

kind News™

Parent Guide

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Teaching kindness while helping to instill good reading habits in children.

KIND TIME

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF *KIND NEWS* PUBLISHED BY REDROVER! This issue features the first of an 8-part series on the emotional lives of cats and dogs, beginning with the behaviors cats display when they experience fear. Research shows that the ability to name emotional states is important to a sense of well-being. Talking about emotional states in animals provides an opportunity to discuss emotional states in general. This can be a great way to set the tone for the school year and help your kids build positive relationships with classmates as well as pets.

ANIMAL EMOTIONS Read the animal emotions article with your child. Then, together look in a mirror and pretend you are happy and then scared. Ask your child, “What is the same and what is different about how you and a cat look when scared?” “What is the same and what is different about how you and a cat look when happy?”

OPT TO ADOPT Thinking about bringing a new pet into your home? Go to RedRover.org/Resources and search Adoption to learn about the benefits of adopting your new pet. Do you and your family have time and space to foster animals in your home? Fostering is a fantastic way to help a local animal shelter that may not have enough space for all the animals brought to them. Contact a local animal shelter and ask about volunteering as a foster family. If you already have adopted an animal or foster, thank you!

THE AMAZING WORLD: THE NOTEBOOK Have your child pick an animal in your home or community to observe. Tell your child to sit comfortably, watch the animal and write down everything the animal does. Ask, “What behaviors do you see?” and “Did you come up with any questions about the behavior while you were watching?” If they have questions, research answers to the questions online with your child.

BOOK NOOK



The Restricted Adventures of Raja, written by Nicole Forsyth and

illustrated by Brian Huff, is an interactive graphic novel adventure app designed to help students understand emotional states. The story can be read in English or Spanish, and the Spanish version has text to audio. Information about animal behavior and discussion questions are built into the app, and there's a game called Animal Watch to help kids practice what they've learned. **Download this app for free on iTunes or Google Play.**

A PUBLICATION OF

Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

Our mystery critter is a horse. 🐾 Horses are large, hooved mammals. Most horses are domestic, meaning they are tame and people typically take care of them, but there are feral populations of horses in various parts of North America. 🐾 Feral horses live like wild animals and do not typically have people to take care of them. The only truly wild horse, not domesticated, that exists in the world is the endangered Przewalski's horse. 🐾 Przewalski's horse was saved from the brink of extinction and reintroduced successfully to the wild in Mongolia. Some people call a horse a companion animal, more like a pet, and others call horses farm animals, more like an animal humans use for food or fiber or to do work. Lots of horses are available to adopt just like other companion animals, but even more goes into the decision to adopt a horse. 🐾 Horses need other horses for companionship because they are herd animals and very social. Also, horses need shelter and a lot of space, and it can cost between \$200 and \$325 each month to feed and take care of one horse.



What would you do if you saw this cat?

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Answer: A

Ask students how they think the cat feels in the picture. Then ask what they would do if they saw a scared cat and they wanted to try to be friends.

The cat is displaying fear behavior, so trying to pet or play with a scared cat would not be good answers.

The best answer if someone wanted to try becoming friends with this cat is A.

B is also appropriate, but does not include an attempt at friendship.



You can also ask your child what they think might happen if they tried to pet this cat or waved around a cat toy.

Want to keep testing how well you and your child respond to animal emotions? Download *The Restricted Adventures of Raja* app for free, and play the complete Animal Watch game together! Available on iTunes or Google Play.

Kindness Pledge

Download the Kindness Pledge. Find more ideas for how your students can help animals in your community.

[RedRover.org/KindNews](https://www.redrover.org/KindNews)

Learn about RedRover's other programs that bring animals from crisis to care and strengthen the bond between people and animals.

RedRover.org

You are now receiving the Junior edition of Kind News. Beginning in 2018, the Senior and Junior editions will simply become one addition, called Kind News, and the addition for younger students, the Primary edition, will become Kind News, Jr.

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KIND NEWS

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