. (See p. 1)
- 4 Cats can't do this to their food. (See p. 3)
- 5 What a wild animal does if you enter its escape zone. (See p. 4)
- 7 Unable to find the way home.
- 10 Chewing __
- 11 Common word for companion animals.
- 14 Summer month (abbreviation)
- 15 Animal doctor.
- 17 A place for lost pets. (See p. 1)
- 19 Makes a good container for your pet's emergency suitcase. (See p. 2)
- 23 Not the best place to pat a dog. (See p. 2)
- 24 Can of salmon in a cat trap. (See p. 1)
- 25 Male bison. (See p. 3)
- 26 A flying mammal. (See p. 3)
- 27 Hedwig is one. (See p. 1)

Bison Bubbles

All animals, including people, have a personal space. That space is theirs and theirs alone. Imagine the space as a bubble.

Animals have three zones within their bubbles. They are the awareness zone, the escape zone, and the fight zone. Where you are in relation to these zones determines the animal's response to you.

Awareness zone

Suppose you're hiking down a wooded trail. You walk around a bend in the trail and see a lone bull bison several hundred metres away in a large clearing. He is completely unaware of you. You decide to continue walking toward him. He eventually lifts his head, acknowledging your existence. At this point, you are not a threat to him and he may continue grazing as though you were not there. He is keenly aware of your presence, but waits until the last minute to react.

Escape zone

You continue a bit closer, entering his escape zone. At this point, the bison has three choices. 1. He can remain where he is in the hope that you are not going to come any closer. 2. He can move away from you. 3. He can try to move you away from him. For most wild animals, the option of leaving is the least stressful. The bison walks away around a small hill and disappears from sight. He has removed you from his escape zone.

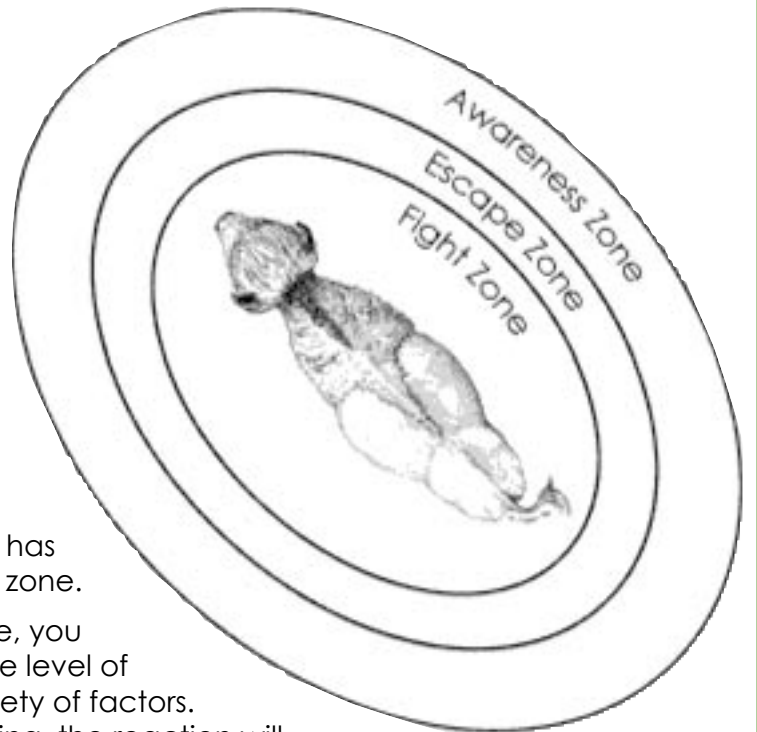
By invading his escape zone, you forced the animal to react. The level of reaction depends upon a variety of factors. Given enough advance warning, the reaction will usually be a slow drifting off. If you arrive suddenly within a bison's escape zone, however, his reaction could be much more spectacular with an explosive run away from you. Bison caught in this circumstance rarely run far. They first run a short distance, not even sure what it was that startled them. Then they will turn and face you trying to determine what it was that came lumbering out of the forest at them.

Fight zone

You continue to walk around the hill, but from a different direction. Suddenly, you encounter the same bull at very close range. You now find yourself deep inside his fight zone. At this point, the bison has no choice but to fight instead of fleeing. You are far too close and represent an immediate danger to him. His reaction could be as gentle as a short, fake charge in your direction, or as serious as a full-blown charge and attack.

Play it safe

Seeing bison or other wildlife in their natural habitat is exciting, but remember that bubble. Respect the animal's personal space. Going inside the bubble is stressful for the animal and dangerous for you.



Your Turn

Jocko has bitten Travis, an eleven-year-old boy. It wasn't the dog's fault. How did it happen? Write a story called "The Bite". Then write a different story called "Friends for Life" about Jocko in a happy home.

Answers

What's wrong with this picture? (p. 1)

- Puppy and cat are both loose outside. (The shadow tells you it's outside.)
- Puppy is allowed to chase cat.
- Neither has a collar or ID tags.
- Did you think of anything else?

Join the Dots (p. 3): Alpha-Bat

Break the Code (p. 3)

NEUTERED PETS MAKE THE BEST FRIENDS

Crossword Puzzle (turn upside down to read)



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