Meet Trooper

When Ms. Kimberley first met Trooper, a little puppy, he didn’t jump up or roll over at her feet. “He stayed in the back of his crate,” she says. The scared puppy had been living with 45 other dogs in a small home. The person taking care of the dogs had run out of dog food, and they were hungry!

Ms. Kimberley is a RedRover volunteer. This means she doesn’t get money for the work she does. She just helps animals because she wants to. Her volunteer job was to take care of Trooper after he was rescued from the home.

Giving him food and water was the easy part of her job. Getting him to not feel scared and come out of the crate to play was the hard part of her job.

Ms. Kimberley talked softly and moved slowly around Trooper. She gave him lots of time and waited for him to come to her. Little by little, Trooper came closer and closer to Ms. Kimberley. One day she saw him play with a toy for the first time!

The next day, he came over to her and touched her with his wet nose. And then, “He didn’t want to leave my arms!” Ms. Kimberley said. Trooper was ready to be adopted into a new family!

Kind Questions

Now that you’ve read Kind News, challenge yourself with these questions.

1. Why do you think Trooper was so scared?
2. When do you feel scared?
3. Why do you think Ms. Kimberley waited until Trooper came to her?
Cats, cats, millions of cats!

Many neighborhoods have lots of cats living outside. Do you see a lot of cats around your home? Some of these cats do not have people to take care of them.

How can you help cats?

If you have cats in your home or neighborhood, ask your family to make sure they can’t have kittens. Cats have kittens very quickly, and there are not enough homes for all the cats already alive.

It is also not good for the cats or for the wild animals they might hunt. Living outside without the right food or care is hard on cats.

Read the book, *Nobody’s Cats: How one little black kitty came in from the cold* by Valerie Ingram and Alistair Schroff. It is a heartwarming story about cats who live on their own and need some help. Visit RedRover.org/Readers for more book ideas and to learn more about this program, where kids learn about animals and emotions through stories.
What does a happy dog look like?

A happy dog’s body will look relaxed. Her mouth will be open and her tail will gently wag. No matter how you think a dog may feel, never pet someone’s dog without asking first!

Many dogs feel trapped in a hug, too, so even though your friends like hugs, never hug a dog!

How can you tell when a dog is scared?

A scared dog may lean her body away from you. She may tuck her tail between her legs and lower her head.

Have you ever wanted to hide under your bed when you were scared? When animals feel frightened they like to hide, too. If they can’t hide under a bed, they try to make themselves look small. Sometimes they feel scared and trapped. Maybe they are stuck on the end of a chain or a leash. Fearful dogs could be dangerous and are more likely to bite, so never go up to a dog who looks scared.

For more on dog behavior, visit RedRover.org/KindNews.
WANT TO GET THE ATTENTION OF girl birds?

Lots of male birds have colorful feathers to grab the attention of female birds. Scientists believe the healthier the male bird, the brighter his feathers. Because the feathers tell females which birds are the healthiest, females like these males better! Why do you think the female birds pick the healthiest male birds?

Some male birds show female birds that they know how to work hard by making a beautiful nest!

Not all male birds have colorful feathers though. How else might a male bird show a female bird that he is healthy and would make a good mate? The male bowerbird works really hard to collect bright or pretty things and uses what he collects to decorate his nest!

ACTIVITY

Words for the story on pages 4 and 5 are written below. But some of the vowels are missing! Complete each word by filling in the missing vowel or vowels. a, e, i, o, u or y

d__g
h__g
h__d__
st__ck

sm__ll
fe__l
lo__k
h__pp__

Draw a line from each picture to one word that describes it.

"Angry" Happy Frightened

ANSWER: BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE ON TIME.